Sergeant Jay Cook of the New York State Police Troop “B”, shot and captured one of two convicted killers who had escaped from a Clinton County prison in June 2015, has been chosen “Officer of the Month” by the National Law Enforcement Officer’s Memorial Fund.

Sgt. Cook was chosen for this honor in November for his single handed capture of David Sweat, escapee from the Dannemora Correctional Facility June 6th. Sweat was serving a life sentence for the 2002 murder of Broome County sheriff’s deputy, who was shot 14 times and run over by a vehicle.

“Sergeant Cook’s recognition of the fugitive and his quick response in apprehending the suspect were integral to capturing a cop-killer and securing a community that had been on high alert,” Memorial Fund Chairman and CEO Craig W. Floyd said in the release announcing the award. “His brave actions are deserving of our 2015 November Officer of the Month Award.”

“Sergeant Cook did an excellent job. He realized Sweat was going to make it to a tree line, and possibly could have disappeared (so) he fired two shots from his service weapon,” State Police Superintendent Joseph D’Amico said.

Sgt. Cook was on patrol June 28th in the town of Constable, just south of the Canadian border, when he saw a man jogging alongside the road. Sgt. Cook got out of his patrol car and attempted to speak with the jogger, who ignored him and began to run toward a nearby tree line. The sergeant recognized the man as Sweat, one of the fugitives who had escaped from the maximum-security prison and fired two shots, wounding the fleeing escapee and ending a manhunt that had begun 23 days earlier when Sweat and Richard Matt cut through the walls of their cells and followed a system of catwalks and pipes under the walls of the prison.

Sgt. Cook, along with the other Officer of the Month Award recipients for 2015, will be honored during National Police Week at a special awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., in May.
Minutes of the State Board meeting of November 14, 2015

The November meeting was called to order by President Doney at 12:25pm. He opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with a moment of silence for our departed members especially Ernie Griebisch who had recently passed. Motion by Bob Bruso to accept the minutes of the preceding meeting as sent. Seconded and carried.

Mike introduced Trooper Brian Gregoire of Troop “G” who has recently been assigned to the Division Anniversary Group. Brian spoke of the early stages of the Division planning and noted that the first event will be on April 11th, a barbeque at the Cavalry Club. They are planning on 600 to 800 attendees with the restriction being either Members or retired members of the Division. There is also a formal dinner at the Cavalry Club to be scheduled and Troop “G” will also have a formal dinner. Plans are also in place for a “coffee table” book where the committee will be looking for some writing help and memorabilia. Brian did note that Division has no line funding in place for this program but the Trooper Foundation is supporting the group. Donations can be made to the funding through the Foundation.

By President Doney:

Mike presented a copy of the Glock engraving that has been approved and noted the great detail that it shows. He expects the first order to arrive in mid-December.

He noted that the second order of Winchesters is planned for the near future.

He also noted that a demo copy of the Rider statue done via 3d printer should be available shortly.

By Secretary Murray:

Bill noted receipt of a request from FARTS that we take an ad in their reunion book. Motion made and seconded that we take a full page ad as we have in the past. Carried.

Bill noted a recurring problem with the Gray Rider printer and asked Editor Kathy Hartman to explain. She noted that the pricing on the last 4 issues of the Rider have jumped considerably, going from $1.20 to the billing for the fall issue of $2.59, a total cost increase of over $2000 per printing. Several options were presented and discussed beginning with a search for a new printer, to reducing the number of printings, to a dues increase. She also noted instances that Chapters have failed to notify the Secretary of address changes in a timely manner. She did note that many members have taken advantage and receive the Gray Rider via email through their Chapter Secretary. The Board directed Secretary Murray, Editor Hartman and Treasurer Spanitz to conduct a search for a new printer. No other action taken at this time.

By Treasurer Spanitz:

He noted a typographical error in the June report where the number 107,xxx should have read 102,xxx but the final total was correct. Ted Palmer questioned typo and was advised that the books are kept longhand and not on computer.

Dennis presented the financial reports for September and October with copies to be mailed to the Chapters not present.

He further noted that 4 Chapters are delinquent in their 2015 dues to the Association.

Also noted that he has other forms available and Chapters should contact him for those or stationary.

By PBA Rep Fred Scheidt:

Fred noted that the PBA had recently honored the late Hilah Grenci and Lynn Strunk for their contributions in working to improve the working conditions and treatment of Troopers, an honor well deserved. Hilah was the wife of Chapter member Tito Grenci.

Following several inquiries, Fred advises that PBA membership is available to retirees and that dues are paid until age 65.

He also noted that the Retirees organization that we joined in September is extremely active in the political arena in Albany concentrating on those issues of importance to retirees.

Old Business:

Mike noted the ongoing case with the IRS where our nonprofit status had been suspended. IRS then noted that it could be resolved by payment of a fine. Following questions by Mike, the agent reported that the fine may be waived and “we’ll get back to you”. No IRS response as yet and the President to re-contact IRS to resolve the matter.

Election of officers – The president opened the floor for nominations with none received. Motion for the polls to be closed and the Secretary be directed to cast one ballot for the slate as presented, Mike Doney, President, Ken Kotwas, Vice President, Dennis Spanitz, Treasurer, and Bill Murray, Secretary/Clerk. Approved. One ballot so cast.

New Business:

Request from SP Watertown for a donation to their “Troopers for Troops” program working with the Troops at Fort Drum. Motion by Pete DeToy for $200. Seconded and carried.

Next meeting set for March 26, 2016 at Dublin’s.

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By Bill Murray
Secretary/Clerk

In Attendance:
President………………………Mike Doney
Vice President…………………Ken Kotwas
Treasurer………………………Dennis Spanitz
Secretary………………………Bill Murray
Gray Rider Editor………………Kathy Hartman

PBA Representative…………….Fred Scheidt

Batavia…………………………Peter DeToy
Louie Lang

Black Horse……………………..Bill Boulio
Marty Weigel

Capital District…………………..Walt Marchewka
Pat Gleason
Mike Wells

Central NY………………………Ted Palmer
Dick Sparrow
Dick Vogt
Mike Gilmore
Edward Rood
Donald Barker
George Hopper

Finger Lakes……………………Dave Treat
Larry Gilbert

Niagara Frontier…………………Bob Bruso

Southern Tier……………………Bill Dobbs
Ludwig Cartarius

Absent – Adirondack, Alleghany Mtn., Baron Steuben, Leatherstocking, Long Island, Mid Hudson, Tri State
Life after NYSP

Who is Ted Palmer and why do we keep hearing his name? Ted served the NYSP from June 1962 until September 1993 (he left the job for 6 months in 1965, missed the job and came back). He bounced around in almost all the troops and met his wife of 50 years plus when he was stationed at SP Homer. “B” SP Massena is where he got his sergeants stripes, but never used them. Ted went to Albany (Crimes Analysis) for a couple of years, where he used the MIN system for Major Crimes and taught the use of it throughout the Troops. MIN was so slow that he developed a PC alternative for Major Crimes. Ted ended back in “C” Troop (prior stations: SP Endwell, Cortland, Ithaca and Sidney) where he worked on several Major Crime cases. He said, “He darn near got fired a few times” and apparently decided to get out while the getting was good. He has held numerous jobs since his retirement. Now that he hasn’t a job per say, he and his wife plan to travel. When he’s not on his computer, he is on his tractor, another hobby of his. Now that you have some of his background, this is why you know the name. He’s addicted to computers and New York State Police history.

You can go to this site to see what he’s been up to lately. http://graybag.blogspot.com/

Thank You for Paving the Way and for Your Continued Support!

NEW YORK STATE TROOPERS
Proudly Serving Since 1917

Visit the Centennial Web Page for News, Event Updates and Historical Photos at: www.centennial.troopers.ny.gov
Middlesex for 35 years.

