

# Delaware State Police Museum and Educational Center



P.O. Box 430  
Dover, DE 19903  
<http://www.dspmuseum.org>

Museum Director - Major Kevin P. McDerby, (Ret.) 411  
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Geiser  
Volume 3 - 3rd Quarter 2017



Visit the  
Delaware State Police  
Museum website

<http://www.dspmuseum.org>

## Officers

Captain Gregory Sacco (Ret.)  
President  
Captain John M. Miller (Ret.)  
Vice President  
Captain John A. Campanella  
Secretary  
Captain Paul R. Kane (Ret.)  
Treasurer

## Board of Directors

Captain Gregory Sacco (Ret.)  
Captain John M. Miller (Ret.)  
Captain Paul R. Kane (Ret.)  
Captain John A. Campanella  
Colonel James L. Ford, Jr. (Ret.)  
Major Raymond E. Deputy (Ret.)  
Major Robert M. Gouge (Ret.)  
Captain Jason Sapp  
Major Edward Martin (Ret.)  
Master Corporal Charles J. McCall, Jr. (Ret.)  
Master Corporal Lester Johnson (Ret.)

## Honorary Board Members

Robert R. M. Carpenter, III  
Honorary Pierre S. DuPont IV  
Colonel James L. Ford, Jr. (Ret.)  
Colonel Clifford M. Gravier (Ret.)  
Davis Sezna

## From the Director's Desk

Major Kevin P. McDerby (Ret.) 411



Reprinted from the:

## DEFENSE MEDIA NETWORK

### Challenge Coin Legends

By Craig Collins - August 14, 2011



*In the U.S. military, the challenge coin – also known as a unit coin or commander's coin – identifies its bearer as the member of a particular unit, and is a symbol of pride and fellowship. According to a few competing legends, the first challenge coins were used to establish identity. The most widely circulated origin myth involves a wealthy Ivy League lieutenant who had coins struck for each member of his squadron in the Army Air Corps during World War I. After he (or another squadron pilot, depending on the version) was shot down behind enemy lines, he was captured by the Germans and stripped of all identification – except for the coin, which he carried in a leather pouch around his neck. After escaping his captors, the pilot made contact with some French villagers who mistook him for a German saboteur and were preparing to execute him until he produced the coin. One of the Frenchmen recognized the unit insignia, and the pilot was saved.*



*It's a good story, though probably a bit of a stretch – how did the Germans miss the leather pouch around his neck? – and several others exist, one involving an American soldier who, during World War II, had his unit insignia stamped on the back of a Philippine coin to prove his identity to a group of guerrillas fighting against the Japanese invaders.*

*According to a story in a 1994 issue of Soldiers Magazine, the first American challenge coins were established in the 1960s, when a*



*member of the 11th Special Forces Group had old coins over stamped with a different emblem and distributed them to group members.*

*Not long after, the 10th SFG became the first U.S. military unit to mint its own coin – and remained the only Army unit with its own coin until the mid-1980s, when the tradition took off.*



The Delaware State Police is not unlike many military and police organizations when it comes to challenge coins. Various Troops, Sections or individuals have their own (usually unique) coins. The Delaware State Troopers Association and the Association of Retired Delaware State Police have had coins minted.



Two years ago, the museum began to offer collectible challenge coins. Each edition of the collectible coins is limited to a production run of 200 coins. When the 200 medallions are sold, a new design is minted. The first offering met with great success. The Honor Guard, in their historical uniforms, was pictured on the back of the coin. That coin is no longer available.



The latest coin has a “Thin Blue Line” theme. It proudly describes the Delaware State Police as “DELAWARE’S THIN BLUE LINE.” The 200 coins are equally divided between gold and silver. These too will sell out. I can honestly say that a picture does not do justice to these coins.



The third coin in the series is being designed. One of three sentiments that can be applied to the Delaware State Police will be used. The organization was founded in 1923. It was “**BORN OF NECESSITY**” and “**NURTURED WITH INTEGRITY**”. In the Bible you can find the Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:14). It is written that “**MANY ARE CALLED BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN**”. For each academy class, hundreds of applicants are tested but only a small number are selected to join the ranks of the Delaware State Police.







The American poet, Robert Frost, penned "The Road Not Taken." The poem tells the story of a traveler who came upon a split in the road and had to choose which path to take. The poem concludes, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."



There comes a time in life when important decisions have to be made. One of those decisions has to do with career choices. There is a path that is less travelled and taken by a few dedicated individuals. That is the path to a career in law enforcement. So the third option for the next challenge coin is:

*Delaware State Trooper  
The Road Less Travelled  
We Do Make A Difference*

*Kevin*



*From the  
President's Pen  
Captain Gregory Sacco (Ret.) 150*

Spring seems to be passing by faster than ever. It's been a busy Spring for the Museum. In the last Newsletter, I spoke of the financial challenges the Museum could face because of state budgetary shortfall, projects to enhance the Museum, and the Museum's aging. We have made some strides in preparing for all these challenges.

