



# THE GRAY RIDER



Published By And For Members Of  
THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER NEW YORK STATE TROOPERS, INC.  
*"Upholding Our Trooper Traditions Since 1951"*



## HONORING THE FALLEN AND REMEMBERING OUR OWN

State Troopers stand together with members of NYPD to honor fallen officer Jason Rivera.



We will never forget. Troopers gathered at SP Oneonta in remembrance of Trooper Jill Mattice who lost her life on January 20, 2010. She was killed in a motor vehicle collision on State Route 23 in Morris.



Troopers at SP Riverside honor and remember Trooper Jose A. Rosado for his ultimate sacrifice 15 years ago on January 24th.

VOL LXX NO. 3  
October 2021 - January 2022

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF THE ASSOCIATION  
OF FORMER  
NEW YORK STATE  
TROOPERS, INC.  
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**Association of Former New York State Troopers**  
**MINUTES of the State Board**  
**Meeting Date: November 13, 2021**

Chapters (7) and Members (17) Attending:

**State Board**

Michael Doney, President  
 Michael Wells, Secy/Clerk  
 (Acting)  
 Linda Lyons, Editor, Gray Rider

**Batavia**

Gary Hammond, Secy/Clerk  
 Dennis Spanitz, Treasurer

**Black Horse**

Bill Boulio, VP  
 Marty Weigel, Treasurer

**Capital District**

Pat Gleason, VP  
 Bill Murray

**Central New York**

Edward Rood, President  
 Don Barker, VP  
 George Hopper, Treasurer

**Finger Lakes**

Dave Treat, President

**Niagara Frontier**

Terry Sutton, President  
 John Loucher, VP

**Southern Tier**

Bill Dobbs, President  
 Dick Wagar

**No attendance:**

Allegheny Mountain  
 Baron Steuben  
 Leatherstocking  
 Long Island  
 Mid-Hudson  
 Tri-State

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the State Board of the AFNYST was held at Jake's Grub & Grog, 7 E River Rd, Central Square, NY. The meeting convened at 12:19 P.M, President Michael Doney presiding, and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for our departed Members.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the September 18, 2021 was made by Pat Gleason and seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**Officer's Reports:**

**President Doney:**

1. Reported on the arrest of Trooper Christopher Baldner for murder as the result of a V&T stop, pursuit and use of force which resulted in the death of a child who was a passenger in the vehicle. Trooper Baldner was also denied bail. Mike reported on discussions with PBA Liaison, Fred Scheidt about the Signal 30 Fund and a possible new Signal 30 Defense Fund. Mike also read out a letter from PBA President Tom Mungeer. (See Below) An extract regarding donating to Tpr Baldner's defense is reprinted here:

The New York State Trooper PBA Signal 30 Benefit Fund is accepting donations on behalf of Trooper Baldner and his family. To donate click here and in the line for "Specific fundraising event or in memory of" please type in the words "Trooper Baldner." In addition, you can write a check to the Signal 30 Benefit Fund and in the memo line write "Trooper Baldner" and mail it to: New York State Trooper PBA Signal 30 Benefit Fund, 48 Howard St., Albany, NY 12207  
 Mike then asked for a motion to donate to Tpr Baldner's defense fund. (see New Business)

**Updates from NYSTPBA President Tom Mungeer**

**Travesty, Part II**

2. Yesterday, Trooper Christopher Baldner's bail request was denied by Ulster County Court Judge Bryan Rounds, and he will be detained until resolution of the proceedings next year. I met with his attorney afterward and he is exploring legal options to appeal this travesty of justice. We sent out the following press release just hours ago and I think it is self-explanatory:

*Although we are extremely disappointed by the judge's decision in yesterday's bail hearing in Ulster County Court, the New York State Troopers Police Benevolent*

*Association will continue to respect the legal process and provide legal representation for Trooper Christopher Baldner, a right afforded to every American citizen.*

*However, I cannot help but wonder how justice was served by what I believe was an unexplainable and irrational decision by the judge. Members of law enforcement have been demoted to a second class of citizens and we continue to play on an unlevel playing field, as it appears a separate set of rules apply to us compared to the everyday citizen. It seems that the Bail Elimination Act of 2019 applies to everyone except members of law enforcement.*

*In addition, I simply cannot ignore the specter of the unholy alliance of the legal process that seems now to be intertwined in the stench of both state and county politics in this case; from the apparent political grandstanding by the attorney general's office - which led to what I believe is the overcharging of our member - to the subsequent request to hold him without bail, to the judge's granting that request.*

*As this case makes its way through the legal system, we look forward to a review and public release of the facts, including the motorist's reckless actions that started this chain of events. The false narrative that has been provided thus far will be corrected in the coming months.*

*Lastly, I call on the Ulster County District Attorney to file the necessary charges against Tristin Goods, whose reckless behavior put everyone traveling on the New York State Thruway that evening in extreme danger. Meanwhile, Trooper Baldner sits in the Ulster County Jail waiting for his day in court - an American travesty.*

Over the past 24 hours, I cannot help but think about the incident that happened in Nevada earlier this week. Although occurring in a different state and different laws apply, it is extremely frustrating to see the saga of former NFL wide receiver Henry Ruggs III play out. According to police, he was traveling drunk at 156 mph when he slammed into a woman's car, killing her. Yet he was bailed on \$150,000 with strict conditions including home confinement, electronic monitoring and surrender of his passport.

Trooper Baldner's attorney offered nearly the exact same package and yet he sits in the Ulster County Jail. WTF?

I also cannot adequately express my frustration with this situation from the apparent political grandstanding by the Attorney General's Office, which led to what I believe is the overcharging of our Member and the subsequent request to hold him without bail. It seems that the Bail Elimination Act of 2019 applies to everyone except members of law enforcement. I wonder how many of the protesters camped outside the Ulster County Courthouse were beating the bandwagon in support of the elimination of bail, that is until it involves a NYS Trooper? Hypocrites!

The NYSTPBA will continue to support Trooper Baldner and his family and we look forward to when the true facts of this case are revealed at trial. I will refrain from putting too many of my true feelings on paper as it might negatively affect his case going forward. However, I will say this - if anyone thinks that elections do not have consequences, look no farther than this case. Next year's gubernatorial election will determine if this state will continue its freefall or regain some semblance of equilibrium.

The The New York State Trooper PBA Signal 30 Benefit Fund is accepting donations on behalf of Trooper Baldner and his family. To donate click [here](#) and in the line for "Specific fundraising event or in memory of" please type in the words "Trooper Baldner." In addition, you can write a check to the Signal 30 Benefit Fund and in the memo line write "Trooper Baldner" and mail it to: New York State Trooper PBA Signal 30 Benefit Fund, 48 Howard St., Albany, NY 12207.

I want to thank everyone who has graciously donated to help the Baldner family during their time of need.

## **Vaccination**

New York State - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit vacated a temporary injunction, taking away any religious exemptions to the state's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for state health care workers.

New York City - Mayor de Blasio's vaccine mandate went into effect on Nov. 1 and as of Tuesday, 89 officers are on unpaid leave.

.Washington - Approximately 3% of the Washington State Patrol failed to comply by the deadline - 67 state troopers, six sergeants and one captain were placed on unpaid leave.

Massachusetts – Only three Troopers have resigned in response to that mandate.

### **New Hampshire State Police**

I would like to thank those members who took the time and traveled to Manchester, N.H. to attend the funeral of Staff Sergeant Jesse Sherrill, who was killed on Oct. 28, 2021 when his cruiser was struck by a tractor trailer in a construction zone. Nearly 1,500 members of law enforcement were present, and it was nice to see uniformed New York State Troopers among them. I had the honor of delivering checks from the National Troopers Coalition and our very own Signal 30 Fund to help the Sherrill family in their time of need.

### **Election Day 2021 - Blue Red Wave**

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote and for helping defeat the three ballot proposals that I mentioned last week. Well done!