2015, was Justice of the Peace in the Town of


of murdering Investigator Robert Van Hall on

the week of January 25, 2016, he was convicted

hearing for Joseph Comfort will be scheduled

Emerson Dillon October 24, 1974. Parole

Ruzas was denied, he murdered Trooper

PBA announced that the parole of John

100th Year Anniversary of the NYSP.

breakfast meeting on December 14th, weather

Gregoire from “G” Troop will be attending the

March 14 and April 11, 2016. Trooper Brian

December 14, 2015, January 18, February 15,

Penn Yan at 9:00am on the following dates:

on May 18, 2016 at the Redwood and further

their entrance into the State Police Academy

were recognized for the 50th anniversary of

2015 as we go into our winter schedule. Paul

$300.00 to the Wounded Warriors Foundation.

No Chapter News Reported

ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN

CHAPTER

No Chapter News Reported

BARON STEUBEN CHAPTER

The Baron Steuben Chapter held it’s September 16, 2015 meeting at the Redwood, Naples with 18 members and guests in attendance. Motion made and passed to donate $300.00 to the Wounded Warriors Foundation. The November meeting date was changed from the 18th to the 11th Veterans Day, so that those who were Town Justices would be able to attend. HR218 Course to be held at the Bath Rod and Gun Club Range October 9th at 1PM. After the treasurer’s report, no further business was conducted and meeting was adjourned. Next meeting Wednesday, October 15, 2015 at the Redwood.

The November 11, 2015 meeting of the Baron Steuben Chapter was held at the Redwood attended by 29 members and guests. This is the last dinner meeting for 2015 as we go into our winter schedule. Paul Johnson, Gary Forshee and Dick Twedell were recognized for the 50th anniversary of their entrance into the State Police Academy on November 11, 1965. No further business was conducted. Dinner meetings will resume on May 18, 2016 at the Redwood and further dates will be decided at that time. Breakfasts will be held at The Wagner Restaurant in Penn Yan at 9:00am on the following dates: December 14, 2015, January 18, February 15, March 14 and April 11, 2016. Trooper Brian Gregoire from “G” Troop will be attending the breakfast meeting on December 14th, weather permitting. He is assigned to assist with the 100th Year Anniversary of the NYSP.

PBA announced that the parole of John Ruzas was denied, he murdered Trooper Emerson Dillon October 24, 1974. Parole hearing for Joseph Comfort will be scheduled the week of January 25, 2016, he was convicted of murdering Investigator Robert Van Hall on December 5, 1980. John F. “Jack” Voss 1932 – 2015, was Justice of the Peace in the Town of Middlesex for 35 years.

The Batavia Chapter September 16th meeting was held at the Polish Falcons Club in Batavia with 24 members present. Special thoughts given to Inspector Giangualano, Bob Bradley and Tom Kleinhas. The 14th Annual Golf Tournament to be held September 17th has 27 teams signed up. Thanks to Henry Haas and Louie Lang for a great meal at last month’s picnic. Chapter has 121 members. Henry Haas has been nominated to fill the Secretary’s slot. Next Golf Outing will be September 15, 2016. 50/50 winners: Chris Allen and Vince Snyder. Next meeting at the Falcons October 21, 2015.

The October 21st meeting at the Falcons was attended by 21 members. The golf tourney was a success with 111 golfers and $1,500.00 in prizes. Sabre’s tickets won by Henry Haas. With the Centennial coming up in 2017, Brother Al Kurek is making plans for some Troop “A” events and advised he will need some help. HR218 News: Last year a few retired officers were arrested for possessing a weapon in South Dakota. The DA had intended to prosecute the officers, but the case had to be dropped as the Federal Law over rides the local one. Henry Haas was voted in as recording Secretary and all others re-elected. Pers 29: Jerry Broska suffering with cancer and undergoing a new procedure at Roswell. 50/50 won by Gary Hammond and Zephyr Raymond. Our annual dinner and last meeting of the year is planned for November 18th at the Polish Falcons Club.

The November 18th meeting and dinner was held at the Falcons with 44 members present. A moment of silence was held for Tom Kleinhas and Dennison Wood. Al Kurek is working with Major Cerretto on Centennial local events. Al is also working on a display of his own that should run a week, and will need help once all plans are in place. Tidbit: The first arrest made by the New York State Police was made by a “A” Trooper at the State Fair (now the race track-old fairgrounds). The arrest was of a drunken soldier. We have a great history and the display will showcase it. New Life Members: Bill Urbanski and Jake Lathan. A check for $200.00 was given to the Polish Falcons in appreciation of our using their club. Motions made to donate $100.00 to Crossroads House. A review of the State Meeting was given. New Member: Dan Dedo.

Officers sworn in: President – Peter Detoy, VP - Louis Lang, Treasurer- Dennis Spanitz, and Recording Secretary – Henry Haas. 50/50 winners: Ray Motyka, Ed Schramm and Howie Hartman who all donated their winnings to Crossroad House. Next meeting at the Falcons Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

The Capital District Chapter September 16, 2015 meeting was held at the Saratoga Wilton Elks with 36 in attendance. The following information was provided by President Marchewka: Chapter now affiliated with the Retired Police Assn. of New York, gift check received from Doris Weinand, thanking us for our assistance after her husband’s passing. Walt Hornberger noted the following information: “Over the Hill Gang” November 5th, presentation by T/Sgt. James Benziger of the NYSP bomb squad, and the museum in Ft. Pierce Florida of the Seals and UDT teams is where the PBA will be sponsoring a walkway brick in memory of Al O’Neill, former Division Diver and UDT member. Clambake mentioned, was good, but poor turnout. Slate of Officers: Walt Marchewka, President, Ranse Caola, Vice President, Kathy Simmons, Treasurer and Mike Wells Secretary. No nominations, secretary casted one vote for the slate. 50/50 won by Jerry O’Grady. Pers 29: Larry Moyer with pneumonia.

The CD Chapter October 21, 2015 meeting held at the Winner’s Circle with 18 in attendance. New Member: Wayne Flores ret. F/Sgt. Transition of Secretary, notification service/bulletin board using Google Groups. Discussed information regarding retiree dental insurance, tabled until next meeting when further information is available. Pat Gleason reimbursed for audio equipment purchased for the Chapter. 50/50 won by Bob Gretschel.

The November 18, 2015, CD Chapter meeting held at the Quigley’s Restaurant was attended by 27 members and 1 guest. Pers 29: Larry Moyer and Ingbret Klausen. Guest speaker Trooper Brian Gregoire assigned to the Academy for the Centennial project, spoke
of all the activities for the Centennial that are
in the planning stages. Brian advised of a BBQ
and Beer Gathering to support Troopers Long
and Shultis on December 2, 2015 from 6:00
p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Wolfs Hollow Brewery in
Glenville. The two were involved in a shooting
incident which involved a subject armed with
a sword. The shooting was deemed justified
by the Schenectady County DA but they were
brought up on Division charges and received
45 and 90 day suspensions. The fundraiser is
to offset the cost of family health insurance
costs when they are dropped after 30 days.
The President reported on the State Meeting.
New Member: Bart R. Johnson ret. Colonel.
$300.00 to be sent to Tpr. William Fish’s sister
who had a house fire. Dental Insurance again
tabled until next meeting, awaiting further
information. Motion for the Chapter to take
an ad in the F.A.R.T.’s program. Donation to
Tprs. Long and Shultis to help offset health
insurance costs in the amount of $600.00.
Discussion regarding holding the Chapters
meetings at a central location where we have
the most attendance. Checking locations and
pricings to be presented at the March meeting.
50/50 won by Vic Laplante, per instructions ½
to the chapter and ½ to Muscular Dystrophy
Association. Next meeting March 16, 2016
at the Saratoga-Wilton Elks. Note: Tpr. Brian
Gregoire sent a note thanking the Chapter for
allowing him to spend time with them and he
hoped that his presence helped continue the
dialog that the Chapter had already started
about the Centennial Celebration.

