Fallen Texas peace officers honored during May 17 ceremony

Later this month, the DPS Memorial Service will honor Texas law officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2010 and 2011—including two DPS Highway Patrol officers.

Cpl. David Slaton, HP Bowie, died in an on-duty crash Sept. 20 last year in Montague County. Less than two months later, on Nov. 15, Tr. Jonathan McDonald died in an on-duty crash south of Post, where he was stationed. Slaton and McDonald were the 84th and 85th DPS officers to die in the line of duty. Their wives—Lynetta Slaton and Laura McDonald—will place the memorial wreath at the ceremony.

The Memorial Service will take place 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 17 in front of the Training Academy at DPS Headquarters. For the second time, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst will be the guest speaker at the ceremony, which is one of the many across the nation honoring fallen law enforcement officers during National Police Week.

“This is always a difficult event, and more so this year because we are remembering two

Civilian DPS employee dies in accident

Howard Lee Lombard, 53, died April 4 while working on a DPS Communications trailer at the TXDOT Flight Services hangar at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

“Lee played a vital role in many special assignments, including the operation of the Department’s mobile command center in missions along the border with Mexico,” said the Director of DPS, Steven C. McCraw. “According to

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Promotions

Rangers

Hank Whitman, Dep. Asst. Director, Rangers Austin to Asst. Director, Rangers Austin; Scotty L. Shiver, Agent, CID Houston to Sgt., Rangers Lubbock.

Criminal Investigations Division

Floyd T. Goodwin, Lt., CID Austin to Capt., CID San Antonio; James W. Wharton, Agent, CID El Paso to Lt., CID El Paso; Jeffrey Al Buuck, Agent, CID Temple to Lt., CID Temple/Killeen.

Highway Patrol

Jeffrey P. Shipley, Sgt., HP Humble to Lt., HP Houston; William E. Robles, Tr. II, HP Plains to Sgt., HP Brownfield; Travis D. McRee, Cpl. II, HP Midland to Sgt., HP Odessa-South; Billy J. Reese, Cpl. III, HP Sulphur Springs to Sgt., HP Sulphur Springs; Bryan T. Little, Cpl. IV, HP Graham to Sgt., HP Graham; Richard S. Patterson, Cpl. IV, CVE Waxahachie to Sgt., CVE Waxahachie; Juan C. Rodriguez, Tr. II, CVE Eagle Pass to Sgt., CVE Eagle Pass.

Regulatory Services


Capitol Complex


Law Enforcement Support

Jeffrey G. Pendley, Jr., Operator III, LES Wichita Falls to Communications Supv., LES Wichita Falls.

Retirements

Antonio Leal III, Asst. Director, Rangers, 26 years; Antonio Rodriguez, Sr. Cpl., Riviera, 20 years; Mark Hunter Parks, Sgt., CID Brenham, 26 years; David Wayne Page, Lt., CID Tyler, 24 years; Jesus Gonzales, CID Midland, 23 years; Andres Maldonado, Sgt., CID Harlingen, 23 years; Bryan “Kenny” Ray, Sgt., Rangers Midland, 23 years; James Dwight Shaffer, Custodial Supv., HP Amarillo, 12 years; Donna Jean Poff-Conley, Supv., Finance Austin, 9 years.

Deaths


Speir Scholarship Deadline

Wilson E. Speir Scholarship applications will be accepted through August 5. Students must be classified as full-time criminal justice majors and enrolled in Texas universities. Two scholarships will be awarded for $500 per

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In a ceremony in San Antonio in early April, Ella Wheeler-McLeod, a resident of San Antonio, received the Yellow Rose of Texas commendation.

Mrs. McLeod, 96, is the last surviving sibling of Highway Patrolman Edward Bryan Wheeler, one of two Highway Patrolmen killed by Bonnie and Clyde on April 1, 1934. (This is the 77th anniversary of his death.) Patrolman Wheeler and Patrolman H.D. Murphy were shot to death near Grapevine on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1934, by Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. The two men had stopped their motorcycles near Parker and Barrow’s car, thinking that a motorist needed assistance. When they approached the car, they were shot. Patrolman Murphy had started his career with the Highway Patrol on Sept. 18, 1933, and was stationed in Fort Worth. Patrolman Wheeler began his career with the Highway Patrol on Jan. 8, 1930, and was stationed in Fort Worth. (Photo courtesy Tom Reel/San Antonio Express-News.)

