

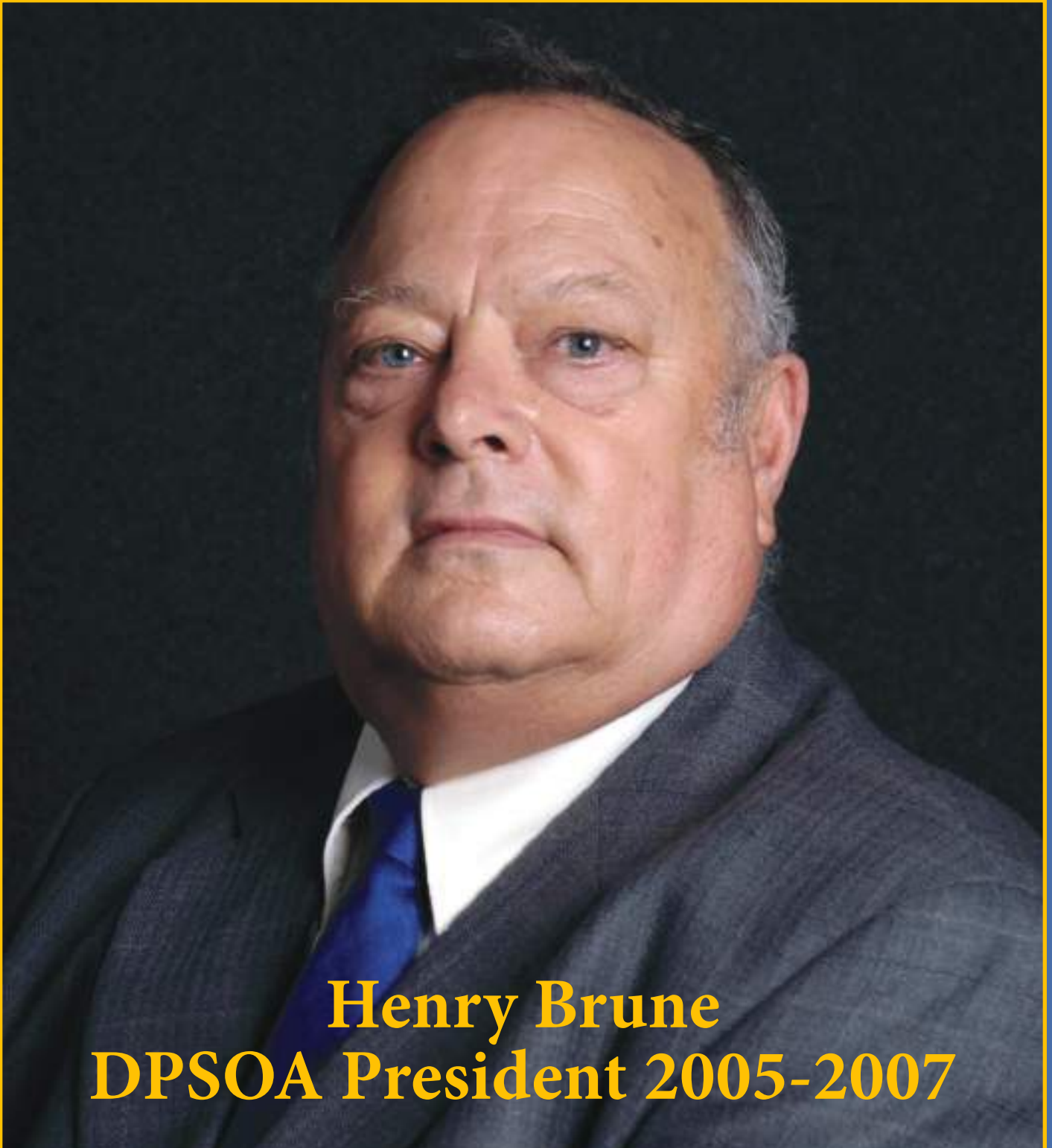


Texas

DPSOA

#1 2024

Magazine



Henry Brune
DPSOA President 2005-2007

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Texas DPSOA



Issue 1, 2024

Magazine

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On the Cover: Henry Brune, a longtime DPS employee and DPSOA past President from 2005-2007, passed away in December 2023.

ATTN: Readers

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WRITING FOR THE MAGAZINE

DPSOA encourages its members and any other persons in the law enforcement community to write articles for publication in DPSOA Magazine. We are looking for articles related to law enforcement, and especially related to the Texas Department of Public Safety or any of its divisions. Articles relating to sporting or professional experiences are welcome, too. You could be read by readers across Texas, as well as by numerous agencies across the country. Below is a list of guidelines for articles to be submitted to DPSOA Magazine. Pick up your pens and start writing. The magazine needs your input.

Submission Guidelines

Manuscript Specifications

Length: 1,000 to 3,000 words on 5 to 12 pages double spaced.

Format: All manuscripts should be in MS Word format. Please include your name, address and subject/title on each page.

PUBLICATION/BASIS FOR JUDGING

Manuscripts:

Manuscripts will be judged on the following points: factual

accuracy, style and ease of reading, structure and logical flow, length, relevance to audience, analysis of information.

Query Letters:

The Editor suggests that authors submit a detailed one- to two-page outline before writing an article. This is intended to help authors but does not guarantee publication of the article.

Author Notification:

Receipt of manuscript will be confirmed. Letters of acceptance or rejection will be sent following review. Articles accepted for publication cannot be guaranteed a publication date.

Copyright:

Articles are copyrighted individually by the authors and rights are transferred to DPSOA Magazine for one time printing.

Editing:

DPSOA Magazine reserves the right to edit all manuscripts.

Submission:

Authors may contact the district representatives in their areas or manuscripts may be forwarded directly to: **editor@dpsoa.com**.

ABOUT THE TEXAS DPSOA . . .

The Texas Department of Public Safety Officers Association is a non-profit Association organized under the State of Texas.

