

DPS Chaparral

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September 2000

Trooper killed in roadside shooting

HP Trooper Randall W. Vetter, 28, died at 10:25 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, from wounds he suffered during a traffic stop in Hays County near Kyle on Thursday, Aug. 3.

Trooper Vetter had pulled over a motorist identified as Melvin Edison Hale, 72, of Kyle for an undetermined traffic violation. Moments after Randy and Hale parked on the westside access road of IH-35 near Yarrington Road, the traffic stop turned violent.



Hale, who was armed with a semiautomatic rifle, is believed to have fired more than once at Trooper Vetter. Randy was able to return fire, but did not strike him. One of the shots fired by Hale struck Trooper Vetter in the head.

Hays County Sheriff's deputies, Kyle and San Marcos police and other DPS officers arrived at the scene shortly after the shooting. There was a brief stand-off with the suspect, who was eventually subdued by DPS License & Weight Trooper Jeff Sones and taken into custody.

Trooper Vetter was taken to Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, where he remained in critical condition until his death Monday night.

He was buried on Friday, Aug. 11 in Comal Cemetery in New Braunfels after funeral services at St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Braunfels. Survivors include his wife, Cynthia; their eight-month-old son Robert; and his father, Kermit.

A native of New Braunfels, Randy graduated from Canyon High School and was a six-year veteran of the DPS. He joined the DPS in 1994. He was stationed in Brownsville until August 1996 when he transferred to New Braunfels. He transferred to San Marcos on July 1, 2000. He had four letters of appreciation from the public for his assistance.

Col. Davis, on behalf of the DPS, would like to express appreciation to the people of Texas and members of the Department for their overwhelming show of support in this time of sadness. The best wishes of so many has been a ray of light in a trying time. The law enforcement agencies, business communities and people of New Braunfels, San Marcos and Austin have been especially supportive.

Dear Fellow Employee:

The DPS suffered the loss of another officer Aug. 7, when Trooper Randy Vetter died of wounds suffered when he was shot on Aug. 3 during a traffic stop near Kyle. Trooper Vetter was the 75th DPS officer to die in the line of duty.

Several thousand people attended Trooper Vetter's funeral in New Braunfels. The outpouring of support for the Vetter and DPS families from communities in the Central Texas area was gratifying.

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Just a reminder that paychecks are not to be cashed before the first of the month. Employees in the field sometimes receive their paychecks before the first of the month, and should not cash them. The state does not deposit payroll funds into those accounts until the first of each month.

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Sept. 11 to 15 is the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators fourth annual "Drive Safely Work Week." During this week, be sure that you and your passengers are wearing safety belts or are in child safety seats. Slow down and drive courteously to help beat road rage.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Short Shots

Promotional exams set

Competitive promotional examinations have been set for **Captain, Special Crimes Service** (week of Sept. 18); **Captain, Motor Vehicle Theft Service** (week of Sept. 21); and **Captain, Narcotics Service** (week of Sept. 26). Candidates must submit HR-106 directly to Human Resources by mail, e-mail or fax with a copy through channels to their appropriate Service Commander by 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8.

Competitive promotional examinations have been set the week of November 13 for the following positions: **Captain, Driver License Division; Captain, Texas Rangers; Captain, Highway Patrol Service; Captain, License & Weight Service**. Candidates must submit HR-106 directly to Human Resources by mail, e-mail or fax with a copy through channels to their appropriate Service Commander by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6.

Competitive promotional examinations have been set the week of November 13 for the following positions: **Lieutenant, Texas Rangers; Lieutenant, Special Crimes Service; Lieutenant, License & Weight Service; Supervisor, Vehicle Inspection Service; Police Communications Regional Supervisor, Communications Service; Police Communications Facility Supervisor, Communications Service**.

Lieutenant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service; Lieutenant, Highway Patrol Service; Lieutenant, Safety Education Service; Lieutenant, Driver License Division; Lieutenant, Narcotics Service; and Regional Supervisor, Vehicle Inspection Service. Candidates must submit HR-106 directly to Hu-

man Resources by mail, e-mail or fax with a copy through channels to their appropriate Service Commander by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6.

Competitive promotional examinations have been set for **Sergeant, Texas Rangers; Sergeant, License & Weight Service; Sergeant, Driver License Division; Sergeant, Highway Patrol Service; Sergeant/Investigator, Motor Vehicle Theft Service; Sergeant/Investigator, Narcotics Service; Sergeant, Aircraft Service; and Sergeant/Investigator, Special Crimes Service**. Candidates must submit HR-106 directly to Human Resources by mail, e-mail or fax with a copy through channels to their appropriate Service Commander by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6.

Retirees' meeting set for Waco

The annual meeting for DPS retirees is set for Sept. 16 at Knox Hall at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco. For more information about the meeting, please call Bill Sanders at 254-836-4139.

Mile Markers

Promotions

TLE

Sharlotte Herring Castro, Pol. Comm. Opr. III Pierce to Supr., Pol. Comm. Laredo.

CLE

David Franklin Bradshaw, Task Force Lt., Narc. Svc. Midland to Lt., Narc. Svc. Del Rio.

Driver License

Aaron Alton Ard, Sgt., DL Austin to Lt., DL Austin. **Steven Alan Carlborg**, Sgt., DL Plano to Lt., DL Garland. **Bobby Ray Tucker**, Sgt.,

DL Waco to Lt., DL Waco.

Deaths

Randall Wade Vetter, Tr. II, HP San Marcos (Dec. 1994-Aug. 2000) died August 7. **Kenneth Charles Clark**, Network Spec. III, IMS Austin (March 1986-Aug. 2000) died August 9. **Wayne Clifford Kimbrough**, Microfilm Clerk, DI Bureau Austin (Oct. 1999-July 2000) died July 27. **Noel Dee "Blackie" Callaway**, ret. Sgt., HP San Antonio (Sept. 1941-June 1970) died July 24.

Retirements in next issue!



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. Sam Orta, HP Houston

Tr. Kenneth Rushing, L&W Conroe

Linda Swails, DL Examiner Carrollton

Tr. Leslie Grace, HP DeLeon

From Trooper Leslie Grace:

Since my wreck on April 15, the support we have been shown has been superior...I am proud to be a member of the DPS. My family and I now understand the term "DPS Family." The Troopers in San Angelo who took care of my spouse and family following the wreck provided outstanding support. I will never be able to repay them and their family members. All I can do to repay the Department is to strive to come back to work as a dedicated hard-working Trooper so I can be there for someone else when they need support.