



*Texas*

#2 2022

# DPSOA Magazine



**SPECIAL AGENT ANTHONY SALAS**

**Killed in the Line of Duty**

## DPSOA Magazine

Volume 33, Number 2, 2022

### TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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# Texas DPSOA Magazine



Issue 2, 2022

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**On the Cover:** Special Agent Anthony Salas  
killed in the line of duty.

#### ATTN: Readers

The Texas DPSOA greatly appreciates its advertisers and the support they have given throughout the years. We hope that you will utilize their services and products. However, some products and services may not be right for certain individuals. Therefore, please consider every product or service and make sure it is right for you, the consumer. Thank you, again, to every advertiser and reader of this publication.

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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](mailto: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.

### DPSOA Change of Address Form

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LAST FIRST M. INITIAL

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**\*\*Please note: You may also visit [www.texasdpsoa.com](http://www.texasdpsoa.com) under the Members Only Area to submit any address changes.\*\***

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## PRESIDENT

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*Richard Jankovsky, III,  
President, DPSOA*

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Greetings from the Coastal Bend!

On January 22, 2022 Special Agent Anthony Salas was working Operation Lone Star near Eagle Pass and involved in a tragic accident. Unfortunately, Anthony lost his life because of the injuries he sustained. Please keep his family, friends and co-workers in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to deal with their loss.

We have been deeply involved in Operation Lone Star. As the Operation has progressed, we have been proud to provide meals, drinks and snacks to our membership! We have been able to do these things because of generous donors that support our Association and our mission!

On February 07, 2022, we were proud to see Devarje "DJ" Danile sworn in as an honorary law enforcement



officer in San Antonio. DJ is 10 years old and battling cancer. He has a goal to be sworn in by as many law enforcement agencies as he can as he has dreamed of being a police officer. His uniform of the day was the Texas Tan! We would like to thank Don Juan boots for their generous donation of uniform boots for DJ. DJ's boots include the Highway Patrol Patch on them!

We welcomed 101 brand new Troopers to the DPS Family on May 06. I am very pleased to say that 98 joined DPSOA. If you have not had the chance to attend a graduation, I would recommend that you go and see one. I had not been to a graduation since mine and have attended the last two.

It is hard to believe that 2022 is halfway done. It seems like it is just flying by! We are in the process of working on our legislative agenda for next session and will update everyone as soon as we have it finalized. I have been honored to represent DPSOA as a member of the American Security Task Force. The task force focuses on border security, cyber security and law enforcement. We have had several conference calls and two in-person meetings. Most recently we met in Washington, D.C. to discuss a set of goals for the task force. Five topics/goals were discussed at our last meeting are as follows:

- Support and FUND the Police
- Tackle Recruitment and Retention Issues
- Address Crime Targeted Against Officers
- Ensure Transparency from Progressive Prosecutors

As I close out this article, I would ask everyone to remember the community of Uvalde. Please keep the parents, the siblings, the teachers, the extended family members and all the first responders in your prayers. This tragedy is simply heartbreaking. Words cannot describe any of it. People have been shaken to their core.

God bless you, God bless Texas, and God bless the USA.

Richard Jankovsky, III  
DPSOA President

□





## VICE PRESIDENT

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*Jarrad Williams,  
Vice President, DPSOA*

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Greetings from the Great State of Texas!

Summer is in full swing with temperatures well above normal for this time of year. Operation Lone Star continues to consume a substantial portion of Troopers time and efforts. Over \$3 billion has been appropriated for this operation with over 550 Troopers deployed in rotations of 9-14 days, along with over one thousand Texas National Guardsmen. Since the launch of Operation Lone Star (OLS), multi-agency efforts have led to more than 225,000 migrant apprehensions, along with more than 13,027 criminal arrests — and more than 10,400 felony charges. Over 3,500 weapons and almost \$30 million in currency have been seized. In the fight against fentanyl, DPS has seized over 289 million lethal doses throughout the state. Officially launched on March 4, 2021, Operation Lone Star integrates DPS assets, including Texas Highway Patrol Troopers, Special Agents, Texas Rangers, Rotary and Fixed Winged Aircraft and Tactical Boat Teams, along with the Texas National Guard and local law enforcement to secure the border. With Title 42 set to expire in May 2022 the surge in illegal migrants crossing is expected to increase exponentially.

To deal with workforce shortages and attrition, there are four recruit schools that have been completed, in progress or scheduled. This should give the department approximately five hundred new troopers by April 2023. DPS Troopers received a 12%-17% pay increase from the 87th Texas Legislature but that has not had any effect on employee retainment or recruitment. Troopers still work a mandatory 50-hour work week (not including deployments). The overtime does not currently factor into retirement however, the Association is planning to get that changed in the 88th session starting January 2023.