Purpose: The purpose of the Association shall be: To cooperate with the Administration in ensuring the best law enforcement agency in the state; to assist all Department personnel in improving their educational achievements; to promote professionalism within the Department and to work in all regards for the betterment of all Department personnel and the citizens of the State of Texas.

Membership: Membership in the DPSOA is as follows: All DPS Commissioned Officers, including retired personnel, and members of the DPS Communications Service where TCLEOSE Certification is required by DPS, including retired personnel and including Charter Members, Polygraph Operators, Chemists and Chemist Technical Supervisors in the DPS, including retired personnel.

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PRESIDENT

*Richard Jankovsky, III,
President, DPSOA*

Greetings from South Texas!

I would like to start by thanking all of you for allowing me the privilege to serve as President of DPSOA and for re-electing me for another term as your President. I will continue to do everything that I can do to ensure that your Association represents you well! We have a great team and will continue to do our best to serve you!

As I write this article, the fourth special legislative session is coming to an end. There were several border security related bills filed in each of the special sessions. Ultimately, additional funding was allotted for the construction of a physical barrier between Texas and Mexico, as well as a new statute that creates a state violation for illegal entry into Texas. During each of the special sessions we partnered with



other associations to urge for a 13th check for retirees to be added to the call, but we were not successful in getting that added.

Like many years in the past, we recently awarded our annual scholarships. I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Wyatt Ranches for their very generous donation to our scholarship fund. I would also like to thank Wayne Williams and his scholarship committee for their dedication and commitment to our youth. This year we were able to award \$60,000 in scholarships! You will have to search to find another association that comes close to DPSOA when it comes to scholarships!

Trooper David Arias, THP Raymondville, spearheaded an event that we were glad to be a part of. He facilitated a backpack giveaway for the children in the Raymondville area. Through his efforts we were able to give 260

[more >](#)



Richard Jankovsky with Henry Brune and Captain Steve Tellez. Also pictured is the cooking crew. They cooked the meal for the 6C Service Commander Awards

continued



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Sgt. Steve Luna and Richard Jankovsky at OLS border operations



Thanksgiving meal for all Law enforcement and military working the border in Edinburg with Governor Abbott and President Trump



Captain Steve Tellez and I presenting Don Plunkett with his retiree license plate. Also pictured is Brad Kutach.

backpacks to children that may have otherwise gone without. As we know, our youth are the future. We hope that these backpacks will help ensure a positive future for each child that receives one and we are looking forward to being a part of future events.

On October 6-7, 2023, Trophy Trucking hosted the 1st Annual DPS Trooper Foundation Burn and Turn fundraiser in Poteet. This was a BBQ Cook Off and Team Roping event. You could not have asked for better weather for such an event. The event included live music, a raffle, an auction, and a silent auction. We thank Trophy Trucking, their volunteers and each of the sponsors for all the work that went in to making this event what it was. A special THANK YOU to the Poteet Strawberry Festival Association and the Poteet Lions Club for allowing the event to be held at their location! We are looking forward to next year!

On November 19, 2023, we hosted our annual Thanksgiving meal at the DPS hanger in Edinburg. This event started many years ago to provide a hot meal to all those men and women that

were away from home during the holidays. The first events were held at the auction barn in Rio Grande City. Over the years this has grown and grown and grown. Because of the growth and the incorporation of soldiers on deployment, the location was moved to Edinburg. This year marked the third year that Governor Abbott attended and assisted with serving food. This year also marked a first for us as well. This was the first time a former President of the United States was in attendance. President Trump was present and assisted in serving meals to everyone present. During Thanksgiving week, we were able to serve nearly 1,000 meals to the folks deployed at the border and the violent crime task force in Austin.

As we prepare to close out 2023 and welcome 2024, I would like to wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!

May God Bless you all and God Bless Texas!



VICE PRESIDENT

*Jarrad Williams,
Vice President, DPSOA*

Greetings!

I hope you had a fantastic holiday season and were able to spend the time with loved ones at some point while traveling from one operation to another. Hopefully, one day soon, we will all be able to be able to be at home for every holiday again.

I want to use this article to thank and let everyone know the wonderful job our staff at the office and DPSOA store are doing. Our Executive Director, Clay Taylor, has done a wonderful job holding down the fort and overseeing day-to-day operations. From traveling across the state to various events and coordinating the many dinners, donations, and constantly being available to the entire Board any time a member is in need, he is there. Clay has been a huge asset to this Association from his time served on the board since 2003 and then transitioning to Executive Director.

The lovely ladies on staff have done an amazing job of maximizing the effectiveness of the small space we have available,



with creating new product ideas and keeping the store stocked with as many items as possible. Nicasia Borrego and Xochitle Bautista are the sales associates that welcome you each time you are lucky enough to visit the store. They keep up with the incredible number of online orders as well as stock the store. Nicasia is a Navy veteran and has been with us for almost a year and a half. Xochitle has been with us for over a year. Gloria is our longest tenured employee and constantly assists us with keeping our membership numbers in order as they are constantly fluctuating.

I cannot thank each and every one of our employees enough for all the amazing work they do, and how much they keep this Association afloat year-round. Please say thank you when you call or visit them

as they are truly vital to our operations.

Thank you all,

Jarrad Williams
Vice President



DPSOA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Clay Taylor,
Executive Director, DPSOA*

Greetings from the Capitol City!

It is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of Henry Brune. He was a longtime DPS employee and served as DPSOA President in 2005-2007. During his tenure DPSOA was able to secure salary increases, including longevity and hazardous duty pay. We extend our condolences to his wife Marjorie and family and thank him for his service to the State of Texas.

The 88th Legislature has finally ended. After four special sessions, the Governor was unsuccessful in getting school vouchers passed. There was increased



border security legislation passed during the special sessions, however. Stay tuned for the upcoming primaries. There are at least five members of the House and two Senators not seeking re-election.