On September 15th, 33 CNY Chapter
members met at the Roselawn Restaurant in
New York Mills. Major Coots spoke. Chapter
election committee headed by Warren Taylor.
A fund raising method for the Division’s 2017
event at the Cavalry Club (April 11th 2017)
was presented. It will not be a Division budget
item and planned on being self-supporting
via item sales. The suggestion is that NYST tie
clasps be purchased by the Chapter to be sold,
the profit to support the event, the principal to
be returned to the Chapter. A meeting lottery
was discussed. The 50-50 winner was Mark
Wadopian, who donated his winnings back,
(less the cost of his meal as required). Note: The
2017 postage stamp is still in the works. Herb
Buckley is designing the custom cancellation to
be used by the PO. October Meeting will be
held at the Camillus Elks Lodge on Tuesday,
the 20th.

October 20th the CNY Chapter held its
monthly meeting at the Camillus Elks with 35
members and 1 guest present. Sick Leave: Don
Barker – surgery. New Members: William Foley,
retired Inspector and Gary Lavine (associate
member) attorney whose father Nathan
Lavine was on the job circa 1940. At the July
meeting Major Coots was presented a picture
of the 22nd Session for display at Troop “D”
HQ. Guest, Mike Walser spoke on pending
Federal legislation which calls for the death
penalty where policemen, firemen and District
Attorneys are killed. CNY Chapter voted to
support this legislation. Elections Committee
report: No nominations, current officers to
stand for re-election. Ken Kotwas - President,
Ed Rood – Vice President, George Hopper -
Treasurer, and Ted Palmer as Secretary/Clerk.
Ed and Ted swapped positions. Ken and Ted
indicated that this is their last term. Ted
Coucher made a donation to the Chapter.
Our membership is amazing, their support is
something that your officer's feel is exceptional.
Ken Kotwas gave an overview of the State Board
meeting and Ted Palmer spoke of the State
Board IRS reporting situation and concerns
that if a penalty was incurred would it effect
this chapter. CNY members were encouraged
to attend the November State Board meeting.
Raffle was run again on an experimental basis.
50/50: Ed Lombard and Terry House. Meeting
adjourned. Note: The nysth.com web site does
not have much 1980’s information. Rosters,
class pictures for scanning would be good – I do
not collect - will return material / Ted Palmer
cnyted@gmail.com.

The CNY Chapter met at Dublin’s on
November 17th with 27 members, 1 guest and
a new associate. Paul Hammond, a Finger Lakes
Chapter member joined CNY as an associate.
Final Patrol: Ernie Griebsch. Officers installed.
Tpr. Brian Gregoire TDY to SP Academy for
2017 100th Anniversary of the NYSP guest
speaker, spoke of the events for the Celebration
that are in the planning stages. Road Side
Historic Marker: At a meeting at the Cavalry
Club with Major Coots, Major Benziger, and
Ted Palmer, Major Benziger mentioned that
having a historical roadside marker created
and erected would be very appropriate.
The CNY Chapter was volunteered for this
project, feeling that it was great opportunity
for using the Skeany donation and very fitting
geographically for the Chapter. Tpr Gregoire
has done some initial research finding that the
State no longer funds historic makers and that
a foundry does cast the markers. Membership
approved and the concept based on a cost
of $1,500-$2,000. Approval will be needed
from the Cavalry Club, Town of Manlius
Highway Dept. and the T-Manlius Historian.
Motion made to purchase an ad for $50 in the
FARTS booklet. State Board status on the IRS
situation: Several CNY members attended the
State Board meeting and were disappointed
in the lack of information. Future Meetings:
Major Coots has offered Troop “D” HQ
as a place for a Chapter meeting. Our own
Century dinner at the Cavalry Club in 2017
needs to be considered. Final Patrol: Ronald
B. “Skip” Veri.

The CNY Chapter held its Christmas
Party December 8th at the Rusty Rail with
64 friends in attendance. Business limited.
New Members: Joseph W. Smith and
Gary Henderson. The first new computer
generated drawing took place, no member
whose number was picked attended, so the
money will accumulate. The idea behind it
to generate attendance. Meeting adjourned
and the next meeting will be in March 2016.
Note: Recall the story about “Married in Full
Pack”, Mike and Trudy Sacco, 1957. At the
SP Homer Christmas party I met another
Sacco, Monica their Granddaughter. She
is at SP Homer for her field training. After
meeting Monica and another look at the 1957
picture of the bride, the apple didn’t fall far
from the tree. The SP Homer S/C had seen
the Full Pack article in the Gray Rider and
made a point of introducing her.

The September 8, 2015 Finger Lakes
Chapter meeting was held at the Canandaigua
Elks with 39 members and guests attending.
Nominating Committee: Karl Smith, Bob
Beswick, and Ralph Endres. 50/50 won by
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Bob Phenes, donated half back to the chapter.
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LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

Next Chapter meeting October 14, 2015, officers will be elected and on October 31, 2015 the raffle drawing will be held at the California Dinner, Patchogue.

The Long Island Chapter meeting was held on October 14th with 13 in attendance. Mention of the Chapter Raffle on the 31st and that the winners are required to fill out an IRS W-9 form and thanks to Roland Russell and Mike DiSilvio for their hard work. Chapter nominations made and elections to be held at the November 11th meeting. Chapter Death Benefit of $500.00, motion tabled until the November meeting. Received a certified copy of the AFNYST Inc. Certificate of Incorporation of our Chapter which was signed by 6 Association members in Kings County Brooklyn, NY November 1, 1951. LEOSA class to be set in December. The Patchogue Christmas Parade will be held 11/28/15 with the restored blue and gold. Note: NYS Troopers first appeared on Long Island in 1928.

The November Long Island Chapter meeting was held on the 11th at which time the elections were held and elected were President Gerald Tiernan, VP/Treasurer William Lee and Secretary Hugh Niland. Appointed were: Mike DiSilvio Director of Community Relations, Rev. Steve Bayne Chaplain, Robert Vassallo Sgt. at-arms, and Craig Gresh Police Firearms Instructor and LEOSA Coordinator. After having a discussion on the Chapter Death Benefit, it was decided against having one. Also with declining enrollment, starting at the December meeting each attending member will be charged $10.00. Mike DiSilvio is working on an Associate members program and getting Chapter cards for free, our present plastic cards cost the chapter about $650.00. Raffle winners: 1st 55” TV – a man in Brooklyn, 2nd two nights at the Montauk Manor – Bill Lee, 3rd a cash prize by chapter member Conrad Tellers wife and 4th – basket of cheer by California Diners owner. Motion made to occasionally use chapter funds to add gas to the blue and gold troop car for the many occasions it is used. Final Patrol: Anthony (Tony) Hellmer. Pers 29: Former Troop “K” Major James Patterson. Spoke of the Christmas Party and hoping for a good turnout. Dick Finnan attended his last meeting as he is moving to Florida shortly, 987 Sand Castle Road, Sanibel, FL 33957. Next meeting: Christmas Party at Coppola’s Restaurant December 3, 2015.

