



# Delaware State Police Museum & Education Center

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

## Chapter 2017

The Delaware State Police has a long, exceptional and proud history. That history continues to be written every second of every day by the dedicated men and women who continue to serve the citizens of Delaware. The 2017 chapter of that history is coming to a close. This extremely sad chapter will be remembered, more than most, because the Division suffered the loss of three excellent Troopers.



**Richard E. Long**

Troopers Richard E. Long, Stephen J. Ballard and Rodney H. Bond were prematurely taken from us. The deaths of two of the Troopers demonstrated how fragile the human body actually is. The third Trooper died at the hand of a cold blooded killer.



**Stephen J. Ballard**

I believe that there is a special place in Heaven for those who wear the uniform of a police officer. The three Troopers are now in the presence of our Lord. I also believe there is a special place in Hell for those violent, deranged assassins who do not value human life and attack



**Rodney H. Bond**

those who swore to protect and serve. Stephen Ballard's fellow law enforcement officers dispatched his murderer to the everlasting inferno that he earned during his time on earth.

In 2017 several members of the retired ranks received their final transfer. They are now serving on Eternal Patrol. Troopers Lewis H. Pinkett, William A. Willey, Charles "Skip" Venable, James "Reds" Nilan, William M. Tiley, Irvin B. Saxton, Hugh J. "Sonny" Craig, Wayne T. Mitchell, Oswald E "Bill" Denney, Ronald P. Lynch, John F. VanSant and Charles R. Burris proudly served this state as part of that "Thin Blue Line" that separates civility from anarchy. Simply stated- they were warriors. Each one of them could have proclaimed, "I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith."

On October 24, 2017, Trooper Daniel Keith Rebman, Jr. of the South Carolina Highway Patrol was killed in a traffic accident. I was moved by the reflections of Director Leroy Smith (South Carolina Department of Public Safety). Director Smith said, "Tuesday was a



reminder that while, yes, we are strong but we are not invincible. We too are subject to the same forces of nature, accidents and violence as those we protect. I believe that is why 'Blessed are the Peacemakers' is such a comforting verse at a time like this. It is these special people- the peacemakers- who are so blessed because they risk their lives for you, and me and for strangers. Trooper Rebman was doing just that on October 24, 2017. He believed in his mission and he accomplished his mission."



**Daniel K. Rebman**

What lies ahead in 2018? No one really knows. It is said that there is a master plan written somewhere but we do not know the entries. I do know two things that will be celebrated on April 28th. On that day the Delaware State Police will be celebrating 95 years of Dedicated, Selfless and Proud service to this great State and Nation and the DSP Museum will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the museum's dedication.

As the Division celebrates 95 years of service in 2018, I do a reality check and reminisce that I was an active Trooper for the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of DSP. As written at the beginning of this article, the history of the Delaware State Police continues to be written. The museum exists for only one purpose—to preserve the history that that was created by those who have, do and will serve this proud organization.

Thanks for your continued support.

*Kevin*



## Taken From Us in 2017





# Latest Challenge Coin

**A new challenge coin  
is in the design process.  
Our last coin sold out  
within a few weeks.  
Only 200 will be ordered.  
Watch for the announcement.  
We are still modifying  
the below coin.**



DESIGN IN PROGRESS



## *From the President's Pen*

*Captain Gregory Sacco (Ret.) 150*



As we approach the end of this year, we can feel confident that a great deal has been accomplished. With the assistance of both the Colonel and the DSTA, we have been able to reach out successfully to many financial contributors. Having said that, we face the ongoing challenge of maintaining a 20-year-old facility and planning for the unexpected expenses that come with it.

We are working to develop better communications with both active and retired members of the Division. Those efforts include attending this year's annual In-Service meeting, attending ARDSP meetings, participating in the letter campaign, and working with the Division to maintain contact with retiring personnel so we can encourage their continued support after retirement.

We are continually looking for opportunities to enhance and update our displays. We recently obtained the footstone for one of our first K-9's, "Captain, and we have added it to one of the display cases. It was placed in front of a photo of our first three K-9 handlers, which included James Ford, Joe Rowan, and Tom Everett. Tom Everett was "Captain's" handler.



The Civilian Recognition Project will be done when this Newsletter is circulated. Program additions were completed to allow us to recognize the support and efforts of so many civilian employees in making the Division one of the finest. As we start to collect data on these former employees, we will begin populating the database and have it displayed within the Roll Call kiosk under its own icon. It is with great pleasure that we are finally including our civilian brothers and sisters in our Museum, and we hope they will visit the Museum once all the data is entered. We will provide appropriate notification at that time.