DPSOA provided Thanksgiving meals to personnel in three locations. Governor Abbott's annual Edinburg meal was Sunday, November 19, and his endorsement of President Trump caused the former President to fly down to help serve the troops a hot meal. DPSOA fed over 350 military and law enforcement personnel. We also provided meals to law enforcement working Operation Lone Star in Eagle Pass on November 22 at Wagon Wheel Restaurant, and to the Violent Crime Task Force working in Austin. We



Henry Brune

[more >](#)

continued



Governor Abbott addresses the group at the Edinburg thanksgiving meal



Feeding troops at Edinburg

[more >](#)

continued



VCTF Austin Thanksgiving meal



VCTF Austin Thanksgiving meal



VCTF Austin Thanksgiving meal



Thanksgiving feed in Edinburg

[more >](#)

continued



Eagle Pass Thanksgiving meal



Eagle Pass Thanksgiving meal



Eagle Pass Thanksgiving meal



Eagle Pass Thanksgiving meal



Florida Troops at Eagle Pass Thanksgiving meal



President Jankovsky giving President Trump Challenge Coin in Edinburg [more](#) ➤

continued



2024 calendar available in the dpsoa store

fed over 800 in those three events. If you are interested in helping support these events, your donations are always appreciated. Texas DPS Troopers Foundation - Donate Now! (firstresponder-processing.com) if you would like to donate online. Remember, your donations are tax-deductible.

Next year the Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary. We are taking pre-orders for 2 commemorative Sig Sauer rifles, a SIGM400 and a SIGMCX. Both have four engravings on the rifle including DPS and DPSOA seals. If you are interested in ordering, please see the flyer in the magazine or contact us at info@texasdpsoa.com.

The 2024 calendar is now available for sale online <https://dpsoa.store>. These are sold for \$15.99 each. You can also order an e-version for \$10.99 or get both for \$20.99. All proceeds on the sale of these will go to help fund the Highway Memorial signs for Troopers killed in the line of duty.

Don't forget that we have a Foundation license plate for sale



through <https://myplates.com>. The proceeds from the sale of these plates help support the Foundation.

We have had two recruit schools to graduate. B-2023 graduated November 17, 2023, with 94 new troopers and C-2023 graduated December 8, 2023, with 79 new troopers hitting the roads. If you see them in your area, please welcome them and let them know how important they are to protecting this great state.

If you like staying in the know, we post news that affects you almost daily Our News (texasdpsoa.com). We have an app for smart phones. Please provide us with any updated information. If you have not done that lately, please email us at info@texasdpsoa.com so we can make sure we have the correct information. Most importantly, make sure your beneficiary is updated for your death benefit.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy and safe New Year. I hope you get to spend some time with the ones you love. Until next time... □

DPSOA will celebrate 50 years of serving our members as an association with **two different commemorative rifles.**



Each rifle has 4 Engravings including the DPS & DPSOA seals along with the dates of the association.



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A deposit of 1/2 of the total cost is due at the time of the order and total due when the rifle comes in and before it can be shipped.



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REGION 1 – NORTH TEXAS

*Oscar Villarreal,
DPSOA Region 1 Representative*

Howdy from the North Texas Region!

It was a long, hot, dry summer, so the fall season gave a new meaning to Thanksgiving. We are thankful for cooler weather and rain and that summer is over.



Two Tactical marine patrol vessels were commissioned in honor of fallen Troopers. On May 30, 2023, a patrol vessel was commissioned in honor of Trooper Jefferey Don Nichols, who lost his life in the line of duty on March 26, 2016. On June 9, 2023, a patrol vessel was commissioned in honor of Trooper Todd Dylan Holmes, who lost his life in the line of duty on March 14, 2007.

On May 25, 2023, a portion of U.S. Highway 80 near Longview was dedicated to honor the memory of Trooper Timo-



Dallas Air crew

more ➤

continued



Timothy Wade McDermott Memorial Highway Sign



Sgt. Hunter Lewis



Corporal Ricky Barber



Patrol vessel



Ranger Bruce Sherman



Patrol vessel Jeffrey Don Nichols

thy Wade McDermott, who lost his life in a motor vehicle crash on May 14, 1995.

In June, Texas Ranger Bruce Sherman was recognized nationally by the United States Department of Justice for his work with the North Texas Internet Crimes Against Children Organization. Speaking of the safety and security of children, while deployed to Operation Lone Star, Corporal Ricky Barber found two children walking alone near the Rio Grande and reunited the children with their parents with the assistance of the U.S. Border Patrol.

In August, The North Texas Aircrew was recognized by Plano Police for their assistance with an ATM theft investigation. Among the aircrew recognized and receiving certificates of commendation are Captain Saben Emery, Captain Jason Roland, Lieutenant Clay Lacey, Lieutenant Jordan Teel, and Tactical Flight Officers Justin Kaiser, Erik Gunnels, and Robert Mondragon.

In July, Sergeant Hunter Lewis and officers from North Texas participated in the tip-a-cop fundraiser for Special Olympics. Together, they raised funds to benefit Special Olympics of Texas.

The North Texas Region continues to support multiple operations across the state. We are blessed to have some fantastic people in this Region. They never cease to amaze me with their spirit of kindness and giving. I have never seen so many people work hard to assist others at work and in their personal time. So many North Texas Region DPS employees go above and beyond to help with so many charitable organizations, from centers for abused and neglected children to toy drives during the holidays, feeding those in need throughout the year, and supporting various charities.

With all the chaos in the world, it is a warm feeling to be part of the DPS family. It is even more extraordinary when you are able to see the kindness and generosity of humanity that exist in our agency, and it is reassuring to know that so many people with such good intentions are all part of our DPS family.

In closing, thank you to everyone who supports our organization, from our front-line employees, the operator behind the console, facilities for maintaining our workspaces, our administrative assistants and the troopers who work tirelessly each day. And most importantly, thank you to the families of each one of our employees who love and support us so we can do what we do.



God Bless,

Oscar



REGION 2 – SOUTHEAST TEXAS

*Richard Krenek,
DPSOA Region 2 Representative*

Greetings from Region 2, Southeast Texas!