No Chapter News Reported
A Trooper’s Story
(reproduced and edited)

A story about Larry Moyer (DOD 11/20/15) as told by a fellow diver when Larry was a NYSP Diver Instructor. While training a new class of divers from around the state off of Huckleberry Island in the Narrows, an airbag worth $100.00 blew off the boat. We both grabbed a couple of used tanks and dove down into the water to retrieve it, which had landed on the bottom 140 feet below. I ran out of air at the bottom and Larry and I buddy breathed all the way up with the $100.00 airbag. Larry never took credit for saving my life (I was never so scared, but he was cool about it, both through the ascent and afterwards). He was humble and obviously a person you could trust with your life. He was a Trooper’s, Trooper! Larry…God rest your soul, my friend. Jim
Delving deeply into the history of Clinton Prison in Dannemora for an upcoming book (already in progress before the recent escape) has led me to profile many criminals who have done time there. Not all of them will make the cut for the book, but what stands out across a wide range of criminals is recidivism. It was not unexpected — Clinton is, after all, New York’s principal home for repeat violent felons and incorrigibles — but it’s often surprising how many people among those who have options choose crime as a way of life.

From the Albany area was a young man who had options, but typified those who eschew a mainstream lifestyle for a darker path. In the end we’re left straining for a hint of any redeeming value. In 1936, at age seventeen, Matthew Armer of East Greenbush was arrested for stealing a car. While being chased by police, he shoved a young girl from the car, and was later captured at gunpoint. A grand larceny conviction sent him to the New York State Vocational Institute at West Coxsackie, a prison with experimental programs aimed at putting troubled youths aged 16 to 19 on the straight and narrow. But after attaining trusty status, he stole a car from the institution and left the state. After recapture and serving his time, Armer stole a new Ford truck in March 1938.

An investigation revealed he was operating a stolen-car ring, which earned him five to ten years in Clinton Prison. He seemed to learn nothing from incarceration. In 1946, a short time after release, he was again found guilty of auto theft (and possession of a gun). During questioning, he threw water in an officer’s face and ran, but was caught. When he wasn’t locked up somewhere, Armer worked on the family farm, where he took over operations after release from his latest term at Clinton. This opened for him a new criminal endeavor — stealing cows to sell at cattle auctions. He was soon wanted in Pennsylvania on several charges related to stolen vehicles and cows, but also operated in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. It was later learned that during this brief period, he stole more than seventy cows.

In December 1950, Armer stole a truck in Newtown, Connecticut. Six months later, he used it to steal a cow, but was pulled over near Oneonta by State Police Corporal Arthur Diffendale, who may have noticed that the truck had mismatched front and rear license plates. Moments later, as Diffendale approached on foot, Armer stepped out with a rifle at the ready, and before the officer could draw his gun, Armer shot him dead at close range. He then sped away from the scene, abandoning the truck on a dead-end road not far from where the shooting took place. Evidence pointed towards Armer, who became the subject of a massive manhunt. Unique to his case was the use of television for the first time by New York State Police in tracking down a subject. Photographs of Armer and the truck were broadcast, with a request that the public provide any information about either. On the eleventh day, intelligence placed him on the family farm. At about 6 am, nine cars carrying eighteen troopers were posted at discrete locations near Armer’s East Greenbush residence. The plan was to arrest him when he left, but Armer, with his mother in the car, drove past them and veered onto a back road.

Giving chase, police pulled up alongside him with guns drawn, and Armer, perhaps bowing to his mother’s advice, pulled over and surrendered. He and mom, said Armer, were on their way to church. Why the sudden turn onto a back road? He lacked a license, explained Armer, and didn’t want to risk a ticket. Police didn’t buy it. He was handcuffed and taken to jail despite claims of innocence. In the days to follow, he steadfastly denied shooting Corporal Diffendale, insisting that on the day of the killing, he was at home fixing a chimney. But Armer eventually entered a plea of guilty to second-degree murder, and in September 1951 was sentenced to sixty years to life at Dannemora.

Parole remained a possibility, but killing a state trooper diminished its likelihood. Armer was transferred to less-stringent Green Haven Prison, a maximum-security facility, from which he and a partner escaped in late
October 1974. They were captured before year’s end, earning additional time to their sentences. Armer was paroled in January 1984, but was back in prison by mid-August for criminal possession of a forged instrument. After release in February 1988, he was returned to prison ten months later for criminal possession of a weapon and stealing a car. In April 1992, at the age of seventy-three, he was released, with a stipulation that he report to a parole officer the next day, which — wasn’t it obvious? — didn’t happen and Armer was on the lam again, only two months after leaving prison. He was hauled into court on charges of possession of stolen property, criminal mischief, and reckless endangerment. His fate hinged on a state law requiring parole violators to serve up to the maximum of any previous sentence. Armer was found guilty in August, and on September 3, 1992, he was shipped off to Great Meadow for his seventh prison stint. There would be no further paroles or crimes, because he died there in October 2001, having spent roughly sixty-five of his eighty-two years in prison.

**Another Scam, this time your car**

Scenario: You go to your car, get in and go happily on your way. But perhaps before we do that, we should get in the habit of checking all our door handles before we get in, Reason? Another scam. This is what it is, a tiny hole which is usually found just below the passenger’s side door handle, kind of looks like a bullet hole. This is what happened if one is found. Your car has been entered, your GPS has been checked to see where your home is, and your insurance and registration cards also provide this information. If a wallet or purse is left in the vehicle, a charge card or two are taken, but the purse and wallet are left behind. You enter your vehicle, all looks just as you left it, and they even relocked your vehicle for you. Now that they have this information, what will they do with it? Well, they know where you live and what your car looks like, so if it’s not at your residence, they can break in. The cards, will use them just for a couple of days, they figure it will take you at least a couple of days to discover the larceny.

**Interesting Information**

New York State regular driver’s licenses may no longer be used as valid ID for domestic flights as they do not meet the required proof which was mandated in 2005 by the Department of Homeland Security Real ID Act. New York is just one of four states and territories that does not meet these standards. Sometime in the near future in order to travel by air in the US, you will be required to have a passport or an Enhanced License (which costs an extra $30.00).

Batteries: 9 volt batteries may cause a fire if improperly stored. If you have taken them out of the original packaging, place a piece of scotch tape over the live ends so as not to come in contact with another one.

IRS Scam: Victims have been getting calls saying they owe taxes, a warrant will be issued for your arrest or the police are on their way to your house. Phones Numbers used are: 202-459-1993, 530-721-8098 and 876-881-3903. These calls are from Washington, DC, California and Jamaica. They are not from the IRS, the IRS does not call you on the phone, email or text you. If they want to get ahold of you, they will do so with Official Letter through the US Mail.
How a community came together in the midst of the largest national news event of the North Country since the 1980 Olympics at Lake Placid.

On the morning of June 2, 2015, two prisoners from the maximum security Clinton Correctional Facility were unaccounted for during morning count. It quickly became clear that the two prisoners, David Sweat and Richard Matt, had escaped. What was not apparent from the beginning is that the search for the prisoners would leave a community on edge for nearly 21 days as law enforcement worked around the clock to bring the escapees back into custody.

The North Country is a community where one may be hard pressed to find a family that is not connected in one way or another to the prison systems. Malone, NY is home to 3 prisons and 1 jail while nearby Dannemora, less than 50 miles away, is home to the New York State maximum security prison. Correctional Officers are the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters of our neighbors and friends. When the news of the prison escape broke, the event hit closer to home than any news outlet could relay to citizens across the country.

Before the search ever ended up in our backyard, our North Country family was poised and ready to help in any way they could. This is the tale of the community, the law enforcement officers and the citizens of our North Country towns, that stood together and did whatever they could to keep our friends and neighbors safe.

After thousands of tips and hundreds of officers searching more than 10,000 acres, the search moves to Titus Mountain’s backyard when conclusive evidence was found that the two escapees were in an Owls Head cabin. Because of the proximity of the Titus Mountain Upper Lodge to the search area and the obvious benefits of having a large building with kitchen and bathroom facilities as well as a multitude of radio towers, the Upper Lodge became a hot spot for the New York State Police Command Center.