Who said bail reform and defunding the police aren't resonating with the public? As anyone who frequents a beach can tell you, no matter how high the waves reach, they eventually recede. Such is the case with the so-called Blue Wave that splashed across our state last year, propelling Democrats to take a historic number of political seats on both a local and state level. This year is different, however, with Republicans having their best showing in five years. Let's hope that it is sustainable next year when all of the state's top officials as well as every legislative seat is up for grabs.

### **Election Day Quotes**

Quote I

Congratulations Mayor Byron Brown. Socialism has been defeated in Buffalo!"

-NYS GOP Chair Nick Langworthy

Quote II

"This was generally a good year for Republicans and Conservatives, which is a result of actions that have been taken in Albany over the last two years on a number of these law enforcement proposals, as well as a general distaste for the Biden administration."

NYS Conservative Party Chair Gerard Kassir

### **This Week's Sign That the Apocalypse is Upon Us**

As expected, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney signed the Driving Equality bill which amended the city's Traffic Code to reclassify seven offenses as "secondary violations." Secondary violations include things like broken taillights or brake lights, bumper issues, improperly displayed registration stickers, and inspection violations.

### **SCOTUS**

The U.S. Supreme Court appears inclined to wipe out a series of gun control measures that require firearm owners to show a particular, unusual need to get a permit to carry a gun outside the home. During arguments Wednesday on New York state's strict gun laws, the high court's conservative majority contended that such rules treat Second Amendment rights as inferior to other constitutional rights like freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. To be continued...

### **The Pendulum Swings**

Minneapolis voters struck down a proposed charter amendment that would have eliminated the Minneapolis Police Department and replaced it with a Department of Public Safety. The proposed charter amendment would have eliminated the minimum police staffing requirement as well as the position of police chief.

### **Mailbag**

This week's inspirational words are attributed to a member of the general public named Nigel Friestad of Vancouver, Canada. In missives sent through both Facebook as well as the NYSTPBA general email inbox we get the following words of wisdom regarding this union's defense of Trooper Baldner:

Fuck you kkk nazi scumbag piece of shit. You need suicide you racist fuck. thomas mungeer and christopher baldner need death. Kill yourselves you kkk nazi lowlife fucks. Slit your own pig fucking throat and feed yourselves bullets until you are fucking dead. That is what is happening to you 2 kkk nazi fucks. Death.

I initially thought it was my ex-wife sending me a love note, but she uses much better grammar than this dick. What can I say? I know you are, but what am I?

2. Read out loud an email from PBA Liaison Fred Scheidt.

**AFNYST State Board Meeting - 11/13/21 - SL**

fwscheidt@nycap.rr.com <fwscheidt@nycap.rr.com>  
 Fri, Nov 12, 2021 at 1:45 PM To: Mike Doney <afnyst@aol.com>, Walt Marchewka <wmarchewka@gmail.com>, William Murray

Folks,

It appears that I have a head cold. As I do not want to infect any of you, I will not be attending the meeting tomorrow. There were a few things I planned to table. Feel free to share.

1. The PBA is considering trying additional ways to build up the monies needed for the criminal defense of the T Trooper charged with murder. Mungeer will be sharing his thoughts.
2. There was a COLA increase as most already know.
3. There will likely be an increase in health insurance cost which we should know for sure in early December.
4. I continue to speak to folks about ways to get more money to the oldest of the retirees. One says giving our COLA to those most in need is a bad idea and we should seek legislation to increase the COLA, the other says that is not likely to succeed. I noticed in the PBA magazine that there were only about 70 members in their 90's. I guess I will need to get the numbers of how many retired in what years to determine who has larger pensions and how many have less. It appears to me that we can take care of our own if possible.
5. Signal 30 for Retirees. Tom Mungeer is receptive to helping retirees more via S-30. There are discussions about how to structure this. As I have previously stated I believe we are better together. I would suggest that we make some positive gesture about giving to the S-30 in and effort to show the PBA that we are helpful in hopes they will reply in kind. Sad as it may be, some do not remember what was done for them in years gone by and some do not yet see themselves in retirement.

3. Advised that he is continuing to receive requests for AFNYST license plates through the DMV website. Some have been questionable but have been vetted appropriately. Also advised that Mike Wells will be named the alternate approval authority, replacing Bill Murray.

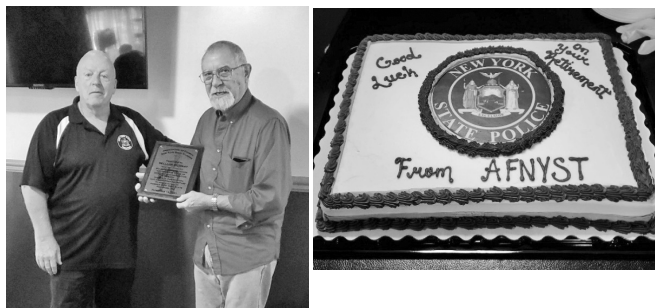
4. Advised that he still has 40 NYSP facemasks left. Please contact Mike if interested.

Vice-President: Absent

Treasurer: Absent A motion to waive the reading of and approve the Treasurer's report was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary: Secretary Murray advised that the transition of records to the new secretary, Mike Wells has been completed and that Mike will be handling the secretary duties for the remainder of year as well.

Bill also thanked the Association for their support for him over the past 12 years. At this point, President Doney presented Bill with a plaque in recognition and appreciation of his 12 years of service as Secretary. He also presented a cake which was enjoyed by all!



Photos: Linda Lyons

**Board and Committee Reports:** None.

### **Old Business: Fund to Assist Retired Members**

09/18/2021 Charlie Simmons (CD Chapter) presented an idea of establishing a fund that would assist retired Troopers and their families in a time of need. This would necessitate the forming a nonprofit separate from the Association with its own directors and function on a statewide basis. Terry Sutton noted that Niagara has a similar plan (Helping Hands) in place focusing on children and is quite successful. No motion made at this time with a decision to continue to gather information on proceeding with the idea.

11/13/2021 Terry Sutton (Niagara Chapter) advised that the Helping Hands organization met and decided to keep their organization tied to the AFNYST Niagara Chapter and not to expand the statewide AFNYST. Bill Murray reported that the CD Chapter favored a Signal 30 type fund specifically for retirees. Discussion centered on seeking to form a separate fund or exploring the option of expanding retiree access to Signal 30 funds. It was noted that PBA Liaison Fred Scheidt was actively pursuing this with the PBA Board. No motions were made on the matter at this time. Carried over.

**New Business:** Trooper Christopher Baldner Defense Fund  
 Motion made by Dennis Spanitz donate \$500 to the Signal 30 Fund earmarked for the legal defense fund for Trooper Baldner. Seconded by Pat Gleason. Motion carried.

**Good and Welfare:** It was reported that former Superintendent Jim McMahon was feeling well and attended a recent meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Location TBD.

**Adjournment:** Motion made to adjourn and seconded. Motion Carried.

Michael F Wells

AFNYST Secretary/Clerk  
 Date of Approval

### ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

The monthly meeting of the Adirondack Chapter held a meeting on October 6, 2021, at the Craig Wood Golf Course, Lake Placid with 18 members and guest in attendance. Election: Motion was made and carried to have the secretary cast one ballot for the same officer line. Congratulations to the elected officers.

### ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

No Chapter News Reported.

### BLACK HORSE CHAPTER

No Chapter News Reported.

### BARON STEUBEN CHAPTER

The final 2021 dinner/meeting of the Baron-Steuben Chapter was held at The Redwood in Naples with 18 members and guests in attendance. A motion made and carried for a donation to the Signal 30 fund in support of Trooper Christopher Baldner.

### BATAVIA CHAPTER

No Chapter News Reported.

### CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

On September 15, 2021, a meeting of the Capital District Chapter was held at the Saratoga-Wilton Elks, Saratoga Springs with 30 members in attendance. The President advised that all the 2022 meetings will be held at the Saratoga-Wilton Elks except for the annual clambake August meeting. The VP advised that there were 75 Members in attendance at the August 2021 clambake which was held at the Clifton Park Elks Lodge. The feedback on the location was very favorable. The 2022

clambake will be held at the Clifton Park Elks. Nominating Committee: Charlie Simmons reported that the nominees for officers are for: President - Fred Scheidt, Vice-President - Steve Nieves, Treasurer - M. Nancy Poulin, and Secretary - Mike Wells. Nominations were opened to the floor. Bill Murray made a motion to close nominations and directed the secretary to cast one vote to elect the nominated slate. Continued discussion opened with possible charities and whether or not to have quarterly donations instead of monthly. Discussion then moved to whether or not donations should be made to organizations that directly support retired Members such as the Signal 30 Fund or for the AFNYST to create a similar program to directly aid retirees in need. Bill Murray made a motion to table the subject until after the State Board meeting on 09/18/21. The subject will be brought up to the State board regarding starting a charitable organization.

### CNY CHAPTER

The CNY monthly meeting was held on November 16, 2021 at Jake's Grub and Grog in Brewerton with 24 members in attendance. President Rood inquired of Mike Walser regarding nominations for officers. Mike advised that he was not contacted by anyone interested in running for office. Mike made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the current slate of officers. Motion was seconded by Erwin Brandl. Motion carried. Erwin Brandl inquired as to the process of recertifying pistol permits. There was some discussion on the subject, and Mark Wadopian was able to find the website on his phone and punched my info in.... I am good until January. This has to be done every 5 years for those of us in NY. The website is : [firearms.troopers.ny.gov/pprecert/welcome.faces](https://firearms.troopers.ny.gov/pprecert/welcome.faces). If you have technical difficulties with the website, contact the NY State Information Technology desk

at 1-844-891-1786. The website states all other questions should be directed to 1-855-529-4867. Newly reelected Vice President Don Barker stated that there are very few new, younger retirees joining the association. This started a lengthy discussion on what could be done to attract new members. President Rood advised that the Niagara chapter is not going to expand their 501(C)3 to other chapters or the state, and plans to keep it within their chapter

### FINGER LAKES CHAPTER

On November 9, 2021, 39 members and guests attended the monthly meeting at Finn's Tap Room, Victor. A \$100 donation was sent to the Signal 30 fund in memory of Paul Sucher. A grave marker was sent to his son. President reported on the state officers' situation. The Fingerlakes officers will remain the same. One vote was casted for all of them.

### LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

No Chapter News Reported.



**MID HUDSON  
CHAPTER**

On November 4, 2021, 21 members gathered at Longobardi's, Wappingers Falls for their monthly meeting. Nominations for the chapter's officers' positions were due, however, none were received. A vote took place and the current officers will remain in their positions with the exception of Secretary which remains vacant. A donation of \$500 to the family of Trooper Christopher Baldner, who remains in the Ulster County Jail without bail, was made by the chapter.

**NIAGARA FRONTIER  
CHAPTER**

The regular monthly meeting was held on October 6, 2021 at Magruder's Restaurant, Depew. Report from Don Munch on the Election Committee: All current officers have decided to remain in office. Election to the candidate positions remain unopposed – nominations closed. Secretary will cast one vote for election at the November meeting. Helping Hands: The Board of Directors met with the Financial Advisor, Connor Casey on September 22. Annual Helping Hands Board Meeting was held on September 25. Helping Hands will be kept local, not join up with a state wide charity association. Nominations for Board of Directors: Bill Curtin, Jack Meegan, Don Munch, John Loncher No further nominations and nominations were closed. Election will take place at November meeting with the Niagara Frontier Chapter secretary casting one vote for the current board. Volunteer Representatives: Greg Wildridge, Bill Gourlay, Kathleen Pawlak. A donation of \$10,000 was made to Trooper Paul and Melinda Stedman for their 11 month old child Joseph who is in need of a liver transplant.

**SOUTHERN TIER  
CHAPTER**

No Chapter News Reported.

**TRI STATE  
CHAPTER**

The monthly meeting of the Tri-State Chapter was held on October 13, 2021, at My Place, New Windsor with 21 members in attendance. The Chapter's bi-annual election of officers was conducted. For 2022, Bob Caridi was elected President, John Richichi was elected Vice President, Greg Sitler, Secretary, and Mike Escobar, Treasurer. Special recognition and thanks to Dick Thorpe and Don Plunkett who had served for several terms as President and Vice President respectively.



## Snippets of News/Info

Website to check NYS Pistol Permit Recertification (reproduced and edited)

<https://firearms.troopers.ny.gov/pprecert/welcome.faces>

Welcome to the New York State Pistol Permit Recertification Website. The terms "Pistol Permit", "Pistol/Revolver License" and "Firearms License" are synonymous and will be used interchangeably throughout this process. In order to recertify your Pistol Permit it will be necessary for you to provide accurate and timely information in the required fields. You should have your Pistol Permit and your New York State Driver License or Non-Driver Identification, as providing specific information from these documents will be necessary.

If your permit was issued before January 15, 2013, the deadline to submit your recertification is January 31, 2018. If your permit was issued on or after January 15, 2013, the deadline to recertify is five years after the date the permit was issued. As a permit holder, it is your responsibility to recertify your permit whether you receive a notification letter or not.

New York City, Nassau County, Suffolk County and Westchester County Permit Holders:

This system does not process recertifications for New York City, Nassau County, Suffolk County or Westchester County permits. If you currently have a New York City, Nassau County, Suffolk County or Westchester County permit, you must follow the requirements that are in place in your county rather than use this recertification system.

### **Bill Muray Retired for the Second Time** By Linda Lyons

Bill retired in 1994 as a T/Sergeant in Troop G after 26 years of service. He soon joined the AFNYST Inc. as a member of the Capital District Chapter and served as the Chapter Secretary for several years. He enjoyed the camaraderie of his retired members and wanted to ensure retired NYS Troopers were kept up-to-date and well informed on all matters pertaining to retirees. In 2008 Bill was elected as Secretary of the State Board, a position Steve Sluers held previously. Bill made the transition very easily as Steve had left an easy program for Bill to follow. In addition, the officers, at both State and Chapter levels, were very capable to work with. Bill worked diligently with the State Board, AFNYST Chapters and the PBA to ensure the retirees received the best benefits available. As one of Bill's duties was to supervise the Editor of the Gray Rider, he has worked with, and nurtured, several Editors throughout his career as State Board Secretary. Since 2017 I have worked with Bill in the capacity of Editor. He has a very gentle, but direct way of explaining what was needed, which was very helpful for me, for the continued success of the Gray Rider. At the November State Board Meeting in Syracuse Bill officially turned over the reins to the newly elected Secretary Michael Wells. Mike Doney, President of the State Board, presented a plaque to Bill in recognition of his dedicated service. We all enjoyed a cake in celebration of his retirement. As an avid golfer, Bill enjoys snow birding in Florida because it allows him to socialize with his snow bird friends and play golf. Bill will return home to Saratoga Springs in April. We all wish you well Bill.



## Potential Loss of Benefits of Retirees

Bart Johnson, Retired Field Commander (edited and reproduced)

- Eliminate Taxpayer Subsidy for the Medicare Part B Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA) for High-Income State Retirees. The Federal government imposed the supplemental IRMAA premium in 2007 to require high-income retirees to pay a greater share of Medicare costs. New York taxpayers currently subsidize the entire IRMAA premium of New York State's high-income retirees. This subsidy is worth \$713 annually for retirees with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) between \$88,000 and \$111,000, growing to a taxpayer subsidy of \$4,277 annually for retirees with AGI above \$500,000. The Budget eliminates this extra taxpayer reimbursement to higher-income retirees effective January 1, 2021. Connecticut and Hawaii (partial reimbursement) are the only other States that provide reimbursement for IRMAA. Eliminating this subsidy will save taxpayers \$4.0 million in FY 2022 (due to the lag in reimbursement), increasing to \$17.1 million in FY 2023.
- Cap State Reimbursement of the Medicare Part B Standard Premium for New York State Retirees. In Calendar Year 2021, New York taxpayers are reimbursing the standard premium for new and existing retirees at the amount of \$148.50 per month. The cost of this reimbursement is \$247 million. This proposal maintains State reimbursement at \$148.50 per month, consistent with CY 2021 Federal program costs. Any future increases in reimbursement above this level would be subject to the annual budget process. This proposal provides savings of \$1.8 million in FY 2022 and \$9.3 million fully annualized in FY 2023. Only five other states reimburse the Standard Part B premium at all (California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Nevada and New Jersey).