Wow! It has been an extremely busy year. Operation Lone Star continues, and so far there have been four special legislative sessions since the conclusion of the 88th Regular Legislative Session, deployments to Liberty County, and so many other engagements which Region 2 has responded to during 2023. I sure hope 2024 will carry a lighter workload for the Texas Department of Public Safety. However, I know our dedicated Department members will be ready for anything and everything that happens to surface in 2024.

In July, Troopers Chris Fleming and Fernando Corral recovered two stolen pickups which were concealed and being transported inside a CMV. Trooper Fleming stopped the CMV for several equipment violations on US 59 in Ft Bend County. He requested assistance in Spanish translation from Trooper Corral. During the stop and subsequent investigation, they were able to determine the easily accessible VIN's had been counterfeited and worked to locate correct VIN's for each vehicle. Ranger Pete Luna also assisted, and the team was able to develop one or more



other suspects through the recovery of latent fingerprints. Advanced assets of the Sugar Land Police Department were utilized to quickly process the latent evidence. The truck driver was arrested for felony theft, and the combined value of the pickups was estimated to be \$146,000. The intended destination of the stolen property was McAllen, Texas and ultimately on to Mexico.

In October, the Region 2 Criminal Reduction Unit traveled to the Texas panhandle and participated in a Joint Criminal Interdiction task force with 5B10, the State Criminal Interdiction Team, and the Virginia State Police. The task force proved to be highly successful. 545 traffic stops were conducted which led to a total of 15 custodial arrests. Contraband seizures included fentanyl, cocaine, marihuana, and firearms. Over \$64,000 in US currency linked to criminal activity was also seized. Region 2 Troopers Freddy Ochoa, Abe Pineda, Alex Orgeta, and Josh Alvarez made arrests and seized various types of contraband.

To everyone who has a graduating high school student in the spring or one currently enrolled in college, the Association/Foundation scholarship application will be posted on the website sometime around spring break. The Foundation has awarded \$60,000 during each of the last two years. My son was awarded a scholarship last summer, and that money was a huge help towards his first semester at Blinn College. Don't miss out on this important opportunity. The deadline for submission is usually around July 15, 2023. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.





If you are using your DPS email with the Association, you are not getting everything the Executive Board is sending out. DPS firewalls are returning a lot of Association email back to the Executive Director. Please contact the store in Austin and change your email to your personal address. This will ensure you receive all important correspondence and access to surveys. Also, do not hesitate to email me at rakrenek@aol.com with any concerns or needs. Please email me if you need my cell phone number. □



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REGION 4 – WEST TEXAS

*Justin Baker,
DPSOA Region 4 Representative*

Greetings, West Texas!

By the time you are reading this article, 2023 will have come and gone.

Although the years seem to be blurring together with all the OLS waves and continued deployments, we can be very grateful for the Legislature passing a 10% pay increase across the State. We may not know what 2024 has in store for us, but we do know DPS, and the West Texas Region will take the challenges head-on.

Speaking of challenges, the West Texas Region Row Race kicked off a little earlier this year. Rather than starting in December and ending in February, we thought we would see how October through December works. This way we still promote activity during the less desirable months and still kickstart the new year. This year's theme is "Believe in Yourself When Nobody Else Does". Of course, your overall fitness and wellness



should be a high priority but there should never be any shame associated with how you choose to reach your goals. We all have very different lives and priorities, and sometimes one priority needs more attention than the other. If you believe in what you are doing and you know it is for the right reasons, stay focused, accomplish your goals, always set new goals and Believe in Yourself! Also, it's important to find a healthy balance in all you do. Good balance alone can make a huge difference physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Regarding mental and emotional wellbeing, when logging into the texasdpsoa.com website, you will now notice a new category "VESS SERVICES." Employee Support Services (ESS) offers comprehensive stress management services to Department employees to promote the employee's process of achieving resilience to work-related or personal adversity and assist employees in their responsibility to maintain themselves in good physical and mental condition to perform their job duties effectively. *All ESS services are confidential.* Team members, including the licensed behavioral health staff, chaplains and employee peer support volunteers will not reveal information shared with them by



2 lbs. of Cocaine



Congratulations to Sergeant Hope Hohertz and family as we welcome these beautiful baby girls into the world.



Remembering Canine "Loko"



We'd like to welcome Trooper Sergio Robles and Canine Alex to the West Texas Team



Corporal Matt Walts with plaque honoring Canine Loko



Trooper Jason McMillan finishing 3rd in his age group, in the San Angelo 5K Supporting Breast Cancer Survivors



Congratulations to Trooper Dustin Henderson 3rd place finish in the North American Inspectors Championship held in Columbus OH



Congratulations to Sergeant Eliot Torres and The Texas Department of Public Safety's Honor Guard State Drill Team who won 1st Place in a national competition.



2 lbs. of Methamphetamine a 7 lbs. of Cocaine.



more ➤

continued



Corporal Jesus Rios running in the Trooper Javier Arana race.



Child Safety Seat training in Ft. Stockton



5 lbs. of Cocaine



Touch a truck in Ozona



Proud Brothers, Bryler and Becton holding their new baby sisters.



Regional Director Jose Sanchez at the finish line of the Trooper Javier Arana race.

DPS employees seeking services, with the exceptions of information suggesting imminent harm to self or others or information regarding the abuse of children, the elderly, or persons with disabilities, or when required by law. Commissioned employee peer support volunteers must also report violations of the law. All services are available at Headquarters and in all DPS Regions. Employees may initiate contact and request services directly from ESS. If you or anyone you know is struggling, please seek help immediately. You do not have to face these challenges alone.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his

place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." —Theodore Roosevelt

On January 19, 2018, Texas Highway Patrol Cpl. Matthew Walts and Canine "Loko" began their career as a canine team in the West Texas Region, San Angelo. Canine "Loko" was trained by Cpl. Walts throughout his canine training academy where he successfully certified as a Narcotics Detection Canine. During Canine "Loko's" time in the field, he obtained a tremendous trust thru his dependability and capabilities in narcotic's detection among Department personnel and other law enforcement agencies. His efforts and skills along with his canine handler, Cpl. Walts, successfully achieved the objective in assisting officers in locating and seizing illegal narcotics that might have otherwise gone undetected and assisted in furthering many narcotic and money laundering investigations and prosecutions. On July 19, 2023, Canine "Loko" retired. On October 5, 2023, Canine "Loko" passed away.