It was time for our community to shine. The first night that law enforcement needed to be fed, our Events Manager was on the phone with local vendors to see if there was anything they could donate. The donations came in easily and our staff went up to the lodge to start feeding the droves of officers getting off their shifts…and they stayed until everyone was fed. One day turned into two which quickly became three, and Titus Mountain staff began worrying that the donations might come to an end. However, when word got out that these men and women were going to be here for a while to ensure the safety of our community, donations started rolling in. Every time it seemed that the last of the food was about to be served, another volunteer drove up and donated trays of food. By Sunday evening, Titus had served over 1200 sandwiches, 200 pounds of fruit, hundreds of gallons of soups, innumerable baked goods and over 500 gallons of coffee—and it couldn’t have been done without the support of our fellow community members and businesses donating their time and resources. It was said by an officer that this might not have been possible without the logistic help that only Malone and its’ inhabitants could offer.

Titus Mountain and Mo’s Pub & Grill staff volunteered hours on end for 6 days straight to make field lunches for searchers to take with them and community members came in throughout the day with new donations of food. Local businesses set up grab and go stations for law enforcement to refresh themselves. Everyday people helping however they could—from a simple thank you to the officers to acts of kindness where people put Dunkin Donuts gift cards on the windshields of police cruisers. And, despite the high stress of the situation and the countless hours that they had been on their feet, every officer was appreciative of everything that the greater Malone area was doing for them. At the conclusion of the search, several officers came through the kitchen and shook every volunteer’s hand and said “thank you.” It was a sight to see volunteers thanking officers and officers thanking volunteers as if they owed something more to each other. Even after the search, a simple drive through the community would show the appreciation people had: people in the rain holding signs saying “Thank...
You” so that officers leaving the mountain could see, local businesses with message boards showing gratitude to all of the agencies helping, rounds of drinks being purchased for off duty officers, countless videos of citizens lining the streets thanking the officers.

It’s our time to say thanks. On behalf of the Titus Mountain Family Ski Center, thank you to every law enforcement officer who made Malone their home for the past week. Thank you for your tireless hours at checkpoints, for the miles of swamps and bug-infested woods you hiked through, and thank you for the effort that you exerted to make sure that our community could feel safe at night. Thank you to every business who helped make our law enforcement’s jobs just a little bit easier. Thank you for your thousands of dollars of donations, for your countless hours of volunteering, and thank you for your willingness to help Titus help them. Thank you to every individual who opened your hearts and gave our law enforcement a little taste of home. Thank you for your endless donations, for your countless hours of volunteering, and thank you for your positive thoughts and words of encouragement.

When the news first broke, Titus Mountain released the following statement: “We are 100% confident that the fine men and women of the law enforcement community will return these men to custody” and “We’ve always been proud of our Titus Community and are humbled at how we can come together when needed.” Truer words have never been spoken.

Note: The Titus Mountain Family Ski Center held their First Annual “Law Enforcement Appreciation Weekend” January 9th and 10th. This coincided with the National L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Appreciation Day) events across the country. On Saturday they had a dedication and ribbon cutting of a newly cut glade on their mountain, the unveiling of a commemorative display at their Upper Lodge showcasing the hard work and dedication officers displayed this past summer and a luncheon. Free lift tickets and riding to all active and retired law enforcement officers and their immediate families. Additional discounts were available at area lodging, rentals, lessons and tubing for this event.

Drug Tip Line (reproduced and edited)

Former New York State Trooper for 22 years, Under Sheriff for 9 years and now starting his 4th year as Sheriff of Steuben County, David V. Cole has sent out a challenge to All Drug Dealers.

Attention Drug Dealers:
Is your drug dealing competition costing you money?
We offer you a free service to help you eliminate your drug competition.
Report your competition to us!
This tip line will give you an anonymous way to notify us of your competition in the drug trade.
Be sure to include: their address, home phone number, cell phone numbers and vehicles the drugs are to be transported in.
You may call 1-844-378-4847 or email us at www.844drugtip.com.
Troopers Meet after 45 Years
(reproduced and edited)

After an online announcement that (my) Bob Clark’s upcoming book, “Borderline Terror” was being published, an email was sent out to the members of the Troop “B” Former Troopers Association. After retired NYS Senior Investigator Ron Nolan saw it, he contacted me. He emailed me through my website (that was included in the email) to ask if I was the same Bob Clark that he had worked with at SP Plattsburgh in the late 1960’s. I communicated with him that I was and through our back and forth communications, learned that we presently lived only eleven miles from each other, near Aiken, South Carolina.

Photo is of Ron (l) and myself (r) taken December 14, 2015 at a local restaurant, where we met for the first time in the 45 years since Ron left SP Plattsburg in 1970, when he was promoted to Investigator to work with OCTF. While Ron and I talked about old times at SP Plattsburg, our wives caught up on our respective families.

1. Received from Tom Mungeer PBA President that parole was denied for Trooper Emerson Dillon’s 1974 murderer John Ruzas. He wanted to thank on behalf of the Dillon family and the PBA all those who wrote letters asking for the parole to be denied. Ruzas will be eligible again in 24 months for another hearing.

2. PBA/Surgeons Group News reports the launch of its Major Medical Referral Program in conjunction with the PBA Surgeons Group. In over 6 years the Surgeons Group has become the largest police surgeons group in the US. For info log onto PBA website and refer to “Find-A-Doc: PBA Surgeons Group Referrals”.
Site: http://www.nystpba.org/find-a-doc-pba-surgeons-group-referrals/

3. Freedom Tower One World Observatory – World Trade Center, they have generously offered complimentary tickets to the observatory for the immediate family members who lost a loved one on 9/11 and first responders and recovery workers who responded from 09/11/01 through 05/28/02 to one of the sites of attacks. Comp. tickets are administered by the 9/11 Tribute Center, each family member may register for up to 4 tickets and each rescue and recovery worker may register for up to two tickets. Immediate family members include parents, spouses, domestic partners, siblings and children. One week advance registration is required for complimentary tickets which are only available at the 9/11 Tribute Center. Comp. tickets are not available at One World Observatory box office. To reserve comp. tickets for One World Obs. as a family member or a 9/11 responder or recovery worker, please complete the following contact registration to submit choices for preferred date and time. Registration must be complete in order for tickets to be issued. http://tributewtc.org/observatory
History of the Cavalry Club, First Encampment of the NYSP
(reproduced and edited)

Since the 100th Anniversary of the New York State Police is only a year away, thought it was an appropriate time for the history of the first encampment and training facility of the first New York State Troopers. Back in 2011 Ted Palmer contacted the Town of Manlius Historian, Barbara S. Rivette, and with her permission, the following is excerpts of her letter and fact sheet.

She wrote that she has been a newspaper reporter and a “certified” Historian since 1995 and that her family has had a long connection with Dr. George Chandler. She stated, “That I would not be here today writing this if it had not been for Dr. Chandler, who used a kitchen table in a small village as the operating table and successfully removed a very “hot” appendix from the young man who would become my father.”

Fact Sheet:
Troop D/State Police/Troop K/Cavalry Club
Troop D of the State Militia (State Guard) was formed in 1904 when it was known as the First New York Cavalry. These citizen-soldiers trained at the Jefferson Street Armory in Syracuse and bought 200 acres of property in the Town of Manlius to use for summer training.

By 1912, Troop D was proud to have an outdoor marble and stone swimming pool, two tennis courts, lockers and wooden floors in camping tents and a state approved shooting range. A wooden farm house with a large stone fireplace provided shelter.

There were annual Visitors Days each summer that ended with a band and dancing in the evening.

In March 1917, after approving the concept of a State Police force, the legislature authorized a budget of $500,000 for horses, equipment, supplies and uniforms. Much of the territory assigned to the State Police was in the then rural parts of New York State. Much of it without even telephones at that time where horses were the most reliable means of transportation. However, a few automobiles, Model T Fords were introduced a year later.