## VETERANS ADMINISTRATION DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Law Firm of Alex Dell, PLLC

Alex C. Dell, Esq.

(reproduced)

Countless members of our law enforcement community hold the distinct honor and privilege of serving their country in the United States Armed Forces. Unfortunately, that service often comes with a price – lifelong physical and/or mental service-connected disabling conditions. Thankfully, the Veterans Administration (VA) has a disability compensation program which pays a monthly tax-free payment to veterans who were injured, became sick or contracted a disease while serving in the military. On some occasions veterans entered the military with injuries or ailments that were worsened by their military experience. In each of these scenarios, it is possible to qualify for VA disability benefits for physical conditions (e.g., back pain, knee pain, shoulder pain, hearing loss, tinnitus, presumptive illnesses) and mental health conditions such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or military sexual trauma. For presumptive illnesses, the VA presumes certain disabilities were caused by military service. Veterans in the following groups may qualify for “presumptive” disability benefits – former prisoners of war, Vietnam veterans, and gulf war veterans. VA death benefits can also be paid to a veteran's dependent spouse, minor children, parents and others deemed dependent on the veteran.

Set forth below are common questions and answers involving VA disability compensation claims:

- Can a Veteran simultaneously receive VA disability compensation, a New York State service or disability retirement, Workers' Compensation and/or Social Security benefits from the Social Security Administration? YES
- What is the maximum monthly VA disability compensation rate if considered 100% disabled? \$3,952.09 (dependents included in this calculation). The benefit increases based on the number of dependents.
- Is VA disability compensation tax free? YES
- If the VA rates a veteran's service-connected disabilities at less than 100%, can the veteran still be entitled to total disability benefits, which will result in a higher monthly payment? YES. The VA calls this a Total Disability Individual Unemployability (TDIU) claim.
- What does the veteran need to prove to make a successful TDIU claim? Whether the veteran can get and keep work, but even if the veteran can or does work, whether such work is substantially gainful. Work is substantially gainful if it allows the Veteran to earn a living on par with a nondisabled person typical of the industry and location. Minimal income is not generally considered substantially gainful. The VA will find that income below the poverty threshold (\$12,880.00 for a single-family household in 2022) is not substantially gainful.
- Does the VA always accurately determine a veteran's eligibility for benefits?

NO. As you may imagine, quite often, the VA does not accurately determine whether a disabled veteran has a service-connected physical and/or mental health disability, or incorrectly determines the veteran's disability rating – which directly impacts how much money the veteran receives on a monthly basis. In certain situations, veterans may be entitled to significant back-pay for retroactive VA disability benefits that were incorrectly withheld by the VA.

- If the veteran was already rated by the VA, can the veteran later claim a higher disability rating? YES. A veteran is permitted to seek an increase in VA disability rating, which may result in a higher dollar amount paid to the veteran for the remainder of their life.
- If there is significant change in your medical condition or the onset of a new medical condition, should you consider seeking an increase in your disability rating? YES. The VA disability rating determines the amount of monthly compensation paid to the veteran. If you have not received the correct disability rating, you could be leaving a significant amount of money on the table.
- Is time of the essence when applying for VA disability compensation? YES. While there is no statute of limitations to apply for VA disability compensation, there are time limitations imposed after discharge and/or after a rating decision letter from the VA if the VA has denied benefits, determined an improper effective date of benefits and/or provided an incorrect or unacceptable rating. Timely challenging VA decisions can affect the amount of money the veteran may be entitled to receive in back pay.
- Does the VA offer benefits in addition to disability compensation? YES. While disability compensation is one of the most significant benefits available from the VA, the VA also offers a pension benefit, medical insurance, long-term care, caregiver support, life insurance and mortgage help, among others.
- How can an attorney help a veteran obtain VA disability compensation? The VA recognizes individual attorneys as legally authorized and capable of assisting veterans in pursuit of benefits before the Department of Veterans Affairs. There is no fee for representation unless the veteran successfully overturns the VA's denial of benefits. Even then, fees are limited to a small percentage of the Veteran's back benefits. Having a skilled, experienced attorney can often make the difference in helping the veteran obtain the proper VA disability compensation.

For over 26 years, the Law Firm of Alex Dell, PLLC has represented many New York State Police members and their families. The Firm concentrates on nationwide Veterans Administration, nationwide Social Security Disability, New York & Florida Workers' Compensation, Disability Retirement and Personal Injury claims. If you or someone you know has a physical and/or mental health disability related to their service for the United States Armed Forces and may qualify for VA disability compensation, contact the Law Firm of Alex Dell, PLLC for a free consultation at 1-866-965-2667 or [mail@alex dell.com](mailto:mail@alex dell.com)

Meet Trooper Michael Nash, SP Latham. He was called to the Northway in Colonie for a driver having a medical event. When he got on scene, the driver was unresponsive and not breathing. Trooper Nash immediately started CPR, continuing until EMS arrived. The driver was taken to a hospital and is expected to fully recover.



Members of the New York State Police, Troop NYC, were happy to help at the Rockefeller Christmas Tree lighting.





## REGISTRATION - 2022 Association Reunion

The 2022 reunion registration form may be found on our website [www.fart-nv.org](http://www.fart-nv.org).

Go to the website and click on the tab, REUNION REGISTRATION, located directly above the reunion flyer. Download the form, fill it out legibly and follow the instructions contained on the form for sending it to Treasurer Bill Myers.

**SIDE NOTE:** We continue to have an inordinate number of members who have not yet paid 2022 dues of \$15.00 per member. As noted in an earlier email regarding dues, the Association cannot survive without funding. While our dues make up but a small part of the funding required, they are important for our survival. If you have not yet sent 2022 dues to Bill please do so ASAP.

Hope to see you at the reunion.

**90 + Years Old**

Barrett, Daniel F	09/29/1928	Land, Hugh W	12/12/1929
Bertman, Algird	05/15/1930	LeRoy, David J	01/13/1932
Bianchi, Josesph A	11/01/1928	Lee, William J	04/22/1929
Bloomer, Harold G	05/03/1925	Lighty, Neal	02/12/1930
Bogucki, Edmund A Jr	09/21/1929	Lumia, Joseph F	01/06/1930
Bohanan, Kurt L	05/13/1930	Marro, Bernard H	01/02/1928
Boland, Richard E.	07/30/1931	Meyer, William H	08/27/1930
Boss, Hollis	02/24/1925	Moochler, James C	10/25/1927
Boyle, Richard F	04/23/1929	Neckers, Richard H	04/04/1933
Bunner, Albert	03/21/1925	Nelson, Harry B	07/27/1919
Carr, Edward J	05/03/1925	Nolan, Wesley J	07/08/1930
Cavallero, Andrew J	02/24/1932	Olma, Richard B	08/19/1928
Chandler, Medrick M	11/20/1931	Panighetti, Arthur C	12/23/1928
Chromey, George M	05/05/1930	Pauquette, Joseph	10/17/1930
Chudoba, Raymond A	01/29/1931	Peet, Walter D	10/13/1930
Claassen, George C	12/17/1926	Pergolizzi, John R	02/18/1928
Cleary, John M Jr	06/03/1929	Quick, Robert D	05/01/1926
Cronin, Thomas W	01/27/1932	Reichman, Harold F	08/22/1931
Day, Richard C	01/17/1928	Reu, Robert H	04/12/1925
Ennis, James	01/22/1930	Richichi, Rudolph V	07//22/1930
Farrell, James E	05/09/1931	Ruchin, Bernard G	11/18/1926
Fidesio, Frances	11/05/1925	Ryan, John F Jr	05/21/1930
Frost, Robert L	02/16/1931	Salerno, Ralph P	07/15/1928
Fuente, Ralph	12/17/1930	Salvie, Raymond	07/07/1925
George, Delbert R	08/06/1931	Schuyler, John F	02/19/1931
Gilboy, George F Jr	02/03/1932	Schwab, Lloyd	08/09/1930
Gooch, Clifford	09/18/1931	Scott, Lawrence C	03/12/1931
Grunwald, Godfried A	06/07/1929	Sholette, Edgar C	02/18/1931
Hallock, Franklin	08/29/1927	Simbari, John E	02/25/1932
Hartung, Frederick R	03/21/1926	Smith, John E	03/13/1927
Hastings, Richard C	07/30/1925	Smith, Philip	06/06/1931
Henry, John R	01/01/1929	Stewart, Harold G "Ed"	03/14/1927
Hogan, Robert L	05/09/1930	Teelon, Charles W	07/24/1930
Humes, Robert D	11/05/1931	VanAken, David F Jr	12/24/1929
Kehlenbeck, Charles N	1/18/1924	VanDyke, Robert D	04/14/1931
Keohane, James A	06/09/1930	Wilcox, Gerald E	05/14/1931
Kisor, Raymond	10/01/1929	Winagle, Daniel W	02/04/1929
Kretchman, Henry W	11/05/1929		