"Loko," thank you for the great work and performance in the West Texas Region and the Great State of Texas. We will miss you. □

REGION 5 – NORTHWEST TEXAS

*Johnny Bures,
DPSOA Region 5 Representative*

Howdy from the Northwest Region.

I hope this article finds you well and staying warm this winter. We have had a lot of changes at the Regional office, and I would like to start by congratulating Chief Bryan Rippee and Major Ricky White on their new promotions. Chief Rippee and Major White were in the Northwest Region when they were promoted, and we wish them well in their new positions.

Recently, a reception was held at the Texas DPS Northwest Regional office in Lubbock for Bryan Rippee, the newly appointed Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol Division. As Chief of THP, Rippee will oversee the Highway Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, the Motor Carrier Bureau, the Tactical Marine Unit, the K-9 Program, and the State Crash Reconstruction Team. Chief Rippee most recently served as the Highway Patrol Major in the Northwest Texas Region since January 2012. Chief Rippee



began his career with DPS in 1996.

Things have been pretty busy in the NW region, and I thought I would share just a couple of events and kudos that folks have received during these last several months.

On November 14, 2023 the Texas DPS Northwest Region hosted the Crime Victim Coalition of West Texas Conference at the Lubbock DPS office. The Coalition comprises members from about 20 Lubbock area law enforcement agencies, non-profits, and other organizations.

Our NW Honor Guard has been busy with regional and state events. The Lubbock Regional Color Guard, consisting of members from Texas DPS Highway Patrol, Lubbock Police Department, and Lubbock Sheriff's Office, led the Veterans Day Parade on Broadway. The NW Honor Guard was privileged to attend the B-2023 graduation opening ceremony.

On October 26, 2023 Sergeant Area 5A11 Troopers were awarded a Unit Citation at the Public Safety Commission Meeting. The members of 5A11 are stationed across the Northwest Texas Region and are a specialized unit of K9 handlers. Their efforts, along with their K9 partners, seized an enormous

[more >](#)



Chief Bryan Rippee and Regional Director Joe Longway



DPS Lubbock HP and CID participate in the 911 Memorial Stair Climb.



DPS Lubbock HP and CID participate in the 911 Memorial Stair Climb



5A11 awarded a Unit Citation for the amount of narcotic and illegal item seizures



5B3 reunion luncheon



Capt. Farber awarded Abilene Kiwanis Club First Responder of the Year for 2023.

continued



Trooper Neitch received the US Attorney's Award of Excellence



Trooper Tanck received the US Attorney's Award of Excellence



Major Bryan Rippee was promoted to Chief of Highway Patrol.

amount of illicit drugs and other illegal items from Texas roadways.

On October 11, 2023, the Carson County Sheriff's Office hosted a reunion and a luncheon for active and retired DPS employees formerly assigned to the 5B3 Sergeant area, including

Borger, Groom, Panhandle, Perryton, and Spearman. All had a great time! Thank you to the Carson County Sheriff for hosting this event.

On October 4, 2023, DPS and multiple other agencies participated in National Night Out in various communities



NW Honor Guard at the B-2023 Graduation ceremony



Lubbock County Crime Victim Coalition (LCCVC) Conference held at DPS Lubbock Regional Office.



NW Honor Guard with Lubbock Regional Color Guard at the Veterans Day Parade



NW Honor Guard

throughout the region. We had so much fun talking to and getting to know the many citizens who came out and joined in on this festive community event.

On September 15, 2023, two Texas DPS Troopers from the Northwest Region received the United States Attorney's Award of Excellence for participating in cases they had this year. Troopers Tanck and Pacheco received the award for the arrest of two subjects on a traffic stop that led to the seizure of 17 pounds or 7,711 grams of Fentanyl. That quantity represents approximately 3,855,600 lethal doses that were taken off the streets.

Trooper Neitch was able to apprehend a subject who was responsible for a series of bank robberies across Texas, Arizona, California, Mississippi, and New Mexico. Neitch recognized the suspect vehicle from a BOLO sent out by Abilene PD minutes after a bank robbery. Neitch was then able to get the car stopped and capture the suspect. Thank you, Troopers Neitch, Pacheco, and Tanck, for your hard work and dedication to the safety of the citizens of the Great State of Texas.

On September 13, 2023, Captain Doug Farber of the Northwest Texas Region-Abilene was honored by the Abilene Kiwanis Club as the First Responder of the Year for 2023. Captain Farber has served as the 5C District Commander of the Texas De-

partment of Public Safety since 2006. The 5C District serves 19 counties in the Big Country area. The award is given each year in the name of Chief Melvin Martin to a chosen first responder in Abilene. Many troopers under Captain Farber's command attended the ceremony. Regional Commander Longway who was the keynote speaker, honored Farber's tenured service, and highlighted all the work being done across Texas by the Texas DPS. Lieutenant Todd Ross introduced Captain Farber before he received the award from Chief Melvin Martin. Congratulations to Captain Doug Farber!

On September 6, 2023, Texas DPS Northwest Texas Region employees, along with members from Lubbock Fire Rescue and Lubbock Police Department, participated in the Texas Tech University Air Force & Army ROTC 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Jones Stadium to honor and remember those we lost on September 11, 2001. The stair climb was 2,071 steps for the 110 stories of the World Trade Center.

I hope everyone has a safe and warm winter.

Johnny Bures
DPSOA Region 5 Representative



Regional Director Joe Longway addresses the LCCVC Conference.



Sergeant Lambert at National Night Out.



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REGION 6 – CENTRAL TEXAS

*Monte Carroll,
DPSOA Region 6 Representative*

Howdy from Central Texas!