The Trooper training location was inspected and chosen in June 1917 by Major George Chandler. He named the location Camp Newayo, to honor the two women, Monica Newell and Katherine Mayo, who promoted the idea of a trained State Police force to provide better investigative policing that the system of town constables then used throughout the state, especially in the rural area of Central and Western New York.

A kitchen building and offices were added to the farm house already in place. Conical tents provided quarters for the men chosen after taking written tests and passing physical exams. One of the requirements was that the troopers were more than six feet tall.

Training of about 200 men began June 20, 1917 and continued until September when the troopers were deployed to the State Fair. Local news articles said 199 saddles had arrived early in June and the men were breaking the wild horses purchased in Missouri.

Details of “Dawn Days of the State Police” were recounted in 1938 by Major Chandler, a Kingston (NY) physician and in the “History of the State Police” by Sgt. Alfred N. Dorer of the Middletown barracks.

State Police training at the Town of Manlius location continued for four years and then moved to Troy.

About 1922 a group of 43 mounted troopers and their horses on the way to the State Fair, were given hospitality at the Manlius Military School. General William Verbeck, finding them starting to camp nearby outdoors in the rain, offered them the use of the school. The Troopers used the school’s barracks. Went to the dance hall at Suburban Park during the afternoon and enjoyed movies in the evening with the students.

State Police horse patrols were eliminated in 1947, but reinstated in October 1983.

While the State Police were using the State Guards property for training, Troop D was serving on the Mexican Border and in World War One as Company B Infantry, 103 Machine gun Battalion. In 1929 the unit became Troop K, 121st Cavalry. Until World War Two, the summer training was held at Camp Pine (Pine Camp) (now Fort Drum Watertown), with the rest of the Guard units from the northeastern states.

From 1920 until 1945, stables were operated on the property for local riders and their horses and the trails used throughout the year. Troop K members served during World War Two as Company C Tank Destroyer Battalion.

In 1946, the land was purchased by the Troop K Auxiliary, a corporation formed to operate a dinner club, golf club and riding facilities. Social members were accepted, banquet facilities built and eventually a smaller club house built overlooking the golf course and across the road from the main dining facilities and swimming pool. The golf course was designed by Joe Lee and the first pro was Emmett Kelly.
One of my childhood heroes died this week (DOD 01/19/2015), retired New York State Police Major Peter P. Gromacki was 85, and had been retired since 1984 after 35 years of Division service, including five and a half years as Troop “F” Commander. In his memory, I am presenting today a column I wrote more than 25 years ago about tracking down the man behind one of my most vivid boyhood memories. I hope you enjoy it as much as Pete did when it originally ran.

One of my earliest recollections of (what is today) Old Route 17 is of the dashing New York State Trooper who used to park his motorcycle next to our house in Rock Hill to watch for speeders. Our house was on the corner of Route 17 and the road that served as the entrance to the Rock Hill Drive-in Theater. Many mornings during warm weather, Trooper Peter Gromacki would sit and wait on that drive-in road, secluded from the view of passing motorists by our house. I was usually close by, at first watching from a safe distance, admiring both the bike and the uniform, later actually talking with him, all the while secretly wanting to take the bike for a ride. There are few things more impressive to a four year old boy than a man in uniform and a flashy bike. For a few summers, at least, a morning chat with Pete Gromacki was part of my life. Perhaps that is one reason why to this day it is impossible for me to think of Old Route 17 without thinking of Trooper Gromacki and his Harley-Davidson. Perhaps that is why I felt compelled after all these years to track him down. For me, no mention of the old road would be complete without Pete.

From 1952 to 1957, Trooper Pete Gromacki was the lone motorcycle cop assigned to the Wurtsboro barracks, and one of only four in all of Troop “C”, which then served Sullivan County. “There were only about thirty of us statewide at the time,” he told me. “Years before that, before the days of sustained high speed traffic, there were many more, maybe a hundred or a hundred and fifty, but by the early ’50’s that number had dwindled.” It wasn’t long before state troopers on motorcycles would vanish completely. New highways like the Quickway helped see to that. Suddenly, the trooper on motorcycle was as out of place as he might have been on horseback. “Things were so different when I started on the bike in ’52,” Gromacki said. “In fact, I didn’t even have a radio on the bike in the early days. If the barracks wanted to get hold of me, they had to call Vapnek’s Garage in Monticello or some other spot along the way and leave a message. Then they’d hang a towel out so I would see it and stop in.”

The trooper’s main job in those days was traffic control, and it wasn’t easy. There were simply too many cars for Old Route 17 to handle, and too few patrolmen. “We had only one car and one motorcycle in Wurtsboro until 1954,” Gromacki recalled. “Then we went to two cars and a cycle and eventually to five men. We used to work twenty-four hours a day back then, and slept at the barracks. The traffic was always a nightmare. We’d have cars backed up from Wurtsboro to Rock Hill on most weekends and if you had an accident or anything on top of that it was even worse.” In fact, it was the overcrowding of the two lane highway that ultimately led to the construction of the Quickway. A serious accident, in which a runaway truck plowed into an oncoming lane of traffic helped fuel the push for the new road. “It wasn’t at all unusual to have bumper to bumper traffic for miles and miles,” Gromacki remembers. “We used to use traffic cones to create three lanes out of two. We’d have two lanes going toward Monticello on Friday and Saturday, and two lanes going back toward the city on Sunday.” The problems with traffic abounded under ideal conditions. Add a little inclement weather and things really got out of hand. “To make matters worse, department regulations wouldn’t allow us to take the bike out in the rain,” he said, “so we just had the car.”

The new, four-lane Route 17 was completed by the late 1950’s, and the need for a motorcycle policeman lessened. After 1957, Pete Gromacki was off his bike for good. He advanced rapidly through the Trooper ranks, however, and I kept track of his progress, most often with the help of my mother’s sharp eyes. “I see where Pete Gromacki made corporal,” she’d say. “Remember when he used to sit outside the house on his motorcycle?”

Gromacki became commander of Troop “F” in December of 1976 and retired as a major in 1984. Today, he works as a private investigator in Orange County. Through it all, he says, he has never forgotten his days as a motorcycle cop on Route 17. “Sure, I remember those days,” he said. “I could never forget the bike. I still have a trail bike, which my son and I ride in the woods from time to time. And you know what? I’d go back to being a trooper on a bike tomorrow.” Perhaps then he could give me the ride on the flashy Harley-Davidson that the four year old in the house in Rock Hill never got. Rest in peace, Pete.
Former Troopers Honored
(reproduced and edited)

In November 2015, retired NYS Trooper Nora Barie Wolf was honored with the Legionnaire of the Year Award. Nora retired from the NYSP after 22 years and the US Air Force after 7 years received the award for her volunteer work in the community. As a member of the Allegeny Legion she spends countless hours with the Bell Jar Program, and very involved with the Ritual Team, which does about 85 percent of the military funerals in the Olean-Allegheny area. She serves as a foster parent for Cattaraugus County and is raising a 6 year old adopted daughter, Arianna.

In December 2015, retired NYS Trooper Jim Hoffman was honored by Congressman John Katko on the U.S. House of Representatives Floor. He was paid tribute as he retired from a lifetime of public service. Jim began in the U.S. Navy, spent 30 years as a New York State Trooper, 5 terms as Town Supervisor in Williamson and 10 years as Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors.