The state's new budget was not ready when this article was written; however, we can anticipate two things. First, we will likely see a reduction in our Grant and Aid award program and secondly, the Museum will continue to age. As it does age



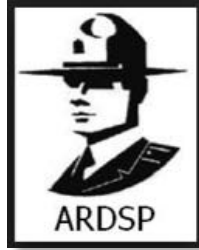
and with all the things that go along with a building getting older, we can expect more repairs to our infrastructure. We recently had another of our seven air conditioners fail. We realize that with a 19-year-old building, we have been fortunate to have had it last this long. Therefore, we need to be financially prepared for the next failure and we are doing so.

We have recently completed a letter campaign to our retired Trooper ranks, seeking their financial support for the Museum. We are also maintaining connections with recently retired members to make their financial support more seamless as they are removed from payroll deductions to allow them to continue their financial support after retirement.



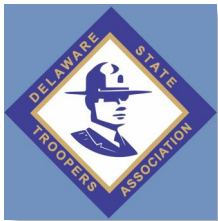


John Miller and I have also attended each 2017 Spring Division In-service session to solicit financial support from the active duty members. Our ARDSP and active duty members came through. Many of our



retired members increased their monthly donations, and we continue to have retired members list the Museum as a place for memorial donations upon their passing. Over 220 active members stepped up and either increased their current donations or are now donating to the Museum for the first time. We could not have been more pleased with the results. I want to thank all who have stepped up to the plate to help.

I also want to publicly acknowledge the strong support given at the In-service sessions by DSTA President Tom Brackin and the DSTA. They have been, and continue to be, a



very strong supporter of our financial efforts. Tom, please accept my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the DSP Museum

Board and all our Corporate Members. We are all truly brothers forever.

As you read the Director's Message, you can see that Kevin continues to work on successful money raising efforts such as the challenger coin sales and other ventures. These are good sources of income which continually add to our revenue streams. We on the Board will continue to support those efforts and explore new strategies to keep the Museum in strong financial condition.



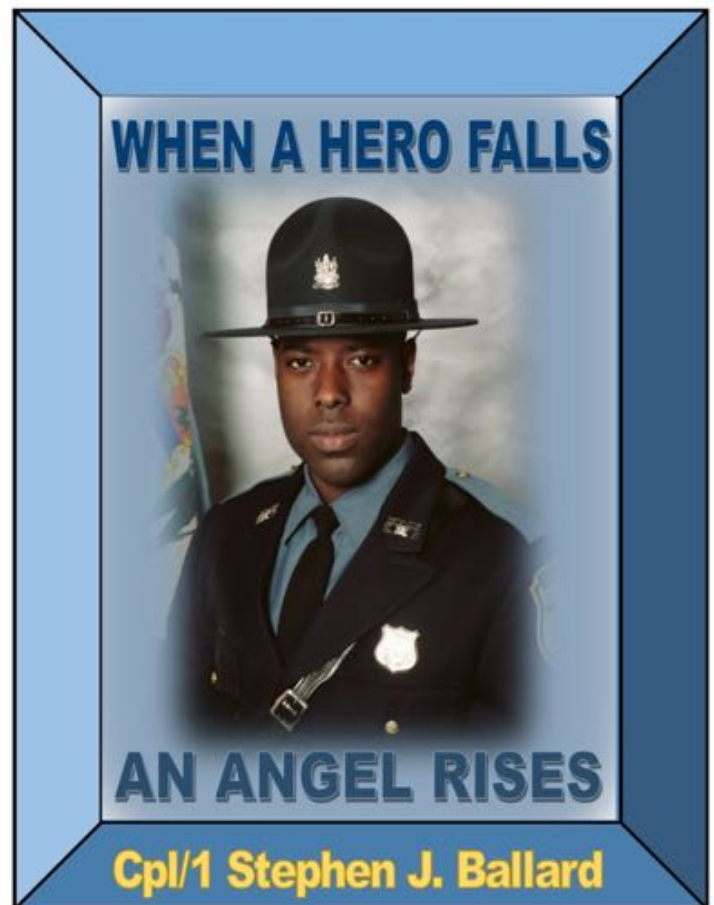
As we continue to work on our Archives, the Museum clean-up, and reorganization of our space, we will keep everyone posted with our efforts and continue to strive to keep our Museum one of the very best.

Finally, I again encourage those who haven't visited the Museum to do so. We would like to hear any comments and suggestions that you have which could enhance the Museum.

Thank you. Stay healthy, safe and God bless.

*Greg*

Gregory Sacco, President







# From the Archives



## **"Trooper" Title of State Police**

Journal  
02/21/1944

### **Substituted for 'Private' To Prevent Confusion With Military Organizations**

To conform with the practice of other states and to prevent confusion with the military organizations the term 'trooper' will be used, instead of 'private', in the Delaware State Police organization, as it was decided by the State Highway Commission at Dover yesterday.