I want to start my article with an introduction of Juan Tovar, the Region 6C DPSOA Field Director. Thank you, Sergeant Tovar, for accepting the position. Sergeant Tovar graciously accepted the opportunity to assist with representing the DPSOA members in the San Antonio District as a Field Director. I know many of you already know Juan. He will be a great addition to the DPSOA leadership team.

The position of a DPSOA Field Director is a volunteer representative of the DPSOA in one of the many Districts across the State, who is there to assist the Regional Representatives in serving the members of the Association. I am looking for a Field Director for the Austin District. If you are interested in becoming more active in the Association and representing our members, please contact me. I would be glad to answer questions about the position.

What a busy time it has been during this past year. We started out the year sending members of Region 6 to the border in support of OLS (Operation Lone Star), while we were deploying to the Capitol in support of the Capitol District during the Regular and Special Sessions of the Texas Legislature. Region



6 then transitioned into sending Troopers and Agents to Austin in weekly waves in support of a VCTF (Violent Crimes Task Force). We continue to send Troopers and Agents to Austin in support of the on-going VCTF. Our Troopers and Agents are doing tremendous work in Austin. We are locating intoxicated drivers, illicit drug users, wanted criminals, and stolen cars on a nightly basis. We are doing great work by being there, but I must wonder at what cost to the rest of the Region. OLS continues along the border with no end in sight and I suspect when and if the VCTF in Austin stops, Region 6 will be sending Troopers back to OLS. The mission of the Department has changed to one of constant, weekly deployments to a wide variety of special duty assignments.

In July, the DPS Motor Unit held an “Open House” at Florence for Troopers to experience running cones and learning about joining the motor unit. There was a mixture of experienced and inexperienced motorcycle operators that came out to Florence to learn about the Motor Unit. DPSOA provided a BBQ meal for those who attended the event. Mounted Patrol was also on hand to field questions and recruit interested Troopers to join the Department’s Mounted Patrol.

The Department has a Fitness and Wellness Unit in Austin that has been in action since 2010. The Fitness and Wellness Unit has the mission of changing lives for the better to help prevent heart and obesity related diseases through training and education of the members of the Department. In conjunction



DPS Motor Unit Open House at Florence



High risk training for C23 class



Retiree firearms training Waco



Retiree firearms training Waco



Senior Trooper Michael Knight at his morning board meeting a few weeks before he retired



Traffic stop of six reckless drivers racing to COTA from Dallas.



Trooper Nestor Reyes Fitness Institute Graduation



Trooper Josiah Burzynski Saving a grateful but wondering tortoise

with that effort, the Fitness and Wellness Unit conducts the Fitness Institute that consists of a six-week school that is spread over three months that certifies individuals as DPS Physical Fitness and Readiness Testers. During the Fall of 2023, Troopers and Agents from around the State traveled to the Training Academy in August, September, and October to learn about basic anatomy and physiology, injury prevention, exercise leadership, physical fitness assessments, and conditioning and strength training.

The B-2023 Class has graduated and the C-2023 will have graduated by print time. Welcome to the Department to all

more ➤

continued



Training at Florence



Trooper Trainee Class of B-2023 less than a week from their graduation



Training at Florence

graduating members of the B-2023 and C-2023 classes! I appreciate your sacrifice to join the Department. I pray each of you has a long and successful career with the Department and that you each make it home safely at the end of each and every shift. To those who chose to join the Association, I also say thank you. DPSOA is only as strong as its membership. There was a time when the DPSOA was not in existence. It was through the dedication of members of the DPSOA that we have seen many positive changes to the benefit of our membership. An example of that dedication is Henry Brune, who is on the cover of this edition of the magazine. He served as the DPSOA President (2005-2007). He was a valuable member of the Department and the Association. It was my honor to know Henry during my early years with the Association. I trust Clay or others may have written a little about Henry.

In October 2023, the Association held a Board of Directors meeting in San Antonio. The meeting was a good reminder of the legal services provided to the members of the DPSOA. While I do not know the details of these cases, the Association legal representatives have provided legal counsel at eight Critical Incidents, twenty-six OIG investigations, and assisted with many wills, employee pay, and worker's compensation issues during 2023. Just a reminder of the services provided by our team at Lyon, Gorsky, & Gilbert, L.L.P.

In closing, be safe and watch your six.

Until next time,
Monte Carroll
DPSOA Region 6 Representative





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REGION 7 – CAPITOL

*Tyler Warner,
DPSOA Region 7 Representative*



Howdy, from Region VII!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and was able to spend the holiday with family and friends. We have so much to be thankful for every year.

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, we have Christmas on the horizon. That means gifts, decorations, and most importantly, being able to spend time with family and friends!

The past few weeks and even months have been a busy time in the Capitol Region. Each year seems busier than the prior, sometimes in similar but often in different ways. Region 7 held the Retiree Shoot at the Tactical Training Center in Florence on November 14, 2023. Retirees qualified and fellowshiped over BBQ and good conversation and had the opportunity to win door prizes. I have discovered that so many of the retirees love to hear about the changes and advances in the Department. Retirees were able to see all of Region 7's specialized units at the conclusion of our meal. We appreciate and value our retirees and we can each learn something from them at our gatherings. Many Troopers from the 7B District assisted with the retiree shoot.

The biggest event within our Region was the Legislative Session. At the time of this writing, we are currently in our fourth Special Session. Although Session involves many moving parts and can make for long days, and even longer nights, it is impor-

tant to remember the lasting impact that DPS Troopers make for those at the Capitol. Troopers carry out numerous responsibilities that often go unnoticed. Safety and security of the complex, motorist assists in and around the complex, and calls for service keep our Troopers busy during the session. We also field questions from visitors that visit the grounds, including school groups/programs. Troops work tirelessly to ensure each day runs smoothly and work to ensure everyone feels safe during the legislative process. They truly are the face of DPS during session. This often entails changing work schedules daily, something that the Troops handle with grace and professionalism. I am proud to say that our Troopers regularly receive appreciation and recognition for their efforts by many of those at the Capitol. DPSOA continues to recognize and help our personnel by providing snacks and drinks when needed. Region 7 Troopers are grateful for DPSOA and their unwavering efforts to advocate on behalf of Troopers, Agents, Rangers, Officers, Communications Personnel and Forensic Scientists. I can assure you that DPSOA has worked tirelessly around the clock to advocate for its members during this very long legislative session.