## FINAL PATROL

*"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



Note: Surviving spouses should contact the Principal Clerk at your Troop HQ's regarding health and other benefits available through Civil Service.

### Harold K. Boore, Jr.

Harold K. "Bud" Boore Jr., age 81, of Burt, NY formerly of Buffalo, NY, rode his final patrol on December 21, 2019. Harold is a veteran of US Navy. He was an Erie County Sheriff for 3 years and then joined the State Park Police for 11 years, then joined the NYS Police in 1/1/1980 working in Lewiston, Thruway Patrol, Division Ccommunications in Albany and Albion barracks and retired from the NYS Police Wrights Corners barracks in 1989. Contributions may be made to Olcott Fire Department, PO Box 243, Olcott, NY 14126

### James B. Herbst

James Barry Herbst, age 78, of Little Rock, AK and formerly of Port Chester, NY, rode his final patrol June 11, 2020. He is a veteran of the US Air Force and Trooper in the NYS Police from 1966 to 1970. Interment was private at Mulberry Cemetery in England, AK. Contributions may be made to the Pulaski County Humane Society, 14600 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock, AK

### Frederick H. Brown

Frederick H. Brown, age 87, of Avon, NY, rode his final patrol on July 13, 2020. Fred is a veteran of the Marine Corp and a member of the NYS Police for 28 years. Interment will be held at a later date. Contributions may be made to Livingston County Hospice, 2 County Campus, Mt. Morris, NY 14510, U of R Palliative Care Unit, PO Box 270032, Rochester, NY 14627 or U of R Medical Home Care Hospice, 2180 Empire Blvd, Webster, NY 14580.

### Lawrence E. Reer

Lawrence Edward Reer, age 81, of Palenville, NY, rode his final patrol on September 2, 2020. Larry was a

member of the NYS Police. Interment was in Montrepose Cemetery, Kingston, NY. Contributions may be made to Hospice of the Sacred Heart, 100 Williams St., Dunmore, PA 18510 or Ulster County SPCA, 20 Wiedy Dr., Kingston, NY 12401.

### Angelo F. Mastronardi, Jr.

Angelo Francis Mastronardi Jr., age 77, of Freeville, NY, rode his final patrol on December 13, 2020. He graduated from Whitney Point High School in 1962 and joined the Marine Corps. Thereafter, he enjoyed a commendable 30 years with New York State Police. After 9/11 he was called back to duty in the State Police and served another two years and retired. Interment will be at Willow Glen Cemetery at the convenience of the family. Contributions may be made online website of JM Murray Center or Franziska Racker Center.

### Ralph J. Cassan

Ralph J. Cassan, age 87, of Bradenton, FL, formerly of Rochester, NY, rode his final patrol on February 1, 2021. He attended Aquinas Institute, graduating in 1951 and after serving honorably in the US Air Force, he joined the NYS Police in 1962. Ralph served many years out of Troops B, T and E in Canandaigua, with his last duty station SP Henrietta (currently SP Rochester), retiring after 21 years of service. Interment was at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester, NY.

### Thomas T. Moore

Thomas T. Moore, age 73, of Auburn, NY and the Island of St. Croix, rode his final patrol on February 3, 2021. Tom was a Viet Nam Veteran and NYS Trooper. Contributions can be made to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, 1235 South Clark Street, Suite 910,

Arlington, VA 22202, <https://donate.vvmf.org/>.

### James G. Sweeney

James "Jim" Gerard Sweeney, age 68, of Rhinebeck, NY, rode his final patrol on March 6, 2021, after a well-fought battle against illness attributed to his assignment to Ground Zero in 2001. Jim joined the NYPD in 1974 and was furloughed in 1975 during New York City's fiscal crisis. He then began his gratifying career with the New York State Police, attaining the rank of Zone Sergeant. A memorial service was held in October in Wappingers Falls, NY.

### Jerome S. DeLong

Jerome S. "Jerry" DeLong, 89, of Roanoke, VA, formerly of Jamestown, NY, rode his final patrol on March 17, 2021. He graduated from Jamestown High School in 1950 and a veteran of US Air Force. Jerry was a 1962 graduate of the NYS Police Academy and was stationed at the SP Falconer barracks. No services planned at this time. A memorial service will be held in Jamestown, New York at a future date. Contributions may be made to CAP (Child Advocacy Program of Chautauqua County), 405 West Third Street, Jamestown, NY 14701, which benefits children who are victims of abuse, or to the Robert Benson Memorial Fund (benefitting Little League Baseball and Midget Football in Jamestown) at The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, 418 Spring Street, Jamestown, N.Y. 14701.

### John H. Kohland

John H. Kohland, age 84, of Lake George, NY and Hudson, MA, rode his final patrol on April 2, 2021. He served in the US Army and Navy Reserves. John served with the NYS Police for

20 years retiring from Troop F in 1980. Contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation..

**Edward G. Knox**

Edward G. Knox, age 81, of Olean, NY, rode his final patrol on May 6, 2021. A veteran of the US Army, Ed joined the NYS Police in October 1966 retiring as a Zone Sergeant from Troop A in August 1988. Interment was in Veteran's Field Honor at Mount View Cemetery, Olean, NY.

**Donald J. Greeley**

Donald J. Greeley, age 85, of Sanford, FL and formerly NY, rode his final patrol on May 13, 2021. Don joined the NYS Police on July 31, 1958, serving in Troops C and G retiring April 15, 1982.

**John P. Murphy**

John P. Murphy, age 86, of Owego, N.Y. and Vero Beach, FL., rode his final patrol on June 17, 2021. After graduation from Owego Free Academy in 1954, he entered the US Army and later joined the Owego PD. John joined the NYS Police in 1960 and served 20 years retiring as a Troop Commander. Interment was held at Evergreen Cemetery, Owego, NY.

**Regina M. Robbins**

Regina Marie Robbins, age 71, of Provincetown, MA and formerly of Binghamton, NY, rode her final patrol on July 10, 2021. A graduate of Binghamton High School and Syracuse University's College of Arts and Sciences, and when the NYS Police opened the academy to women in 1973, Regina applied and was admitted. Regina graduated first in her class and achieved the distinction of being the first female Trooper in NYS. Her 11-year career with the State Police included becoming the first woman to advance to the rank of sergeant. Injured in the line of duty, Regina retired from the force and enrolled at the prestigious Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. Earning her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, A celebration of life was held at the United Church of Christ in Norwell, 460 Main Street, Norwell MA.