The American Legion sent a request that Jesse L. Davis Jr., 23 year veteran with the NYSP (bloodhound handler), 5 years with NYS University Police, be considered for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. In 2013 alone, Jesse and his dog Sassy found two murder suspects and one suicidal male. On his own time he restarted up the East Herkimer Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club, organized a ride for Missing and Exploited Children and in four years of running it raised over $100,000, which went directly to the National Center.
A sharply divided Pennsylvania Supreme Court has upheld the suppression of evidence in a drunken-driving case because the state trooper who investigated the incident turned on his cruiser’s emergency lights. His flick of that switch, or rather the timing of the activation of the police car’s lights, amounted to an unconstitutional seizure, a majority of the state’s highest court found. The three-justice majority didn’t outline its reasoning, issuing only a one-sentence ruling this week that backs a state Superior Court opinion that in turn affirmed a Monroe County judge’s decision to suppress all evidence in the DUI case against Tiffany Lee Barnes. Justices J. Michael Eakin and Correale F. Stevens were far more wordy, in dissenting opinions they lodged in the case. In sum, they called the majority’s decision unreasonable and a potential danger to the safety of police and the public.

According to court filings, the incident that prompted the legal battle occurred around 3 a.m. on March 18, 2012, when a trooper saw Barnes drive her Jeep into a gravel area between two auto dealerships off Route 447 and turn off all her lights. The officer decided to investigate, pulled up behind the Jeep and activated the cruiser’s overhead lights. The trooper later testified that he intended to check if Barnes was having vehicle problems, but also that he suspected criminal activity might be afoot. After speaking with Barnes the officer concluded she was intoxicated and later testing showed she had a blood-alcohol content of 0.22 percent, nearly three times the legal limit, Eakin and Stevens noted in their dissenting opinions.

In seeking to suppress the evidence against her, Barnes argued that by activating his cruiser’s lights before approaching her, the trooper had engaged in an illegal “investigative detention” that was not supported by a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. The county judge agreed that Barnes had not acted in a manner that indicated she needed aid, and that the trooper had no grounds for a reasonable suspicion that criminal activity might be occurring. On appeal, the county district attorney’s office failed to convince the state courts that the trooper’s actions involved a “mere encounter” that did not require him to have reasonable suspicion of a criminal act in order to approach and question Barnes. In siding with the DA, Eakin and Correale criticized the rationale invoked by the county and other state judges that Barnes was subjected to detention when the trooper activated his lights because she felt she was “less than free to leave.”

Eakin wrote the cop had only two options: “Pull in behind her very quietly…ignoring manifest safety risks and the likelihood of scaring the driver half to death when he popped out of the dark, or ignore the vehicle altogether and go blissfully down the road thinking, ‘Gee whiz, I wonder what that was all about’. “The latter would be a dereliction of duty.”

New York State Centennial 1917-2017 Information

Trooper Brian Gregoire, Troop “G” assigned to the NYSP 2017 Century Celebration Detail out of the Academy, has been working with Major Robin Benziger (Troop “K” Troop Commander and Centennial Committee Chairperson) and the Centennial Committee. He’s been visiting various Chapters and hopes to visit all the Former Troopers Chapters in the near future. He explains what Division and individual Troops are planning, what stages they are in and that it is a major undertaking that needs volunteers from both active and retired members to make it a success.

What’s in the planning stages thus far: An event to be held at the Cavalry Club April 11, 2017 (April 11, date the State Police bill was signed), each Troop hosting an Open House and State Fair Events. A book of events/photographs/people for the 100 years will be published, best described as a “coffee table” type, expected to be out in 2016, of which they need help on. Donations are being accepted through the Trooper Foundation and through the Centennial website www.Centennial.troopers.ny.gov.

To volunteer locally, contact your Troop HQ, or for more information contact Trooper Gregoire: email brian.gregoire@troopers.ny.gov or call his office at the Academy at 518-457-7395.
“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

- Albert Pike

Gerald E. Huggins
Gerald E. Huggins, age 81, of Howes Cave, NY rode his last patrol Monday, September 28, 2015. Gerry served the Division of the New York State Police, retiring from Troop “G” Headquarters in Warnerville. Funeral arrangements made through Mereness-Putnam Funeral Home Cobleskill. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of his grandson to: Donate Life America, 701 E. Byrd St. 16th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219 (donatelife.net).

Joseph V. Karas
Joseph V. Karas, age 85, of Central Bridge, NY rode his final patrol Friday, October 2, 2015. Joe served the Division of the New York State Police for 38 years retiring as a Senior Investigator from Troop “G” Loudonville. Interment in the Cobleskill Rural Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Francis “Frank” Krasinski
Francis “Frank” Krasinski, age 74, of West Park, NY rode his final patrol Wednesday, October 7, 2015. Frank served the Division of the NYSP from March 1967 to December 1998, retiring as F/Sgt. of Troop “F”. Interment in the Mount Calvary Cemetery, Kingston. Memorials may be made to the Poor, PO. Box 979005, Coconut Creek, FL 33097 www. Foodforthe poor.org or Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfont Rd., Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256 www.woundedwarriorproject.org. He was the father of retired Trooper William Krasinski and a member of the Tri State Chapter of the AFNYST.

Keith Lawton
Keith Lawton, age 82, of Avoca, NY rode his last patrol Friday, October 9, 2015. He served in the US Navy with a Fighter Squadron on the FDR Aircraft Carrier. He entered the Division of the NYSP in 1957 and served until 1977. He was interred in the Bath National Cemetery with Military Honors. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society 13 Beech St. Johnson City N.Y. 13790 or to Multiple Sclerosis Resources RO. Box 237 East Syracuse N.Y. 13057. Keith was a member of the AFNYST/Baron Steuben Chapter.

Walter “Wally” L. Schelling Jr.

Ernest H. (Ernie) Griebsch
Ernest H. (Ernie) Griebsch, age 88, of Gouverneur, NY rode his last patrol Tuesday, October 10, 2015. Ernie a former US Marine, entered the New York State Police 11/1948 and retired as a Zone Sergeant 1/1981, Troop “B”. Ernie, known for his pistol marksmanship won many competitions, some with a perfect 300, and is said to be the last motorcycle patrol to ride White Face Mountain. He was interred in the New St. James Cemetery, Gouverneur. Memorials in his name may be sent to the St. James Church, St. James School or the Gouverneur Vol. Rescue Squad. Ernie was a member of the Adirondack Chapter of the AFNYST.

Joseph Arthur Bolander Jr.
Joseph Arthur Bolander Jr., age 80, of Hyde Park, NY rode his last patrol Thursday, October 15, 2015. He was a Korean War veteran and served the Division of the New York State Police for 20 years retiring in 1980 from Troop “K” SP Rhinebeck. Joseph was interred in the Hopewell Cemetery, Hopewell Junction with Military Honors.

Kevin J. Ring
Kevin J. Ring, a Lieutenant with the New York State Police rode his final patrol on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. He began his career with the New York State Police on October 28, 1996 and was last assigned to Troop NYC – Uniform Detail. Kevin was interred in the St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY. NFI.
Edward O. Eddy
Edward O. Eddy, age 93, of Pine City, NY rode his final patrol on Saturday, October 31, 2015. He was a veteran of the US Marine Corp and entered the Division of the New York State Police in 1955. He was last stationed at SP Horseheads, Troop “E” and retired in 1978 after 23 years of service. Funeral arrangements made through the Barber Funeral Home, Horseheads, NY.

Ronald B. “Skip” Veri
Ronald B. “Skip” Veri, age 83, of Lakeland, NY rode his last patrol Thursday, November 19, 2015. Skip served in the Army National Guard and was a New York State Trooper from 1956 to 1987. He was interred in the Assumption Cemetery, Syracuse. Memorials in his name may be made to Our Lady of Peace Church, 203 Halcomb St., Syracuse, NY 13209.