Many of Region 7's Troopers have been hard at work outside of the Legislative session when time has allowed. Troopers from Region 7 were able to participate in various Halloween events such as trunk or treating. Troopers have participated and patrolled during several large protests during the entire legislative session. On October 29, 2023, "All Out for Gaza" a pro-Palestinian rally took place outside of the Texas Capitol south gates. Well over 2,000 supporters attended the rally. The rally had several speakers before taking to the streets and marching in downtown Austin. DPS Capitol Region and other Regional Troopers monitored the events to keep the event safe and secure.

The hard work and dedication the Troopers demonstrate to protect Capitol infrastructure is truly incredible. They are committed 24/7 to law and order. Our state law enforcement partners in Florida were fortunate enough to join us at our Capitol. On October 31, 2023, Capitol Detail supervisors conducted a tour of the Texas Capitol with command staff of the Florida Highway Patrol. The Florida Highway Patrol is assisting the State of Texas by committing assets and resources to help secure our southern border with Mexico.

Department specialized units that consist of motors, bikes, and mounted patrol have remained busy outside of the complex, too. Mounted Patrol attended the State Fair of Texas where they patrolled for the University of Texas and Oklahoma game, also

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known as the Red River Rivalry. Our motor unit continues to provide quick and efficient response during highly populated protests where patrol units sometimes struggle navigating due to large crowds. They patrol and assist with traffic control every home game for UT Football games. Our mounted patrol recently participated in joint training with the bike unit for FFO or Field Force Operations Training. Our K9 unit participated in the 12th Annual Lake Travis Public Safety Day. The handlers were able to liaison with members of the public and provide an insight into

what role they play within the Department. EPB personnel were active as well.

The DPS Physical Fitness Award was created in October of 2018. Since its creation, only four members of the Department have received the award. To achieve the Titan award, one must complete all five tests offered by the Department at 90% or above in under 75 minutes in total time. Lieutenant Larry Ferguson of Region 7 assigned to EPB received the award when he attended the fitness institute training in 2018. Alejandro Guerra, as-





signed to Region 3 Highway Patrol, received the award when he attended the fitness institute training in 2020. Nicole Martin of Region 7 assisted EPB and received the award when she attended the fitness institute training in 2021. Chris Sorely of Region 1 Highway Patrol received the award before he started the current Fitness Institute that started in August 2023 on September 4, 2023. Ferguson, Guerra, and Martin completed Titan Award physical fitness testing to earn the award a second time. The testing was concluded with Martin and Guerra successfully earning the Titan Award. Lt. Ferguson completed the Titan Award with a total time of 59 minutes and one second, to be the first ever to complete Titan Elite. This is the same requirement as the Titan, except the overall time is under 60 minutes rather than the 75 minutes allowed. We congratulate each of these folks in their effort, dedication, and eagerness to win the award for their second time. Great work!

Each year, Region 7 Leadership has a Leadership Conference that is held to provide an opportunity for training. This year's conference took us to Kerrville. Region 7 Leadership attended

the weeklong conference and shared many laughs together. It is always good to get to fellowship with new co-workers and provides an opportunity to learn about one another. To conclude the conference, our guest speaker included former THP Chief Ron Joy. We appreciate Chief Joy taking time out of his schedule to provide a presentation.

With the last few months being eventful, we know that it will eventually slow down. I hope that each of you have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Stay safe in your travels. Until next time, take care! □



RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

Wayne Williams,
DPSOA Retiree Representative



OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNOR ABBOTT AND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE:

Hello!

I want to start by thanking Gov. Greg Abbott and the men and women of the Texas Legislature for the pay raise for all state employees, including the members of the Department of Public Safety. These men and women serving the state are doing an outstanding job in their profession.

This is my concern for the active members of the DPS. Have you seen the resignations and early retirements of personnel in the ranks? People are leaving DPS in droves, and it is not because of money. They are now receiving a decent salary. The

reason they are leaving is because of the numerous deployments that are being asked of all services. I know an occasional deployment is necessary, but for these guys to go to the border, assist in various cities to do the work of the local police department, go to the Capitol for assignment, or be called to work any other crisis that might arise is just a bit overwhelming. These deployments are taking them away from the work that they were hired to do.

I ask the ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, when was the last time you saw a highway patrol trooper working on the road? I recently traveled from Corpus Christi to San Antonio four weeks in a row. I only saw two troopers working during my travel time. The sergeant does not have enough troops to send to these deployments and fill a work schedule to provide coverage for the area. The captain of that district is taxing the sergeants to find the manpower to send to these deployments. Recently, a trooper had to work three fatalities in one day in three separate counties, none of which was his assigned county. Can you imagine the amount of time it took for that trooper to get to the





accident scene and properly investigate the fatality before having to go to the next fatal accident? This is inexcusable for a state like Texas.

The DPS Academy is trying to fill the openings with qualified men and women. The applicants are learning of these de-

ployments and are rethinking their decision to join DPS. They can look to other law enforcement agencies for employment that would not require travel all over the state of Texas, living in hotels for weeks, and time away from their families. Many other

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continued



law enforcement agencies are having difficulty in employing enough personnel to fill their ranks.

Another issue with frequent deployments is the strain that is placed on families. There are a growing number of divorces. Spouses have a hard time running their family without their partner there to help raise children and tend to the family's needs. Mental health is a concern with the working men and

women needing a place to address the stress and frustration of working frequent deployments. I know I am retired, but is DPS ever going to go back to what it was designed to do and handle the area where a Trooper, Agent or Ranger is supposed to be? I know there has been a change in the way of doing things, but change is not always good. Please get the men and women of DPS back to their assigned areas and let them do their job.

