



Delaware State Police Museum & Education Center

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Museum Director: Major Kevin McDerby
(Ret.) 411
Newsletter Editor: Debbie Geiser
Quarterly Newsletter
Vol. 4 - 4

Visti the
Delaware State Police
Museum website
<http://www.dspmuseum.com>

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From the Director's Desk

Major Kevin P. McDerby (Ret.) 411

In January of 2015 we published the first DSP Museum Newsletter. I thank Debbie Geiser for taking my thoughts of a newsletter and transforming them into reality. This will be the 16th publication and the last for me as the Director of the DSP Museum. I will be riding off into the sunset on October 31st. As I reviewed my previous "From the Director's Desk" messages, one writing stood out for me and I thought it should be republished. In 1993, President Ronald Reagan addressed the graduating class of Citadel Cadets. This is just a short excerpt from my original newsletter writing. It focuses on attributes that are core values of a Delaware State Trooper.

Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th President of the United States
Commencement Address (partial)
The Citadel
May 15, 1993

"The character that takes command in moments of crucial choices has already been determined. It has been determined by a thousand other choices made earlier in seemingly unimportant moments. It has been determined by all the little choices of years past - by all those times when the voice of conscience was at war with the voice of temptation - whispering the lie that it really doesn't matter. It has been determined by all the day-to-day decisions made when life seemed easy and crises seemed far away - the decisions that, piece by piece, bit by bit, developed habits of discipline or of laziness, habits of self-sacrifice or of self-indulgence, habits of duty and honor and integrity - or dishonor and shame. Because when life does get tough, and the crisis is undeniably at hand - when we must, in the instant, look inward for strength of character to see us through - we will find nothing inside ourselves that we have not already put there."

Young men and women learn a lot at the DSP Academy. The drill instructors might reinforce the meanings of Duty and Honor, but they do not introduce individuals to those values. Those entering police service must have had those values instilled in them and have lived abiding by them their entire life.

I proudly served as a Delaware State Trooper for 29 years and continued my police service in the City of New Castle having the good fortune of serving as the Chief of Police for 13 years. I often joke about being placed on Medicare and collecting Social Security as main reasons for me accepting the position of Director of the Delaware State Police Museum. Being at the museum for 5 years has allowed me to keep in constant contact with the finest men and women this great nation has to offer.

It is said that “Dreams do not work unless you do.” I remember being a little kid in Newark. Some reading this might remember Sally Starr. My Gal Sal was a television personality who was appearing in Newark. She had Troopers assigned as security. I remember approaching a Trooper and inquiring about being a Trooper. I was probably 10 or 11 years old. Before I was even in my teenage years, I dreamed of being a Delaware State Trooper. I worked toward that dream my entire life and that dream became a reality in 1971.

I have to confess - I am a dreamer. In 2008, I informed Governor Ruth Ann Minner that I had a dream of a Delaware Law Enforcement Memorial being located on the Legislative Mall in Dover. Working with a lot of people, that dream became a reality in 2010. In 2008 I had another dream that I acted on. I dreamed of taking WWII Veterans to their Memorial in Washington, DC. The entire Delaware law enforcement community united and we escorted members of the “Greatest Generation” and their family members to Washington. Over 10% of those veterans died the following year. By now, most of them are gone. We repeated that venture in 2011 and we included the Korean War Veterans. If we did not act then, many of those heroes would never have witnessed the monuments built in honor of their service and sacrifice. I often think - only if we had done that sooner.

I am not writing about these undertakings to boast about them. What I am expressing is that you should not go through life and as your days wind down and, in a moment of reflection, say, “Only if I had followed that dream.”

Abraham Lincoln once said, “Every man is born an

original but sadly, most men die copies.” I am sure that Lincoln was all inclusive as he spoke “man” and not person.

Let me conclude by saying – **Be yourself and follow your dreams.**

Thanks for the support and the friendship.