**Harold J. Harkins**

Harold "Harry" Joseph Harkins, age 92, of Fort Myers Beach, FL and formerly of NY, rode his final patrol on July 16, 2021. Harry is a US Army veteran and a member of the NYS Police for 23 years. His ashes was inurned in the memorial garden of the Church of the Ascencion, Fort Myers Beach, FL. Contributions may be made to the Church of the Ascencion or Hope Hospice of Bonita Springs, FL.

**James R. Stephens**

James Robert Stephens, age 86, of Warrenton, VA, and formerly NY, rode his final patrol on August 2, 2021. Jim served in the US Army as a reservist for 37 years, ending his years as a Sergeant Major. He also served as a New York State Trooper for 20 years, from 1962 to 1982. There was a private family graveside ceremony at Bright View Cemetery.

**Michael Quartaro**

Michael Quartaro, age 70, of Pompano Beach, FL, formerly NY, rode his final patrol on August 18, 2021. He was employed previously by the Park Police before joining the NYS Police in 1980 and retired out of Troop L, SP Lake Success.. Memorial Service was in held in August.

**Daniel C. Pastrick**

Daniel Charles Pastrick, age 80, of Horseheads, NY, rode his final patrol on August 20, 2021. Dan served with the US Navy and was a NYS Trooper for 20 years. Interment was at the Woodlawn National Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Donation Processing, The Michael J. Fox Foundation, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014.

**Robert E. Jackman, Jr.**

Robert E. Jackman Jr., age 81, of Johnson City, TN, formerly NY, rode his final patrol on September 2, 2021. Bob is a US Air Force veteran. He joined the NYS Police on January 21, 1965 and he retired as a Zone Sergeant from SP Liberty on February 3, 1988. Interment was at the Mountain Home National Cemetery in Johnson City, TN.

**Robert R. Benedict**

Robert Rickey Benedict, age 68, of Willisboro, NY, rode his final patrol on September 6, 2021. Rick graduated from Willisboro Central School in 1971, and then attended Hudson Valley Community College. Rick is a US Air Force veteran. He was a member of the NYS Police where he was a scuba diver, boat patrol trooper and Field Training Officer. Visitation was at the Hamilton Funeral Home, Peru, NY. Contributions may be made to the Willisboro Rescue Squad or the North Country SPCA.

**Stephen Szymr Sr.**

Stephen Szymr Sr, age 80, of Apopka, FL and formerly of NY, rode his final patrol on September 9, 2021. He graduated from Cohoes High School and was a Trooper with the NYS Police 1966 – 1987 retiring from Troop G after 25 years. No services are scheduled at this time.

**Alexander R. Manson**

Alexander Robert "Bob" Manson, age 81, of Gouverneur, NY, rode his final patrol on September 11, 2021. Bob is a 1958 graduate of Hammond Central School and a veteran of the Army and Navy. Bob joined the NYS Police in November 1974 and retired in May 1992 from SP Gouverneur. Interment was at Riverside Cemetery in Gouverneur, NY. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or Friends 4 Pound Paws, P.O. Box 394 Gouverneur, NY 13648.

**Jon C. Verkey**

Jon Charles Verkey "Chuck," age 66, of Arcadia, NY, rode his final patrol on September 11, 2021. Chuck graduated from Newark High School in 1973 and joined the NYS Police in 1978 retiring in 1998 from SP Williamson, after 20 years of service. A memorial service was held at the American Legion, 200 East Union Street, Newark, NY 14513. Contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Wayne County, 1475 County House Road, Lyons, NY 14489.

**Robert J. Berry**

Robert J. Berry, age 77, of Bristol, TN, formerly NY, rode his final patrol on September 16, 2021. Bob is a US Navy veteran. He joined the NYS Police in October 1968 and retired in December 1990 as an Investigator from Troop F, SP Middletown. Interment was at Glen Wild Cemetery, Glen Wild, NY.

**James G. Probst**

James G. Probst, age 68, of Silver Lake and Buffalo, NY as well as Hilton Head, SC, rode his final patrol on September 17, 2021. Senior Investigator Probst retired in 2004 after serving with the Division of State Police for more than 24 years last assigned to SP Lockport. A celebration of life will be held in 2022. Contributions may be made to an organization of your choice.

**Nelson L. Burke, Jr.**

Nelson Louis Burke, Jr., age 70 of Sanford, NY formerly upstate NY, rode his final patrol on September 19, 2021. Nelson served honorably as a member of the NYS Police. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Contributions may be made to Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, NY or a charity of your choice.

**James F. McDermott**

James Frederick McDermott, age 96, of Tonawanda, NY, rode his final patrol on September 24, 2021. Jim served in World War II from 1943-1946 and was recalled to active service during the Korean War in 1951. He joined the NYS Police in 1949 and began his career as a Trooper stationed in Troop D Oswego and retired in 1979 from SP Buffalo as a Zone Sergeant. Interment was in Mt. Olivet. Contributions may be made to the Former Troopers Helping Hands, PO Box 432, Buffalo, NY 14224.

**Richard J. Rogers**

Richard J. Rogers, age 83 of Glenwood, NY, rode his final patrol on October 1, 2021. Dick was a US Marine veteran and a member of the NYS Police. Interment was at the St. Aloysius Cemetery in Springville, NY. Contributions may be made to the Chaffee-Sardinia Fire Department, P.O. Box 203, Chaffee, NY 14030

**Roland D. Wildey**

Roland Douglas Wildey, age 76, of Livingston NY, rode his final patrol on October 1, 2021. Roland was a 1962 graduate of Lincoln High School in Yonkers, NY. He joined the NYS Police in 1967 and was stationed at Troop G, SP Loudonville and then transferred to Troop K, SP Claverack, retiring in 1987 after 20 years of service. Interment was at Livingston Cemetery, Livingston, NY. Contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Foundation or the NYS Trooper Foundation.

**Edward V. Whalen, Jr.**

Edward Vincent Whalen, Jr., age 83, of Myrtle Beach, SC, formerly NY, rode his final patrol on October 3, 2021. Ed is a retired NYS Trooper. Interment was at Hillcrest Cemetery, Conway, SC. Contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

**Henry G. Youngblood**

Henry G. Youngblood, age 85, of Halfmoon, NY, rode his final patrol on October 17, 2021. He is a veteran of the US Marine Corps, and Hank joined the NYS Police in November of 1962 and served in Troops G, K, F, SIU, and CNET before retiring as a Senior Investigator from Division Headquarters, Field Command-BCI in November of 1996. Interment will be held privately at the Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville, NY, at the convenience of the family. Contributions may be made to The Community Hospice Foundation at [communityhospice.org](http://communityhospice.org) or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Two of his children were also employed by the NYS Police, retired T/Lieutenant Scott H. Youngblood, and daughter former Communications Specialist Chris I. Youngblood Meyer.

**Peter M. Karic**

Peter M. Karic, age 76, of Ghent, NY, rode his final patrol on October 20, 2021. Pete joined the NYS Police on October 31, 1966 and served as the Troop K Senior Firearms Instructor prior to his appointment to Investigator in the BCI on June 9, 1988, and

he served as the Troop K Evidence Custodian until his retirement on August 26, 1994. His brother is retired Senior Investigator James F. Karic, SP Poughkeepsie. There are no formal services planned in the immediate future.

**Gerald E. Looney**

Gerald E. Looney, age 85, of Raymertown, NY, rode his final patrol on October 27, 2021. He graduated from Troy High School and served in the National Guard. In 1961, after graduating from the NYS Police Academy, he was stationed at Troop K, Troop G, SP Brunswick. Jerry served on many special task forces in NYC and Albany, including the Narcotics Unit, The Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, NYS Lottery Commission and Wagering Board, and Casino Gambling Study Panel. After more than 28 years of service as a NYS Trooper and Senior Investigator with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, he retired in 1988 at the rank of Captain. A memorial service was held in Pittstown, NY. Interment will be private at the convenience of the family. Contributions may be made to the Center Brunswick United Methodist Church, 990 Hoosick Road, Troy, NY 12180, or to Signal 30 Fund of the NYS Troopers PBA, 48 Howard Street, Albany, NY 12207.

