

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
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Visit the
Delaware State Police
Museum website

<http://www.dspmuseum.org>

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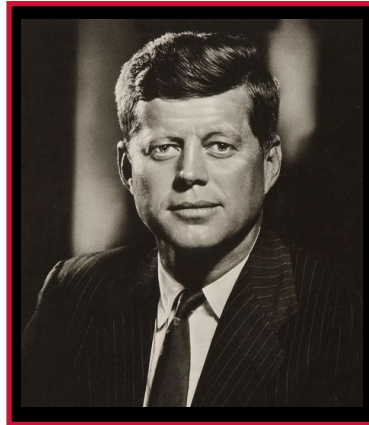
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From the Director's Desk

Major Kevin P. McDerby (Ret.) 411



In 1962, President John F. Kennedy declared that, annually, May 15th be designated National Peace Officers Memorial Day. He further proclaimed that the week in which May 15th fell be observed as National Police Week. In part, President Kennedy's proclamation read, "Whereas, from the beginning of this Nation, law enforcement officers have played an important role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms which are guaranteed by the Constitution and in protecting the lives and property of our citizens."

Yes, police officers do play an important role in protecting their fellow citizens. They are that "Thin Blue Line" that defends the good from those who are evil. They are the individuals and organizations who separate civility from anarchy. As Delaware State Troopers, men and women take a pledge that they "shall wage unceasing war against crime in all its forms, and shall consider no sacrifice too great in the performance of their duties." And, yes, sometimes the sacrifice is too great and ultimate.



Members of the law enforcement community have vowed to never forget the service and sacrifice of their fellow officers who were taken, all too early, under tragic circumstances. Memorials have been erected to pay tribute to their comrades.



These monuments, in part, include the



National Law Enforcement Memorial,



the Delaware Law Enforcement Memorial,



the Delaware State Police Memorial



and the black granite Memorial Wall in the DSP Museum.

The quote-

**“In Valor
there
is Hope.”**

(Cornelius Tacitus,
Senator and Historian
of the Roman Empire)
is engraved on the
National and
Delaware memorials.



Timothy Kerstetter contacted me when the Delaware Law Enforcement Memorial was in the design stage. Tim is a Delaware State Trooper and the survivor of a police officer killed in the line-of-duty. In 1931, Tim's great-grandfather, Milton A. Wimbrow, lost his life in a motorcycle accident while serving as a Patrolman with the Wilmington Police Department. Tim suggested that the words “Fidelis Ad Mortem” (Faithful Unto Death) be engraved on the memorial. That sentiment is the motto of the New York Police Department. Tim's suggestion was adopted. Because of that suggestion and inclusion, our memorial pays tribute to those police officers and firefighters who gave all on September 11, 2001. They perished charging into the “Twin Towers” as others were fleeing to safety.





After retiring from the Delaware State Police, I accepted the position of Police Chief in the City of New Castle. The walls of my office were decorated with several pieces of artwork. Two illustrations on display



generated more discussion than the others. They both had special meaning to me. One of the prints was a reproduction of the famous painting "The Accolade" created by Edmund Blair Leighton. The print portrays a squire ascending to Knighthood. In medieval times, as a sword touched the squire, the King, Queen or priest would say, "In the name of God, St. Michael, and St. George, I dub thee knight. Be brave and loyal."

Today, a recruit ascending to Trooper raises his/her right hand and, in part, proclaims, "I pledge myself to perform my duties honestly and faithfully to the best of my abilities and without fear, favor or prejudice." Even today, many police officers invoke St. Michael the Archangel to protect them in battle.



The second print needs a bit more explaining. In 1996, Trooper Sandra Wagner was killed in a traffic accident. Captain Dennis Doubet and I were assigned to assist the Wagner family during that horrible time. Previously, Dennis and I had worked together two times in 1990 to support the survivors of

I learned, first hand, how essential the Commander of the DSP Honor Guard is to the success or failure of the state police in situations when the organization has only one chance to accomplish a mission with the dignity and professionalism required while everyone copes with the loss of a Trooper.

While working with the Wagner family, in a lighter moment, I commented that I was a fan of Peter Pan. I explained to the family that Peter Pan is the little boy who never grew up. I truly believe that many Troopers have a little kid lurking within their minds that helps them cope with all the evils in this world that they are faced with as they perform their duties.



After their wounds began to heal, the Wagner family presented me with a framed print of Peter Pan battling Captain Hook. It hung, with honor, on my office wall.

Troopers, Knights, Michael the Archangel battling Satan and even Peter Pan, as he fights with Captain Hook, had a similar mission. All of them, whether as a fictional character, a historical warrior or a law enforcement officer in the 21st century, are or were charged with, or symbols of, the classic struggle between good and evil. They defended or defend that line that separates a civil society from those who would do others harm.

Words, such as, **valor, hope, honestly, faithful, brave, loyal and honor** have been incorporated in this writing. They are virtues and attributes that every member of the law enforcement community should possess.