We will have three names added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this year.

Trooper Chad Walker who was ambushed, EOW: March 28, 2021.

Sergeant Paul Keith Mooney died of Covid, EOW: June 14, 2021.



CID Special Agent Dustin Lee Slovacek died of Covid, EOW: September 12, 2021. Agent Slovacek was deployed to the border for Operation Lone Star where he contracted the virus.

Speaking of the legislature, there are expected to be more than forty new State Representative seats due to redistricting in the State. Governor Abbott won the Republican primary with ease. He will face Democrat challenger Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke in the general election in the fall.

Two propositions passed in a special election this month:

Proposition 1 (S.J.R. 2, 87th Leg., 2nd C.S., 2021) The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount

of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead.

Proposition 2 (S.J.R. 2, 87th Leg., 3rd C.S., 2021) The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Both amendments will apply to property taxes imposed in 2022.

Since news broke about the leaked draft of a U.S. Supreme Court opinion published last week by **Politico** suggesting the court will reverse the landmark abortion ruling *Roe v. Wade* in the coming weeks, allowing states to regulate abortion as they see fit, Texas has been in the news about the "trigger law" that passed the Texas legislature last year that would make performing an abortion a felony and which would go into effect 30 days after the Supreme Court overturns *Roe*. The law would make an exception only to save the life of the pregnant patient or if they risk "substantial impairment of major bodily function."

The bill was House Bill 1280 (87th Regular Session) – <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=87R&Bill=HB1280>.

House Bill 1280 amends the Health and Safety Code to create a second-degree felony offense for a person who knowingly performs, induces, or attempts an abortion and to provide for the enhancement of that penalty to a first-degree felony if an unborn child dies because of the offense. The bill also subjects a person who engages in the prohibited conduct to a civil penalty of not less than \$100,000 for each violation and sets out exceptions to the application of the offense. The bill prohibits a physician from taking an action that constitutes such an exception if, at the time the abortion was performed, induced, or attempted, the person knew the risk of death, or a substantial impairment of a major bodily function arose from a claim or diagnosis that the female would engage in conduct that might result in the female's death or in substantial impairment of a major bodily function. In addition, the bill does the following:

- Requires the attorney general to file an action to recover an applicable civil penalty.
- Authorizes the attorney general to recover attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing such an action.
- Clarifies that the fact that conduct is subject to a civil or criminal penalty under the bill's provisions does not abolish or impair any remedy for the conduct that is available in a civil suit; and
- Requires the appropriate licensing authority to revoke the license, permit, registration, certificate, or other authority of a physician or other health care professional who performs, induces, or attempts an abortion in violation of the bill's provisions.

House Bill 1280 takes effect, to the extent permitted, on the 30th day after one of the following:

- The issuance of a U.S. Supreme Court judgment in a decision overruling, wholly or partly, *Roe v. Wade*, thereby allowing the states to prohibit abortion.
- The issuance of any other U.S. Supreme Court judgment in a decision that recognizes, wholly or partly, the authority of the states to prohibit abortion; or
- The adoption of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that, wholly or partly, restores to the states the authority to prohibit abortion.

Following the news about the potential reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, House Elections Committee Chairman Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) sent a letter to the CEO of Lyft telling corporations who offer to pay travel costs for employees who seek an abortion that he will introduce legislation next session to find ways to keep them from doing business in Texas. (See attached letter)

"My colleagues and I will introduce legislation next session that bars corporations from doing business in the state of Texas if they pay for abortions or reimburse abortion-related expenses—regardless of where the abortion occurs, and regardless of the law in the jurisdiction where the abortion occurs," Cain wrote in a letter to the CEO of Lyft dated April 29.

"The legislation that we introduce will allow shareholders residing in Texas to sue the directors and officers of any publicly traded corporation that pays for abortions or reimburses abortion-related expenses."

"It will define these acts as a per se breach of fiduciary duty and prohibit directors and officers from invoking the business-judgment rule as a defense," Cain wrote. "It will also prohibit directors or officers who are sued from obtaining indemnification from the company or an insurer, either for an award of damages or for their legal expenses."

### Texas Revenue Outlook

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.83 billion in April, 12.8 percent more than in April 2021.

The majority of April sales tax revenue is based on sales made in March and remitted to the agency in April.

"State sales tax collections reached a new high for the month of April, with double-digit growth reflecting both inflation and continued expansion in real economic activity and employment," Hegar said.