Next year (2018) is an election year with four positions up for election. Any Corporate member in good

standing is eligible to run for these offices. The process will start after the first of the year with a request for nominations. These positions will be elected for a 3-year term. Once nominations are received and closed (date forthcoming), bio's and ballots will be sent out to all Corporate Members. Corporate members should be looking for information being sent via email or USPS mail if email is not available. The deadline for voting will be the morning of the day of the Annual meeting held on February 6, 2018. After the votes are counted and the winners announced, the Annual meeting will close and be followed by a Board meeting where new officers will be chosen and a business meeting will be held.

We hope to attract Corporate members who would like to be a member of our Board and help us continue the good work of memorializing the Division and honoring its dedicated members. We have some exciting ideas for 2018 and can use all the knowledge and expertise that is out there to assist us in those efforts.

In closing, please accept heartfelt thanks given to our active duty and retired Division members and our countless volunteers for their amazing, continued support of the DSP Museum.

Thank you. Stay healthy, safe and God bless.

*Greg Sacco, President*

## **DSP Memorial Service**

*All Gave  
Some  
Some Gave  
All*



Photo by Ed Martin





## From the Archives



### Pension Given After 26 Years

Journal  
06/28/1949

**\$8,500.00 Back Payments Ordered for Smyrna Man  
Hurt as State Policeman**

Grover C. King of Smyrna, a former state policeman, who was injured in the line of duty 26 years ago, was finally certified for a pension yesterday with back payments totalling approximately \$8,500.00. King, now 50, returned to the force after his accident, but finding the strain of working on crutches too much, resigned in 1925 with an honorable discharge.



In 1937, the General Assembly passed a state police pension law, one section of which provides that "any former, present or future member of the State Highway Police or the State Police, who has heretofore or who may hereafter receive permanent injuries in the performance of his duties, shall... be entitled to receive a pension equal to one-half of his salary at the time said injury was received."

King applied for the pension in July, 1938, but was turned down. Sometime later he retained David B. Coxe, Jr., Wilmington attorney, and in March of this year made another application which was also refused. Mr. Coxe then started a mandamus proceeding which led to an opinion by Attorney General Albert W. James and, finally, yesterday, to a letter from Chief Deputy Attorney General C. Edward Duffy to Captain Fred K. Lamb, Secretary of the State Police Pension Board.

Mr. Duffy advised the board that King was entitled to half his salary of \$62.50 a month - from July 19, 1936, the date on which his application was first refused.

### State Policemen Do Galahad Act

Journal  
08/31/1949

**Winged Invader Brings  
Two Stalwart to Aid of Women**

Two stalwart state troopers strode into a house in North Hills just after midnight last night, and just like the knights of old, saved four frightened women from the clutches of a winged dragon.

Of course, whether or not an ordinary bat is a dragon is a moot question for many people, but Mrs. Thomas J. Haley of 527 Marsh Road and her three grown daughters, such a creature is a reason to call the Delaware State Police.

At any rate, that's what they did. With Mr. Haley away, the four women weren't quite able to meet the situation when the bat invaded their home. A call to Penny Hill police station brought the pair of officers. One of them taking a leaf from Sir Galahad's book, liquidated the bat with one fell swoop - not of a sword, but of a rolled newspaper.





**Dedicated  
Selfless  
Proud**



*In Memorium*

*Our Fallen Heroes  
Lest we Forget*

**Ronald L. Carey**  
1943 - 1972



January 5, 1972



**David C. Yarrington**  
1948 - 1972



January 6, 1972



**LeRoy L. LeKites**  
1914 - 1950



January 13, 1950

**William C. Keller**  
1947 - 1971



January 22, 1971







# Dedicated Selfless Proud



## *In Memorium*

*Our Fallen Heroes  
Lest We Forget*

**Frances M. Collender**  
1962 - 2001



February 6, 2001



**Thomas H. Lamb**  
1901 - 1944



February 22, 1944



*“Death  
leaves a  
heartache  
no one can  
heal, love leaves a  
memory no one  
can steal.”*



**Kevin John Mallon**  
1965 - 1990



March 20, 1990



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Mark your calendar  
for our upcoming events*

**Museum Board of  
Directors' Meetings**  
February 5th, 10:00 AM  
Meetings are held at the Museum

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**Museum Hours**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
**The third Saturday of each  
month 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

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**The Museum will be closed for the  
Christmas Holidays**  
**December 22, 2017 - January 3,  
2018**

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**Martin Luther King Day**  
**January 15, 2018**

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**Good Friday**  
**March 30, 2018**

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



## DSP Museum New Coffee Mug



**DSP Mug - \$15.00**

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

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## *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**

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**Like us on Facebook**

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





# *“Looking Back...”*

*“Non-Sworn Employees”*



*Building  
a Legacy*