Lawrence E. (Larry) Moyer
Lawrence E. (Larry) Moyer, age 80, of Loudonville, NY rode his final patrol Friday, November 20, 2015. Larry, US Navy reservist served the Division of the New York State Police for 30 years, was a member of the Motorcycle Unit and at one time head of the Scuba Team. A service was held at the St. Mary’s Church, Lodge St., Albany. Memorials in his name may be sent to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Ingbert A. “Bret” Klausen
Ingbert A. “Bret” Klausen, age 80, of Johnstown, NY rode his final patrol Friday, November 20, 2015. After Dink’s Military Service in the Army he joined the Division of the New York State Police in 1962. He ended his NYSP 26 year career in Troop “G”, SP Fonda in 1988. He was interred in the Johnstown Cemetery and memorials in his name may be made to the NYS Troopers Signal 30 Benefit Fund, 120 State St., Albany, NY 12207, www.signal30.org.

Anthony “Tony” Helmer
Anthony “Tony” Helmer, age 69, of Merrick, NY rode his final patrol Saturday, November 21, 2015. Tony began his career with the Long Island Parkway Police until the merger in 1980, he retired from Troop “NYC” in 1997 as a Senior Investigator. NFI.

John Warner Kelly
John Warner Kelly, age 96, of Springfield, Illinois rode his final patrol Sunday, December 13, 2015. He entered the Division on July 1, 1941. In 1942, he left the Division and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. During World War II. John served as a bomber pilot in the Pacific Theater in a B25 where he flew 42 combat missions. After the war, he returned to Division service eventually completing a 33 year career in Troops B and D, retiring in 1974. He was the first Division Member appointed to the newly created rank of Zone Sergeant in 1963. At his time of death he was the oldest surviving retiree in the NYSP and oldest retired trooper in the US. A memorial service with State Police and Military Honors will be held in Valatie, NY in the spring. He was the uncle of Trooper Truscott M. Kelly (Mike), Troop “F”, who gave his life in the line of duty on May 31, 2000 and the great uncle of Trooper Sean P. Kelly Troop “H” SORT.

William P. “Bill” Morsheimer
William P. “Bill” Morsheimer, age 77, of Bloomfield, NY rode his final patrol Monday, December 14, 2015. Bill entered the Division of the NYSP 12/15/60 and served until 05/20/91 when he retired as an investigator from Troop “E” SP Canandaigua, shield # 1060. Funeral arrangements made through the Dougherty Funeral Home Honeoye, NY. Memorials in his name may be made to the Honeoye Valley Association, P.O. Box 165, Honeoye, NY 14471; or Antique Boat Museum, 750 Mary St., Clayton, NY 13624. His son is Trooper Matthew K. Morsheimer, Troop “E”, SP Wayland.

Michael L. Murphy
Michael L. Murphy, age 79, of Presho, NY rode his last patrol Saturday, December 19, 2015. He served in the US Navy prior to entering the Division of the NYSP in 1959 and spent most of his 20 year career at SP Painted Post Troop “E”. He was interred in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Wellsville. Memorials in his name may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Greater Rochester Chapter, 550 Latona Rd., Bldg. D, Suite 408, Rochester, NY 14626.

Harry “Bunny” Kowal
Harry “Bunny” Kowal, age 82, of Cassadaga, NY rode his last patrol Saturday, December 19, 2015. He entered the New York State Police in January of 1962 and retired after 22 years in 1984 from SP Fredonia Troop “A”. He was interred in the St. Anthony’s Cemetery Fredonia, NY. Memorials in his name may be made to the Former Troopers Helping Hands, P.O. Box 432, West Seneca, NY 14224. He was a member of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the AFNYST.

Sheldon (Shelly) Barsky
Sheldon (Shelly) Barsky, age 78, of Quogue, NY rode his final patrol Monday, December 21, 2015. Shelly entered the Division of the New York State Police in 1964, served as an Investigator in Troop “L” and retired as a Senior Investigator in Troop “NYC” in 1984. Funeral arrangements made through the Parkside Funeral Home Rockville Centre, NY.

John C. “Jack” Moynihan Sr.
John C. “Jack” Moynihan Sr, age 82, of Yonkers, NY rode his final patrol Monday, December 21, 2015. Jack was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany while in the US
Army. Entered the Division of the New York State Police and served for over 26 years, he was an Investigator (sergeant) with the Organized Crime Task Force. Interment was in the St. Mary’s Cemetery, Yonkers. Memorials may be sent to Christ the King Church 740 N. Broadway, Yonkers. NY 10701.

Harvey A. Hansen
Harvey A. Hansen, age 88, of Schenectady, NY rode his final patrol Friday, January 1, 2016. He was a US Navy WWII vet. In 1948 in entered the NYSP Troop “G” Troy, during that time he was an Air Force reservist and was recalled to active duty in the Korean Conflict from 05/52 to 12/55. After returning from overseas he was reinstated with the NYSP and in 1962 became a sergeant and retired in 1969 after 21 years of service. Entombment took place at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuyerville.

Memorials may be sent to the Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104. He was a member of the Capital District AFNYST.

Harvey R. Nutter
Harvey R. Nutter, age 88, of Saratoga Springs, NY rode his last patrol Tuesday, January 5, 2016. He was a US Navy veteran of WWII serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS BonHomme Richard CV31. Harvey entered the Division of the NYSP in 1956, served in Troop “G” and retired in 1976 Zone 1 SP Loudonville as an Investigator. Interment took place at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to your local animal shelter, a cause close to your heart or to the “Help the Homeless Backpack Project” at GoFundMe.com. He was a member of the Capital District AFNYST.

New 2016 Ford Interceptor SUV
Here are some of the highlights you’ll see in the new police cruiser – coming soon to a town near you. A self-cleaning rear camera comes standard. The video can be seen on a 4 inch screen in the center console or displayed on the rear-view mirror. Surveillance mode: rear facing exterior sensors alert officers to the presence of an approaching subject. The system can chime to notify the officer, flash the brake lights, roll up windows and lock the doors. A liftgate release switch in the cabin allows front seat occupants to unlock the rear hatch without having to exit the vehicle to use the key. The hatch remains unlocked for 45 seconds. Pursuit Mode – Based on brake line pressure, deceleration and lateral acceleration rates, the vehicle automatically switches the transmission from normal, fuel-saving operation to Pursuit Mode when it detects aggressive driving situations. In Pursuit Mode, the upshift and downshift performance of the transmission is optimized for aggressive driving. The software is tuned to perform a reverse J-turn-when a vehicle in reverse is spun 180 degrees and continues, face forward, without changing its direction of travel. Then, the vehicle returns to fuel-save mode when it senses the aggressive driving is complete. The Harvis Integrated Control System combines cutting-edge, onboard technology, the convenience of voice control and increased cabin space to provide police officers with a comfortable, safe and connected solution in their cockpit. The optional system replaces the factory dashboard and integrates the vehicle’s various electronics management systems. It also provides for a second input (e.g., a Windows laptop or Android tablet) into the integrated 12.1 inch dash touchscreen. An optional rugged keyboard is also available. Another option includes Ford SYNC, a hands-free information technology interface allowing officers to operate various communication and audio equipment by voice control. The optional 3.5 liter EcoBoast V-6 engine delivers 365 horsepower, 350 lb.-ft. of torque, made usable by standard all-wheel drive. Higher output headlamp and lights offer integrated wig-wag (modulated/flashing) functionality. Available Level III ballistic shield door inserts increase officer safety against gunfire while minimizing weight. Picture of this new design on the back page.

Katherine T. Karsen Smith

Nancy Ludwig
Nancy Ludwig, of Hamburg, NY died Tuesday, October 27, 2015. Nancy worked for the Division of the NYSP in Troop “A” as Zone Two Secretary at SP Boston. Funeral arrangements made through the Colonial Memorial Chapels in Lackawanna. She was the aunt of Tpr. Edward DiRosa.