"The strongest growth was in receipts from sectors driven by business spending, particularly the oil and gas mining sector, which surpassed pre-pandemic levels as capital spending in the sector picks up. Receipts from the construction, manufacturing and wholesale trade sectors continued to show double-digit growth.

"Among sectors driven by consumer spending, the strongest growth in receipts was in arts and recreation services, with receipts from sporting events, music and other live entertainment, and fitness clubs far exceeding previous year levels. Receipts from restaurants continued to exhibit double-digit growth as well.

"Receipts from retail trade remain elevated, though only a little higher than a year ago when retail spending surged after the end of COVID restrictions. Slowing growth in receipts from retail trade may signal shifts in consumer spending back toward pre-pandemic patterns. Growth in spending in segments that had benefited during the pandemic appeared to stall, as receipts from home improvement and furniture stores changed little from a year ago, while receipts from sporting goods and hobby stores declined."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in April 2022 was up 22.3 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 59 percent of all tax collections.

Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$525 million, up 39 percent from April 2021.
- motor fuel taxes — \$335 million, up 3 percent from April 2021.

more ►

continued

- oil production tax — \$666 million, the highest monthly collections on record, up 99 percent from April 2021.
- natural gas production tax — \$339 million, up 46 percent from April 2021.
- hotel occupancy tax — \$76 million, the highest monthly collections on record, up 49 percent from April 2021; and
- alcoholic beverage taxes — \$152 million, the highest monthly collections on record, up 27 percent from April 2021.

Jarrad Williams  
DPSOA Vice President



## Attention all Texas Dept of Public Safety Officers Association Members, Got 15-minutes?

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The screenshot shows the Fidelity Blueline Mortgage Inc. website. At the top is the company logo. Below it is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT US, OUR STATE, MORTGAGE CALCULATOR, MORE TESTIMONIALS, and CONTACT. The main heading reads 'Mortgage Loan Services for Law Enforcement Professionals'. Below this, it states: 'Offering a real discount on purchase and refinancing loans to Police Officers, Sheriffs, Deputies, State Troopers, Command and Dispatch.' There are two prominent buttons: 'APPLY FOR NEW PURCHASE' and 'APPLY FOR REFINANCE'. Below the buttons, it says 'Please choose your state below to read client reviews.' At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a detailed disclaimer about the company's licensing in Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Texas, and Virginia, along with the website [www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) and a note about certain charges applying upon completion of credit report and home appraisal or at loan consummation. A 'REAL ESTATE LENDER' logo is also present.



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## SECRETARY / TREASURER

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*Veronica Gideon,  
Secretary / Treasurer, DPSOA*

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Greetings!

The 87th Legislature approved a 4th tier employee group. Below explains the benefits of the group.

### **Answers to questions about the upcoming cash balance retirement benefit for employees hired after September 1, 2022**

Last year, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 321 to address the unfunded pension liabilities (or debt) in the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) Retirement Trust Fund and create a new retirement benefit for new employees hired after September 1, 2022. Here are answers provided by ERS to some common questions on Group 4:

#### **1. What are Senate Bill 321 and the cash balance retirement benefit, and how do they affect me?**

It's probably best to say this first: SB 321 and the cash balance retirement benefit don't change the benefits for any current state employees or those employees hired before September 1, 2022. However, it does have significant value to current employees and retirees because the legislation makes a funding commitment to the ERS pension plan. It will stabilize the ERS plan and put it firmly on a path to actuarial soundness.

The Legislature passed SB 321 to address the long-term financial stability of the ERS retirement plan. There are two major parts to the law:

- The first requires the state to make additional annual payments to the Trust Fund, above its regular contributions that currently equal 10% of the state payroll. The goal of the additional payments is to pay off the unfunded liability by 2054.
- The second part of the law calls for ERS to create a cash balance retirement benefit for new employees who start work at state agencies on or after September 1, 2022.

Although the law has no direct effect on retirement benefits for employees hired before September 1, 2022,



you will benefit because paying off the unfunded liability will help ensure you—and all employees and retirees—get the lifelong retirement payments you earn over your career.

#### **2. If the state's additional payments will pay off the unfunded liability, why did the law also create a new retirement benefit?**

The new retirement benefit lowers the possibility of future changes to the retirement plan, and continues to provide a competitive guaranteed retirement benefit to state agency employees. The new cash balance benefit structure will help to stabilize the overall ERS retirement plan structure and therefore reduce the chance that the retirement program will run

into future funding problems. If lawmakers had not addressed some of the underlying financial risks that contributed to the current unfunded liability, the plan had a greater chance of falling back into an underfunded status.