I close with a caution regarding one of the listed virtues. Always remember that your loyalty belongs to the Delaware State Police, not to any individual who might have, intentionally or accidentally, committed a transgression. Simply stated- ***“Loyalty above all else, except Honor.”***



Kevin



*From the
President's Pen*

Captain Gregory Sacco (Ret.) 150

The Spring finds our Museum continuing to strive to be one of the best state police museums in the country. Volunteers are working on several projects including our Archive project with the goal of a museum clean-up,



review of our artifact collection and the addition of new displays. Recently we added an addition to our Annex “Siren and Red Light” display to include badges,

hats, and equipment carried by Troopers many years ago. It is a welcome addition thanks to the efforts of Captain Jason Sapp.

With the Museum approaching 20 years old, we recognize the need to plan for potential infrastructure issues. With that in mind we are continually monitoring and addressing those issues.

It appears that 2017 will present some financial challenges for the State of Delaware. There will be a need to reduce state spending and to increase funding sources. This could result in reduced funding of the State’s Grant-in-Aid programs of which the Museum is a recipient. To prepare for that eventuality, the Board is launching a major effort to help insure our future financial security. This will be pursued on multiple fronts. Recently letters have been sent to our retired members asking for their financial support. It is our goal to encourage current supporters to continue or increase their donations and to solicit new donors, as well. In addition, we will be attending all scheduled Divisional In-Service Training sessions soliciting financial support from our active duty members. We recognize the Museum represents their legacy and look for their continued support.

The Board is also developing a strategy to increase our Endowment fund which is the reserve money the Museum would need during times of economic down turns. The



Endowment fund is money used **only** when donations and gifts are not able to cover the operating expenses required to keep our Museum functioning. It is our savings account for future needs and secures our financial stability in times of economic need.

We hope these efforts will maintain our financial strength and allow the Museum to function at its current level for years to come. We are confident in the support of our brothers and sisters. The preservation of our history experienced by former, current and future members of the Delaware State Police, will make this a successful effort. I want to thank our Board members, staff, volunteers and financial supporters for all that you do. It is a great pleasure representing each of you.

Finally, I 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



Chicken Stealing Charged to Four

Morning New
1/4/1926

**Farmers in Seaford District Have Lost
Numerous Fowl Recently**

**Dr. William R. Messick Badly In Fall at
Georgetown**

Special to The Morning News

Georgetown, Jan. 4 - Charged with numerous offenses of entering poultry houses of farmers of Seaford District, Millard Henry, Emory Covey, Dennard Cannon and James Covey were arrested on Saturday by State Police Officers Oscar James, Joseph H. Holt, Norman Voshell and Norman Purnell and arraigned before Magistrate James K. Phillips, and, in default of \$500.00 bail each, were committed to the Sussex County Jail for the next term of General Sessions Court. Cannon and James Covey are alleged to have stolen chickens on the night of December 19 and also on New Year's night, while Millard Henry and Emory Covey are alleged to have done their stealing on Friday night of last week. Farmers of Seaford District believe that the officers have captured a band of thieves who have been operating in that section of the county for several months.



Rope Drags Corporal into C. and D. Canal

2/24/1926

**Fails to Release Hold on Line
and Goes Overboard**

Corporal Earl Cole, of the State Highway Police, took a sudden and unexpected bath yesterday afternoon when he fell into the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal while preparing a blast in an effort to locate the body of James DuBoise, who with Newburn Wolfe, was drowned in the canal at St. Georges last Saturday.

Corporal Cole had been throwing out a rope from the shore to a group of men in a boat, but neglecting to let go of the rope, followed it into the water. He was helped out by other policemen and taken to the dredge operation at St. George's where he dried his clothing.





Dedicated Selfless Proud



In Memorium

*Our Fallen Heroes
Lest we Forget*

Sandra Marie Wagner
1968 - 1996



April 5, 1996



Harold B. Rupert
1928 - 1962



April 19, 1962



*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*



William I. Jearman
1937 - 1979



May 12, 1979



Dedicated Selfless Proud



In Memorium

*Our Fallen Heroes
Lest We Forget*

Raymond B. Wilhelm
1920 - 1951



May 30, 1951



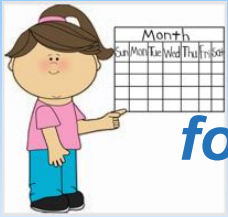
George W. Emory
1946 - 1972



June 2, 1972



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



*Mark your calendar
for our upcoming events*

Museum Board of
Directors' Meetings
May 2nd, 1000 hrs.
August 1st, 1000 hrs.

both meetings will be held at the Museum



Coming Soon

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

available in Gold or Silver



DSP Museum Quarterly Special

Buy any 2 DSP diecast cars (1:43 scale) and get a
\$10.00 Discount
until July 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 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!!!



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



“Looking Back...”

do you have old photographs you'd like to share; then email or send them to the Museum Director.



*Building
a Legacy*



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