Kevin

*From the
President's Pen*



Captain Gregory Sacco (Ret.) 150

I hope that all is well with our readers. By now it should be no surprise that we have been busy over the last few months. The Emergency Messaging Center (EMC) efforts have progressed at an amazing pace. After securing funding from the two sources written about in my last message, we have started construction which may be completed at the time of publishing this message. If it isn't complete, it will be well on its way to an operational messaging system. Thanks again to the Delaware Legislature and Senator Dave Lawson and the Kent County Levy Court and Commissioner Terry Pepper.

This EMC which is an electronic, high resolution sign, will replace the current wooden sign that will eventually be placed somewhere on the wall of the Museum. This EMC will contrast the difference in communications from the 90's to today. At 5 foot by 9 foot and setting on a brick based foundation, it is not only visually appealing but will be a great way to get out a message of the Museum's existence. It will eventually provide important emergency messages from sources such as DELDOT, FEMA, DSP, and the Kent County Emergency Operation Center to have the Museum remain a part of the public safety efforts its troopers and civilian have been for years.

The Museum will be seeing some change. Our amazing Director Kevin McDerby, will be leaving his post to enjoy his retirement. Kevin has done an outstanding job directing our daily operations and raising funds to run the Museum. Speaking for the Board, I cannot thank him enough. His daily efforts

made being an Officer on the Board a much easier task. His creativity is matched only by his hard work and will be hard to follow. His five years he has had a tremendous impact on the quality and character of our institution. He supervised all the renovation projects which served to bring the Museum up-to-date while making sure that the Museum stayed in good condition. We have more work to go and I hope that he will volunteer to continue to help. Best of luck and thank you Kevin.

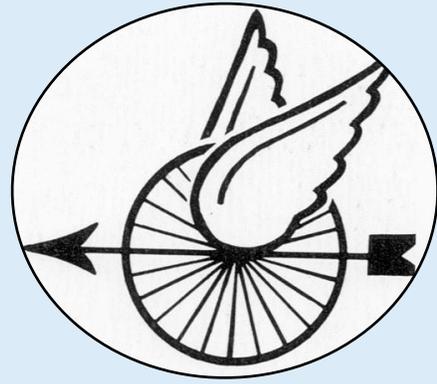
We are currently in the process and trying to hire his replacement and hope to have a selection soon. We have posted the opening and received five (5) good candidates and must now make a recommendation to the Board. It is our goal to have someone in place before Kevin leaves.

In our efforts to bring the Museum up to date we are having a display cabinet built that will allow us to recognize four (4) Specialize Units, some of which were not in existence when the Museum was built. They are the Mounted Unit, Pipes and Drums, Marine Unit and Honor Guard. Captain Jason Sapp has been working with these Units to determine what can be displayed in this cabinet. In addition, Capt. Sapp, Sgt. Ed Larney and Cpl. Adam Jewell are reorganizing our Conference Room Library and have created space to display more of our artifacts which have been hidden away in the archives room. It is amazing to see what he found and now proudly displays. Thanks to all. It is terrific when active duty personnel, both civilian and uniform, get involved in the Museum. We look forward to more of the same. We will continue these efforts in the months to come.

In ending, I want to again thank Kevin and wish him all that he deserves. Thanks for the efforts of our Boards as they have and will continue to make our Museum one of the best in the country.

Until next time, stay safe and well:

Greg Sacco, President





From the Archives



State Police Get New Caps

Short-Visored Headpieces to Replace Sombreros: Men's Opinion Divided

Something new was added to the attire of Delaware state police today - a cap.

The new short-visored, eight-pointed headpiece replaces the wide-brimmed felt hats that added a touch of glamor to the appearance of state troopers.

Maj. Herbert Barnes, commanding officer of state police, said the new cap - made of a blue fabric that matches the blouses of the present uniforms - is more practical than the sombrero.



As for members of the force - their opinion on the change was divided.

'Girls Won't Like it'

"The girls aren't going to like these new caps" one trooper, stationed in Georgetown, lamented.

"Well, I don't know," said a man at the Penny Hill station, "but I think they'll be easier to keep clean."

"They'll make us look like just another cop - or a bus driver," complained one in Dover.