In 2009 and 2013, the Texas Legislature changed retirement benefits for what were then future employees (starting on/after September 1, 2009 and September 1, 2013, respectively). In 2015, legislators also increased retirement contributions for all employees and the state. The creation of these two additional retirement groups helped reduce future unfunded liability, although they were not enough to fully address existing unfunded liabilities.

The new benefit structure for employees starting at state agencies on or after September 1, 2022 will address some of those issues and better meet the needs of a modern workforce. While stabilizing the plan for the future, the new benefit structure has a lower employee contribution rate and shorter vesting period. Employees in this group also will be able to grow their benefit without active service credit and have the opportunity for automatic annuity increases in retirement.

This will be ERS' fourth retirement benefit structure. ERS plans to refer to members enrolled in this benefit as being part of "Group 4."

#### **3. Is the Group 4 retirement structure a defined benefit, like the structure for Groups 1, 2 and 3?**



*continued*

Yes. A defined retirement benefit is one that pays retirees a set monthly annuity as long as they live—even if their retirement account runs out of money before they die. (Defined benefit plans are different from defined contribution plans, like 401(k)s, which stop paying benefits when the account runs out of money.)

Group 4 employees will participate in a type of defined benefit called a cash balance benefit. Like the current defined benefit plan, it will provide a guaranteed lifetime annuity to retirees. While the cash balance benefit is new to ERS and state agency employees, other major pension funds in the state have offered it for decades. The Texas Municipal Retirement System (which provides benefits to employees of many Texas cities) and the Texas County and District Retirement System (which provides benefits to employees of 253 of Texas' counties and certain special districts) both have cash balance benefits as their only defined benefit retirement plan.

#### **4. How will the Group 4 cash balance benefit work?**

In the cash balance benefit, active state agency employees will contribute a percentage of their monthly salary to the fund, as current employees do. Each employee's contributions will be assigned to their account and earn interest at a guaranteed rate each year. Member accounts also will have the ability to earn more annually, in addition to the guaranteed interest rate, through a feature called gain-sharing. With gain-sharing, Group 4 members will earn additional growth in their accounts when ERS' investment earnings exceed the guaranteed interest rate. But member accounts will never earn less than the guaranteed interest rate, even in years when ERS' investment returns may not reach the guaranteed rate. This will protect members from the downside of volatile financial markets.

A member's account will continue to grow by at least the guaranteed interest rate throughout their career, even if they leave state employment. When a member reaches retirement eligibility and decides to retire, the state will make a state matching contribution to their account balance. ERS then calculates a lifetime annuity based on the final total balance in the employee's account. Regular state service Group 4 members are eligible to retire when their age plus service credit equal 80 (the "Rule of 80") or when they reach age 65 with at least five years of service credit. Certain law enforcement and custodial officer employees may be able to retire sooner, as in the existing retirement groups.

In years when ERS investment returns allow a gain-share adjustment to Group 4 employees' accounts, Group

4 retirees will get an annuity increase of the same amount. Group 4 retirees could get an annuity increase of up to 3% each year, but their annuities will not be reduced in poor investment return years.

#### **5. Can I opt in to the Group 4, instead of my current group?**

No. Your retirement group is based on when you started working for the state:

- Group 1 – Hired before September 1, 2009
- Group 2 – Hired September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2013
- Group 3 – Hired September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2022
- Group 4 – Hired on or after September 1, 2022

#### **6. Why was legislative action necessary?**

The Employees Retirement System of Texas' retirement plan has an unfunded pension liability of \$14.7 billion, and was projected to run out of money during the lifetime of current active and retired employees. Since 2003, the retirement plan's unfunded liability has been steadily growing. Many factors have contributed to the unfunded liability, including inadequate contribution levels, lower-than-expected investment returns in increasingly volatile markets and retirees' longer life expectancies.

The additional payment schedule in SB 321 shifts the ERS Trust Fund from running out of money in 40 years to being 100% funded in 33 years.

#### **7. Will law enforcement and custodial officers in Group 4 still contribute to and get an enhanced benefit?**

Yes, the new benefit structure has an enhanced benefit for employees who contribute to the Law Enforcement and Custodial Officers (LECO) Supplemental Retirement Fund. Group 4 LECO members will contribute an additional 2% of pay to their supplemental benefit. Group 4 LECO members' accounts will function the same as regular Group 4 state employee accounts, except the state will match the amount in their supplemental accounts at a higher rate than it matches their regular accounts. As with current LECO members, Group 4 LECO members will have to work in designated LECO positions for at least 20 years to qualify for the enhanced retirement benefit.

For information on current retirement benefits, visit ERS' Retirement Benefits for Active Employees page at <https://www.ers.texas.gov/Active-Employees/Retirement/State-of-Texas-Retirement>.