Lastly, this past legislative session gave no COLA or 13th check to state retirees. This was the year to fund the ERS and make it actuarially sound to pay for COLA. There were billions of excess dollars that this great state had, and again the retirees were forgotten. DPSOA and other associations have come to you, session after session, asking for COLA with little accomplishment. The retiree gets a lot of mouth action about doing something, but in reality, there is no action being taken by the Legislature.

Wayne Williams, Retiree Rep.



RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

*Alex Bartee,
DPSOA Retiree Representative*

RECRUITING FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR DPS

In the 1980's I worked in NW Harris County while living in Waller, Texas. I was friends with a young man before and after he was in the Army. When **Glen Buzek** got out of the Army, he was a trim muscular man who was of great character, and I recruited him for the DPS Academy. Glen was a large man, like I said very muscular and did not fit the height and weight chart for DPS. I had to write a letter to get a special exception in his file to allow him to attend the Academy. Glen graduated from A-86 DPS Academy.

I worked closely with the Waller Police Department and became friends with a city of Waller Police officer **Charles Gonzales** and recruited him for the DPS Academy. Charles was always ready to help DPS in the Waller area, and he was a policeman I could count on if I needed



any help. Charles graduated from DPS in B-88.

When I graduated in A-79 and was assigned to Waller, I asked around to see if there were any extra jobs available. One day I went into the hardware store and there were several "old" men standing around drinking coffee and

one of the men said, "Hey, Trooper." I responded, "Yes sir." He said, "I heard you were looking to work extra." "Yes sir," was my response, and he told me to be at a certain rice dryer in Hockley. I showed up when and where I was told, and Mr. Southard put me to work operating his rice dryer. We finished that year's rice crop and I was scheduled to work the dryer the next harvest. They started the harvest a day early before my vacation was to start and when I got to the dryer

more ➤



Charles Gonzales B88, Alex Bartee C70 A79, Glen Buzek A86, Randy Loewe C82



Jacob Garcia C-16 his wife, Danielle. Joshua C-22, Mother Irma and Father Ruben Garcia B-98



A96 Graduation Ryan and Greg Arthur Bartee



Billy Crook 1956



Brad Crook A-72

continued



Vernon Crook A-56



David Crook A-96



Dillon Steadman C-15 and Christa Steadman A-16



Steve and Cheryl Steadman on graduation day 1984



Jacob Garcia C16 Joshua C22 Ruben Garcia B98



Steve Powell A-77



Sgt. Kenneth Crossley 1958 and son Brent Crossley



Brian Powell B-08

it had burned to the ground. From then on, I was a truck driver hauling rice to a different dryer. During the rice harvest season, I met a young man just out of high school. I watched him drive tractors and combines, played softball with him and just became friends with him. Somehow, I got him to join DPS, and **Randy Loewe** spent 38 years with DPS after graduating C-82.

I left Waller in 1989 and went to Cuero where I met a young rookie policeman

working Yorktown and Cuero. I grew to really like this young man, and backed him up on several occasions and he did the same for me. Ruben and Irma married in February 1994. I recruited **Ruben Garcia**, and he graduated B-98 school and has more than 25 years of DPS service with Irma by his side encouraging him. His story does not end there. Irma and Ruben had a son, **Jacob Garcia**, who grew up watching his dad being a Texas State Trooper. Ruben instilled good char-

acter in Jacob who went to DPS Academy and graduated C-16 class. Ruben's legacy did not end there. Irma and Ruben also had a son **Josh Garcia** who just graduated from C-22 DPS Academy. This is a family of good moral character who raised two sons of good moral character and Texas DPS is better off with these three Troopers protecting us.

You never know when you recruit someone how many Troopers may come of that friendship.

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A LIST OF SOME OF THE DPS'ERS WHO EMAILED ME WITH THEIR NAMES AND DATES AND SOME PICTURES

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve and Cheryl Steadman B-84 their son Dillon Steadman C-15 and his wife Christa C. Steadman A-16• Ted Krenek A-73 and his son Sgt. Richard Krenek A-96• Sgt. Kenneth Crossley 1958 and son Brent Crossley B-88• Anthony Flores B-94 and son Kevin Flores B-21• Jim Denman A-78 and his son Jeff Denman B-10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Powell A-77 and his son Brian Powell B-08• Wendell Collins and his niece Candi Amador B-84• Mike Stoner C-73 and his son Don Stoner A-95 and his son Gus Stoner B-21 and his sister Dannette Stoner DLD and Don's Niece Kori Archer DLD• David Crook A-96• Randahl Gustafson retired LW out of | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lubbock Recruited by Brad Crook• Jennifer Ramon A-01 Sister-in-Law to David Recruited by David• Sergeant James Lucky (A-90) Husband of Jennifer Ramon• Brad Crook A-72 and his uncles• Vernon Crook Class #24. Jan 4 to March 16, 1956, and Brother• Billy Crook Class #26 June 20 to Aug 31, 1956 |
|--|--|---|

67 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF CROOKS IN DPS AND COUNTING

- Gene Tandy B77 and his son
- Trevor Tandy B18
- Larry Hounshel D-70
- Travis Hounshell Senior Trooper A-02 (nephew)
- Gary Mc Millian Captain B-03 (nephew)
- Clint Hounshell Trooper IV A-07 (son)
- Tom Wilson- B-77 retired Senior Trooper THP and son
- Thomas Wilson- A-99 current CID Lieutenant

- Ralph G Zerda. (B-84) (E.O.W. 05-21-1989) and sister
- Debra L Zerda. (A-94)
- **Capt. Bob started a lot** James R (Bob) Allen HP School #23 in 1955
- **Sons of Bob below:**
- James R Allen Jr B-72
- Steve Allen A-75
- **Nephews of Bob**
- Brian Hawthorne A-84
- Joe Navarro A-96

- Senior Trooper Bob Bratten (C-82) and his son SGT. Bobby Bratten (A-08)

This is all the information I have received. Some of the information was lost after I went into the hospital with a stroke and was there for a month. I apologize if I omitted some of your information in this article.

Alex Bartee
abartee@sbcglobal.net
210-913-9550