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many who worked with him, he had a can-do, positive attitude that motivated others.”

His supervisor also noted that he took particular pride in his work with the mobile command center. Lombard began working for DPS on Dec. 8, 2008, as a Texas Division of Emergency Management special projects coordinator. He served in various positions within TDEM, and on Dec. 29, 2010, he was promoted to Mobile Command Center Technical Specialist with the Law Enforcement Communications Support Division.

His wife, Linda Ellis Lombard, is also a DPS employee. Flags were lowered to half-staff at DPS offices in his honor following his death.

Fitness Stars step up

With the program now agency wide, the first non-commissioned personnel have joined their commissioned counterparts in earning Fitness Stars for meeting certain standards on the physical readiness test.

The standards vary based on age and gender, and timed results in push-ups, sit-ups and the 1.5 mile run. Those who qualify are rewarded 32 hours of administrative leave and can wear the Fitness Star on their uniform or lapel.

The following individuals met the Fitness Star standards:

- Examiner Johnny Ward, DL Wallisville,
- Forensic Scientist Thomas White, Crime Lab Austin,
- Forensic Scientist Alexis Wilcox, Crime Lab Austin,
- Asst. Mgr. John Douglas, HR Austin,
- Regional Commander Jose P. Ortiz III, Capitol Region Austin,
- Agent Jon M. Ybarra, CID San Angelo,
- Agent Roy Basham, CID San Angelo.

Note: Please forward information on other Fitness Stars to the Public Information/Media Relations Office.
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... of our own who gave their lives protecting the citizens of Texas,” said DPS Director Steven C. McCraw. “Corporal Slaton and Trooper McDonald—and their families—remain in our hearts and prayers, and their sacrifices will never be forgotten. They and their loved ones will always be part of the DPS family.”

**Officers killed accidentally while performing their duties in 2011:**

- Deputy John Norsworthy of Fort Bend County SO died in a traffic crash on Jan. 4, 2011.
- Officer Kevin Marceau of Dallas PD died after being struck by a vehicle on Jan. 14, 2011.
- Officer Stephanie Brown of San Antonio PD died in a traffic crash on March 15, 2011.
- Deputy Robert Britton Smith County SO died after he was struck by a wounded animal on March 28, 2011.

**Officers killed feloniously while performing their duties in 2011:**

- Deputy Sherri Jones of Bowie County SO was shot and killed while transporting an inmate on April 18, 2011.
- Deputy Clifton Taylor of Johnson County SO was shot and killed after responding to a domestic disturbance on April 23, 2011.

**Officers killed accidentally while performing their duties in 2010:**

- Officer Timothy Zurovetz of Forest Hill PD died in a traffic crash on Mar. 24, 2010.
- Deputy Sheriff Jacob Rene Rayos of Reeves County SO died in a traffic crash on April 11, 2010.
- Officer Rodney Holder of Abilene PD died in a traffic crash on April 29, 2010.
- Officer Eydelmen Mani of Houston PD died in a traffic crash on May 19, 2010.
- Officer Leonard Reed of Cedar Park PD died in a motorcycle crash on Aug. 18, 2010.
- Corporal David Slaton of the DPS Highway Patrol died in a traffic crash Sept. 20, 2010.
- Deputy Odell McDuffie Jr. of Liberty County SO died in a traffic crash on Oct. 25, 2010.
- Officer Sergio Antillon of San Antonio PD died after being struck by a vehicle on Oct. 29, 2010.
- Trooper Jonathan McDonald of the DPS Highway Patrol died in a traffic crash Nov. 15, 2010.
- Officer Andrew Rameas of Harker Heights PD died in a motorcycle crash Nov. 20, 2010.

**On the mend...**

Agent Christopher Earnest, CID Garland, injured during an investigation;
Tr. Jonathan Lawrence, HP Atlanta, injured while making an arrest;
Tr. Robert Mendez, HP Terrell, attempting to arrest suspect;
Tr. Justin Duck, HP Houston, injured in a traffic crash;
Tr. Joel Callaway, HP Mertzon, injured while making arrest;
Sgt. David Cramer, CVE Garland, injured in a traffic crash;
Tr. Germaine Gaspard, CVE Garland, injured in a traffic crash;
Tr. Billy D. Wallace, HP Carthage, injured in a traffic crash;
Tr. Raymond Sanders, HP Liberty, injured in a traffic crash;
Tr. Chadrick A. Walker, HP Cedar Hill, injured in a traffic crash.