"I prefer the cap to the hat for motorcycle wear, especially in windy weather," said Bridgeville trooper.

And a man at State Road headquarters summed it all up when he said:

"Orders Are Orders"

"Orders are orders, I'll wear anything they give me - so long as it covers my bald spot.

Major Barnes said the entire force will probably be wearing the new headpieces by Labor Day. No other change in uniforms is contemplated, he added.

The wide-brimmed dress hats, introduced in 1944 soon after Col. Paul W. Haviland became superintendent of the state police, will be cleaned and reissued to the men for wear on special occasions.

Trooper Flees Burning Car

Motor Explodes, Bursts Into Flames, But Driver Safe

Trooper Wallace P. Townsend of the Delaware State Police had a close escape from serious burns when the white state police patrol car he was driving exploded, then burst into flames last night at Wilmington Manor.

Townsend leaped from the moving car when flames poured from under the hood. The Minguadale Fire Company extinguished the fire, but not before the patrol car was practically destroyed, with an estimated loss of \$1000.00.

On routine patrol in the Wilmington Manor section, Trooper Townsend received a radio message to investigate a report of a fight at Minguadale. He was en route when there was a loud report, a sheet of fire, then the motor burst into flames.



The trooper jammed on the brakes, dropped out of the car, ran to a nearby residence and called the fire company.



**Dedicated
Selfless
Proud**



In Memorium

*Our Fallen Heroes
Lest we Forget*

**Paul H. Sherman
1909 - 1945**



October 16, 1945



**Robert A. Paris
1935 - 1963**



October 17, 1963

**James D. Orvis
1916 - 1950**



November 17, 1950





Dedicated
Selfless
Proud



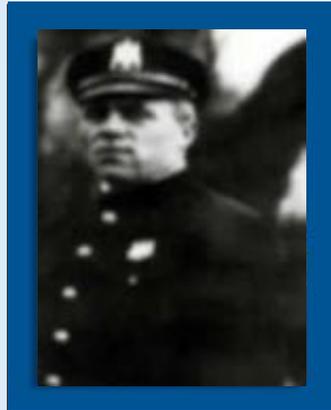
In Memoriam

*Our Fallen Heroes
Lest We Forget*

**Francis Ryan
1891 - 1922**



November 2, 1922



**David B. Pulling
1956 - 1987**



November 18, 1987



Never Forgotten

STATE TROOPER CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



BRASS ORNAMENT-

\$20.00

GLASS ORNAMENT-

\$12.00



**STATE TROOPER ROSARIES
EXCELLENT CHRISTMAS
PRESENT FOR LOVED ONES**

\$40.00



WIND SHIRTS

\$40.00

Don't know what
to get for that
special occasion?

Graduation
Birthday
Christmas

Consider the perfect
gift and show your
support of the
Delaware State Police
Museum &
Education Center.



THIN BLUE LINE FLAG
STATE TROOPERS
TRIED AND TRUE

DSP MEMORIAL
ALL GAVE SOME
SOME GAVE ALL

DSP SHOULDER PATCH



SHIRTS

\$15.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Mark your calendar
for our upcoming events*

Museum Board of
Directors' Meetings
Tuesday - October 2nd, 10:00
Tuesday - December 4th, 10:00

Meetings are held at the Museum

DSP Memorial Service
Monday - December 3, 2018, 09:30 AM
St. Polycarp's, Smyrna, DE



MUSEUM CLOSED

Election Day
November 6, 2018



Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 22 - 23, 2018

Christmas Holiday
December 24 - 25, 2018



DSP Museum: <http://www.dspmuseum.com>



***ALWAYS, AND ESPECIALLY DURING
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON,
REMEMBER THOSE WHO WERE
TAKEN FROM US***



Memorial Brick Walk

Memorialize your service or those who supported you during your career. This is an excellent way of acknowledging your parents, spouse, sibling, children or another trooper. Show them that they are an important part of the DSP family and your life.

Memorial Brick - \$100.00

Visit our Facebook page and

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/dspmuseum>





“Looking Back...”

“The Fighting 33rd”

1971



Building a Legacy