It was also decided to change the names of the five stations to 'troops', and use letters instead of numbers for station identification.

Promotion of Trooper James A. Cole to Corporal was announced by the Commission. Cole, who lives at 110 Ogle Avenue, Colonial Heights, was appointed a Private in the State Police July 7, 1933. His promotion follows the recent death of Corporal George W. McConnell of the Penny Hill, Troop A.

Trooper Charles Evans Hughes of Troop A, Penny Hill, was commended by the Commission for rescue of a girl from the Brandywine race at West Street a few weeks ago. Hughes, on his way to duty, heard cries of girl companions of the child in the race. Fully clothed, he jumped into the race and brought her out of the swift current.

Under the new arrangements of terminology for the State Police Station No. 1, Penny Hill becomes Troop A; Station 2, State Road, Troop B; Station 3, Dover, Troop C; Station 4, Georgetown, Troop D; and Station 5, Bridgeville, Troop E.

## **State Police Authority**

Journal  
08/09/1944

In a recent address before the Seaford Kiwanis Club, Paul W. Haviland, Superintendent of State Police, emphasized the scope of responsibility with which his department is charged. The force, he said, is the principal law enforcement agency in all of the state outside of Wilmington.

Most Delaware cities and towns have policemen. They are capable of preserving order in normal times, and in some instances can do effective work in combating crime. Where the force is very small, however, any extraordinary situation requiring police service would be likely to get out of hand quickly if it were not for the availability of state troopers and the fact that they are authorized to do everything necessary to suppress crime and protect the citizens.

The state police force had its beginning as a highway patrol. It had not been in existence long, however, when it was clothed with full police authority. Its usefulness to the whole state has been well demonstrated. It cooperates closely with the Wilmington force in addition to helping the communities outside the city.





**Dedicated  
Selfless  
Proud**



# *In Memorium*

*Our Fallen Heroes  
Lest we Forget*

**Christopher Shea  
1972 - 2004**



**July 18, 2004**



**William F. Mayer  
1927 - 1955**



**August**



6 of 10



*Never Forgotten*



**Robert H. Bell  
1942 - 1993**



**September 7, 1993**





# Dedicated Selfless Proud



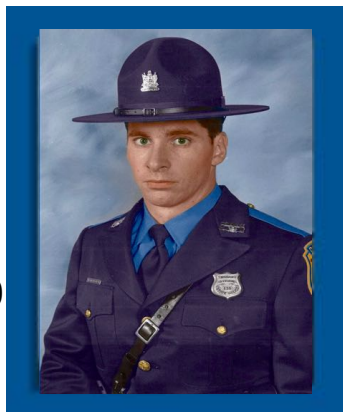
## *In Memorium*

*Our Fallen Heroes  
Lest We Forget*

**Gerard T. Dowd  
1962 - 1990**



**Septmber 11, 1990**



**Eugene B. Ellis  
1926 - 1967**



**September 11, 1967**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Mark your calendar  
for our upcoming events*

Museum Board of  
Directors' Meetings  
August 1st, 10:00 AM  
October 3rd, 10:00 AM

Meetings are held at the Museum



**Museum Summer Day Program  
starting August 15th**

## Now Available

2nd DSP Museum Challenge Coin  
**'The Thin Blue Line'**

available in Gold or Silver - \$15.00



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



## DSP Museum Quarterly Special

Buy any 2 DSP diecast cars (1:43 scale) and get a  
**\$10.00 Discount**  
until October 1st, 2017

### Available Cars

1949 Ford - \$25.00

1998 - Ford, Crown Victoria - \$25.00

2007 Dodge Charger - \$30.00

2013 Chevy Tahoe - \$30.00

Click here [http://www.dspmuseum.org/diecast\\_cars.htm](http://www.dspmuseum.org/diecast_cars.htm) to view

Your purchase goes to support the DSP Museum.  
*Thank you!*



## 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.

Visit our Facebook page and

**Like us on Facebook**

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

We reached our goal - 1,005 likes. Thanks to everyone!!!







# *“Looking Back...”*

*“Museum Summer Day Program  
2015 & 2016”*



*Building  
a Legacy*





**DELAWARE STATE POLICE  
MUSEUM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
SUMMER DAY PROGRAM**



DSP (active and retired) parents and grandparents:

The museum will again be hosting a summer program for children ascending into the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. This program received rave reviews the past two years.

The intent is to showcase the Division and give children an opportunity to see the inner workings of the organization. There will be various special unit demonstrations including but not limited to the Aviation and K-9 Sections. Lunch will be provided at the DSP Academy.

Due to restrictions, the program will be limited to 30 children. **Our first priority is DSP families.** If we do not fill the program with DSP family members, we will advertise outside the Division.

**Date and Time: August 15th—0800-1500**

If you think you would like to take advantage of this program, contact Kevin McDerby. Suggestions are also welcome.

[kevin.mcderby@state.de.us](mailto:kevin.mcderby@state.de.us) or (302) 739-7700