**Paul E. Sucher**

Paul E. Sucher, age 77, of Ontario, NY, rode his final patrol on October 30, 2021. Paul entered the NYS Police in 1968 and retired in 1991 from Troop E, SP Williamson as Sergeant Station Commander, after 23 years of service. Paul is the father of Lieutenant Kevin P. Sucher, Troop E VGNET. Services will be private. Contributions may be made to the NYS Troopers PBA Signal 30 Benefit Fund, 48 Howard St., Albany, NY 12207 – [www.signal30.org](http://www.signal30.org) or the Wayne County Humane Society, 1475 County House Rd., Lyons, NY 14489.

**Stephen G. Claus**

Stephen Gerard Claus, age 64, of East Meadow, NY, rode his final patrol on November 9, 2021. He was a graduate



of Mineola High School. Stephen was a NYS Trooper, stationed first at Troop F, then Troop T and finally Troop L. He served as a first responder at 9/11 through his work with the NY State Police. After over 22 years of service as a Trooper, Steve retired. Interment was at Montrepos Cemetery, Kingston, NY.

#### **Warren A. Meinzer**

Warren Albert Meinzer, age 70, of Frankfort, NY, rode his final patrol on November 9, 2021. He had 25 years of service between the NYS Police, Village of Frankfort Police Department and Village of Mohawk Police Department. There were no calling hours. Contributions may be made to The American Lung Association 5096 Commercial Drive, Yorkville, NY 13495

#### **James D. McDonough Sr.**

James Dennis (Dan) McDonough Sr., age 88, of Brooksville, FL and Keeseville, NY, rode his final patrol on November 14, 2021. He attended Keeseville High School and graduated in 1950 and enlisting in the US Marine Corps, serving from 1952 to 1955. James served as a Trooper in the NYS Police. Interment was at the Immaculate Conception Church Cemetery, Keeseville, NY.

#### **Matthew C. Neeson**

Matthew C. Neeson, age 77, of Albany, NY, rode his final patrol on November 14, 2021. He served in the US Army from 1964 – 1967 when he joined the NYS Police, retiring in 1987. Interment was in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

#### **Norman T. Gibbons**

Norman Thomas Gibbons, age 75, of Gold Canyon, Arizona and Plattsburgh, NY, rode his final patrol on November 15, 2021. He was a graduate of Chittenango High School and served in the US Army. Tom joined the NYS Police in 1970 and retired as a Senior Investigator (BCI) in 2001. A celebration of life ceremony will be held in Plattsburgh at a later date.

Contributions can be made to Hospice of the Valley – Gardiner Home in Phoenix, Arizona.

#### **Van Rensselaer Campbell, Jr.**

Van Rensselaer “Toby” Campbell, Jr., age 87, of Wrights Loop, NY, rode his final patrol on November 18, 2021. He graduated from Chatham High School and began his 21 year career in law enforcement, with the NYS Police, in 1957. During those years, Toby began as a Trooper, earned the rank of Sergeant, and an Investigator in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Troop G, Loudonville, retiring in 1978. Interment was at Stillwater Union Cemetery, Stillwater, NY. Contributions may be made to the Stillwater Community Center Eldercare program, PO Box 536, Stillwater, NY 12170 or Malta/Stillwater EMS, 2449 State Hwy 9, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

#### **Joseph L. Coleman**

Joseph L. Coleman, age 67, of Latham, NY, rode his final patrol on November 18, 2021. He worked as a dedicated NYS Trooper for over 30 years based out of Troop G. Mass was celebrated at St. Ambrose Church, Latham, NY. Contributions may be made to Donate Life at <https://www.donatelife.net/give-to-dla/>.

#### **Jerome R. Wilson**

Jerome R. Wilson, age 84, of Dutchess County, Florida and South Dakota, rode his final patrol on November 19, 2021. He served in the US Navy on the USS Lowry and then served in the US Naval Reserves out of Poughkeepsie. Jerry retired as Sergeant from the NYS Police in Troop K, SP Stormville in 1985 after 20 years of service. Interment was at St. Denis Cemetery, Hopewell Junction, NY. Contributions may be made to DAV Chapter at Castle Point VAMC.

#### **Frank A. Grossmann**

Frank A. Grossmann, age 59, of Ogden, NY, rode his final patrol on November 26, 2021. Frank was a US Army veteran and joined the NYS Police in 1988 serving 29 years retiring in April of 2017. A majority of his career

was served in Troop E, SP Waterloo, Rochester and Canandaigua where he retired as a member of the T.I.M. Detail. Interment was in Westside Cemetery, Chili, NY. Contributions may be made to the Scholarship Fund Frank established with the EAA – Experimental Aircraft Association. This helps youths get their pilots license who otherwise couldn't afford it. EAA Chapter 44, Scholarship Fund, C/O Trina Kenney Treasurer, 27 Keystone Ct., Brockport, NY 14420

#### **Barrie R. Owen**

Barrie R. Owen, age 90, of Ohio and formerly Sullivan County, NY, rode his final patrol on November 28, 2021. He is a Retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel having served in the US Air Force, the New York Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. He served the NYS Police with the rank of Trooper. Interment was at the Arlington Memorial Gardens, Mt. Healthy, Ohio. Contributions may be made to the Syrian Shrine transportation fund, 9730 Reading Road, Cincinnati OH 45215 ([www.syrianshrine.org](http://www.syrianshrine.org)).

#### **Glen R. George**

Glen Reed George, age 83, of Margaretville, NY, rode his final patrol on December 2, 2021. He entered the US Air Force in 1956 upon graduation from Margaretville Central School, and he joined the NYS Police in 1962 serving as a road patrol trooper and instructor of accident investigation at the SP Academy, until his retirement in July 1982. Funeral service was held at the Jay Gould Memorial Reformed Church in Roxbury, NY. Contributions may be made to the Margaretville Hospital Ambulance, Attn: Pat Delameter, 42084 State Highway 28, Margaretville, NY 12455 or Margaretville Fire Department, PO Box 201, Margaretville, NY 12455.

#### **Wayne N. Twining**

Wayne N. Twining, age 85, of Peru, NY, rode his final patrol on December 7, 2021. He graduated from Mount Assumption Institute in 1953 and served in the US Marine Corps. Wayne was a NYS Trooper from 1959 until

he retired in 1972. Interment was at St. Augustine's Church cemetery, Peru, NY. Contributions may be made to St. Augustine's Church, Peru, NY.

**John C. Howish Jr.**

John Charles Howish Jr., age 88, of Kings Park NY, rode his final patrol on December 16, 2021. He is a US Army veteran. John retired as a NYS Trooper retiring from Troop L in Islip Terrace NY (now located in East Farmingdale). Interment was at Calverton National Cemetery, Riverhead, NY.

**George G. Howze, Sr.**

George G. Howze Sr., age 64, of Kenmore, NY, rode his final patrol on December 19, 2021. He is a US Marine Corp veteran. George joined the NYS Police on October 3, 1983, serving 27 years before retiring on January 27, 2010, from Troop A, C.V.E.U. Detail. Interment was at the Mount Olive Cemetery Mausoleum, Kenmore, NY.

**John G. Day**

John G. Day, age 81, of NY, rode his final patrol on December 21, 2021. He served in the US Army and as a Cayuga County Sheriff's Deputy prior to joining the NYS Police on June 13, 1963. John retired on September 19, 1984 as a Senior Investigator from the Troop D Narcotics Unit. He is the father-in-law of Senior Investigator Peter J. Burns (retired), SIU-Syracuse. Services will be private.

**Daniel E. Hanchett**

Daniel Earl Hanchett age 83, of Edgewater, FL formerly of NY, rode his final patrol on December 21, 2021. He is a US Navy veteran. Dan was appointed to the NYS Police on 7/30/1959. He held the rank of Trooper assigned to Troop B, Raybrook (last stationed at Schroon Lake, NY) when he was approved for State Police disability retirement close of business 5/28/1986, after 27 years of service. His father, Earl D Hanchett was appointed to the NYS Police on 7/1/1936. He held the rank of Sergeant assigned to Troop G, Loudonville, NY when his retirement became effective close of business 12/31/1981, after 45 years of service. His uncle, Everett T

Hanchett, was appointed to the NYS Police on 7/1/1930. He held the rank of Staff Sergeant assigned to Division Headquarters when his retirement became effective close of business 12/30/1969, with a total of 39 years of service. His brother-in-law, Fred H. Teeple, Jr, was appointed to the NYS Police on 5/16/1948. He held the rank of Captain BCI, assigned Troop B, Raybrook, when his retirement became effective close of business 12/30/1981, with a total of 33 years of service. No services planned at this time.

**Kenneth J. Troidl**

Kenneth J. Troidl, age 81, of Amherst, NY, rode his final patrol on December 22, 2021. Ken was a NYS Trooper based in Lewiston, NY from 1963 until he was appointed in 1968 to the Special Investigative Unit until 1972, when he then transferred to Major Crimes in Batavia from 1972 until his retirement in 1986. Interment was in Williamsville Cemetery, Amherst, NY. Contributions may be made to The Beechwood Blocher Foundation, 2235 Millersport Hwy., Getzville, NY 14068 or Hospice Buffalo Inc., 225 Como Park Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

**Michael J. Poleon**

Michael J. Poleon, age 81, of Wellington, FL and formerly NY, rode his final patrol on December 25, 2021. Michael served in the US Army from 1958 – 1961. He joined the NYS Police in, 1962, serving 32 years before retiring in 1994, as an Investigator assigned to Troop A BCI - SP Boston. The family will hold a private ceremony in Western New York at a later date. Contributions may be made to a Hospice provider in your area.

**George E. Wood**

George Emerson Wood, age 81, of Batavia, NY, rode his final patrol on December 27, 2021. George is a retired member of the NYS Police. Private services will be held at the convenience of the family. Contributions may be made to The Gateway Home, 91 Main St. Attica, NY 14011.

**Frederick A. Moochler**

Frederick A. Moochler, age 84, of Auburn, NY, rode his final patrol on January 6, 2022..Fred is a US Marine Corp veteran and joined the NYS Police in 1961 retiring in 1976, as a Zone Sergeant. Private interment will be held at a later date. Contributions may be made to The Elks Club #474, 314 State St., Auburn, NY 13021 or to The Masonic Service Association, 813 1st Avenue SE, Ste. 357, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 who is collecting funds for "Kentucky Disaster Relief" following the recent horrendous tornado devastations.

**Thomas D. Foulke**

Thomas David Foulke, age 77, of Estero, FL, formerly NY, rode his final patrol January 9, 2022. He was a member of the NYS Police.

**William R. Morehouse**

William R. Morehouse, age 81, of Galway, NY, rode his final patrol on January 10, 2022. Bill graduated from Galway Central High School in 1957, and 1963 – 1967 was in the US Air Force. He joined the NYS Police in 1967 working as a Trooper for 22 years, until his retirement in 1992. A memorial service was held on January 18, 2022. Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.

**Thomas J. Blajszczak**

Thomas J. Blajszczak, age 81, of Lancaster, NY, rode his final patrol on January 16, 2022. After being discharged from the US Army in 1969, Tom proudly served with the NYS Police for over 24 years before retiring in 1991. A memorial service will be held at a later date to be announced.

**Todd A. Claremont**

Todd A. Claremont, age 50, of Gabriels, NY, unexpectedly rode his final patrol January 17, 2022. Todd had been a member of the NYS Police since January 7, 2002, and served in Troop B throughout his entire 20 year career; previously serving as a Saranac Lake Police Officer for 8 years During his 28 year law enforcement career, he

held the title of child passenger safety seat technician, D.A.R.E. officer and instructor, investigator for the BCI, troop breath tester recertification officer, radar instructor, EVOC instructor, State Police youth program counselor and troop traffic safety officer. Trooper Claremont finished his career as Troop B Safety Officer on December 10, 2021 and was to have officially entered retirement on January 20, 2022. Interment was at St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake, NY. Contributions may be made to the NYS Police PBA or the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department.

#### **Leopold N. Gasparik**

Leopold "Lee" N. Gasparik, age 77, of Wiley Ford, W. VA, formerly of East Quogue, NY, rode his final patrol on January 22, 2022. After high school graduation Lee entered the US Marine Corp. Following his two tours in Viet Nam he joined the NYS Police and served as a Trooper in Troop L, SP Riverhead for over 30 years. He was on the Speed Task Force, and he also taught at the New York State Police Academy as an in-service and academy instructor in EVOC VASCAR, Radar, LASER, Visual Speed Estimation, and Court Testimony. Interment was in West Virginia National Cemetery, 42 Veterans Memorial Lane, Grafton, WV 26354, Contributions may be made to the ASPCA or to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

#### **Paul D. Harrington**

Paul Daniel "Dan" Harrington, age 84, of Gowanda, NY, rode his final patrol on January 26, 2022. Dan was a member of the NYS Police joining on 6/18/64, serving as Trooper, Sergeant and Investigator throughout NY State and retiring on 7/1/84. There will be a private interment in the Versailles Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the Gowanda Free Library, 56 West Main St., Gowanda, NY 14070.

### **OTHER DIVISION PASSINGS**

#### **Norman C. Johnson**

Norman Charles Johnson, age 76, of East Fiskill, NY and formerly of Yonkers, NY, passed away on October 17, 2021. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam era. Norman, who was lovingly referred to as "Bugs", was employed as a communications specialist with the NYS Police at Troop K until his retirement in 2003. A Christian Mass was held St. Columba Church, Hopewell Junction. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

#### **Karen E. Sauer**

Karen Edith Sauer, age 79, of Mohawk, NY, passed away October 24, 2021. Karen was a 31 year communication specialist/dispatcher with the NYS Police. Interment was held privately at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Herkimer, NY. Contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

#### **Martin C. Steinhilber**

Martin C. Steinhilber, age 73, of Troy, NY, passed away on October 27, 2021. He was a graduate of Lansingburgh High School, class of 1966 and was a veteran of the US Air Force, serving from 1968 to 1971 during the Vietnam War. Marty formerly worked for the New York State Police and retired from the North Colonie School District as a bus driver. Interment will be in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, NY.

#### **Canan A. Robare**

Canan A. Robare, age 70, of Malone, NY, passed away on November 7, 2021. She graduated from Franklin Academy, class of 1969, and then attended North Country College of Essex and Franklin. Canan joined the NYS Police in 1974 as a Clerk in Records, and Senior Clerk in 1978. She resigned from the NYS Police in 1980 due to Troop Headquarters moving from Malone to

Ray Brook. Canan was a Senior Account Clerk in Franklin County for 25 years before retiring in 2009. Interment was at Notre Dame Cemetery, Malone, NY. Contributions may be made to Hospice of the North County or the North Country Animal Shelter.

#### **Diane F. Timmons**

Diane Farden Timmons, age 83 of Fort Covington, NY, passed away on November 9, 2021. She was educated in the school systems in Ogdensburg and Malone and graduated from Chateaugay Central School in June, 1956. Diane was employed by the Alice Hyde Hospital, General Motors Acceptance Corporation, General Dynamics Astronautics, H Schickel General Contracting, Inc. and the NYS Police from 1964 to 1979 when she resigned due to the move of Troop B Headquarters from Malone to Ray Brook. She worked for a brief time in Records and then spent most of her time in the First Sergeant's Office. Interment will be at St Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington, NY. Contributions may be made to Fort Covington E.M.S. Friends.

#### **Angela M. Dziezynski**

Angela M. Dziezynski, age 76, of AZ formerly Utica, NY, passed away on December 15, 2021. She graduated from TR Proctor High School and was employed as a Communications Specialist, Troop D, SP Hartford with the NYS Police from December 12, 1985 until she entered disability retirement on March 11, 1992. Services were held in Mesa, AZ.

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