Veronica Gideon  
DPSOA Secretary / Treasurer □

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**Those Who Keep Us Safe.**

## DPSOA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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*Clay Taylor,  
Executive Director, DPSOA*

Greetings from the State Capitol!

I hope this year has brought good fortune to you all. Unfortunately, the department suffered another loss in January of this year. Special Agent Anthony Salas of El Paso was killed in a crash assisting US Border Patrol transporting a group to a check point while working Operation Lone Star. We continue to assist the family in their needs. The legislative committee was on travel in El Paso during the funeral and were able to feed several honor guards who traveled from across the country to attend Agent Salas' funeral.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask you to pray for the people in Uvalde who lost a loved one. We have several members working the scene and I cannot imagine the stress and grief this type of event causes. We had Rick Muniz (retired CID) of Los Muertos BBQ provide a BBQ



meal for everyone and he fed over 225 on the 28th of May. Thank you, Rick!

DPSOA has partnered with a new company that offers supplemental insurance if you need it. Washington National is the provider and they have several options for you to choose from. The link is on our website and is <https://mybensite.com/texasdpsoa/> if you are interested.

The DPSOA office has been located at 5821 Airport Blvd. in Austin since 1998. This location continues to serve as both our office and store. The location is perfect however, we have outgrown the facility. Real estate in Austin is many things and at the top of that list is expensive. We have been collaborating with an architect to design a new building.

While doing so, we were approached by the DPS Historical Society to house Highway Patrol artifacts. They need a home and if we can successfully raise money through a Capital Campaign we will gladly include them in our new facility.

*more ➤*



*NTC California.*





*continued*



*A long tradition.*



*DPSTF receives \$14k donation.*



*Memorial DPS Plaza.*

There is no build date but if you are interested in becoming a donor, please email [info@texasdpsoa.com](mailto:info@texasdpsoa.com).

DPSOA has also partnered with SigSauer to offer an engraved P365 pistol to honorably retired Troopers, Special Rangers, and Special Texas Rangers. If you are interested see the attached flyer in the magazine.

May was police month. We honor those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice enforcing the laws of this country. The National Troopers Coalition Spring Conference was in Long Beach California. Texas DPS had three names added to the memorial in Washington D.C. this year. Sgt. Paul Mooney, Trooper Chad Walker, and Special Agent Dustin Slovacek. They were also honored at the NTC conference.

B-2021 recruit school also graduated in May. 101 new Troopers graduated. DPSOA was pleased to sign 98/101 to membership with the Association. There are currently two academies running now with a third scheduled in the fall. Welcome the new men and women to your area when you see them.

DPSTF traveled to Midland for the third annual crawfish boil hosted by Tanner Services, TanMar Companies and Work Designs. These companies donate the proceeds from raffles to the foundation and this year raised over \$14,000. The foundation uses donations like these for financial assistance, death benefits and scholarships to our membership.

If you have kids in college or headed to college, do not forget to apply for a DPSTF scholarship. The foundation authorized \$60,000 in scholarship grants this year. The application is on our website: **Scholarship Grants** ([texasdpsoa.com](http://texasdpsoa.com)).

There is still time to join DPSOA 'Cruising to Cozumel' in October. The forms are in the magazine and online at: **Fall Conference** ([texasdpsoa.com](http://texasdpsoa.com)).

Do you have a smartphone? Well, we have an app for that! DPSOA now has an app for your smartphone! You can access our web page, read blogs, connect with other members, check



## 220418\_DPSOA Presentation



calendar events for the Association and have access to our lawyers for incidents as needed.

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Once the Connect Plus+ mobile app is downloaded on your phone, please click on the sign in button and use the same mobile number that you used and verified working on NEP Connect.

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Midland Fundraiser by Tanner Industries



Fleet motors on display at DPS.



Honor guard in El Paso.

After you have entered your phone number, you will receive a 6-digit code via SMS on your mobile phone. Enter that code in the app and that is it!

I hope you have a great summer and have time to spend with your family. Until next time.....

Clay Taylor, Executive Director  
director@texasdpsoa.com □



## REGION 1 – NORTH TEXAS

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*Conrad Rodriguez,  
DPSOA Region 1 Representative*

---

Hello, from Region 1 in North Texas!

It's been an eventful winter with all the additional duties and assignments. We continue to sacrifice time with family and friends, but the members of DPS have come together to serve and protect the citizens of Texas once again. As an Association, we see and hear from our members about the number of tours they have been sent on and being shorthanded when they are back home. Hopefully, the shortened tour shifts helped our members make the holidays more special. DPSOA has assisted what it can with planned and unplanned events.

I was contacted by DPS CID Special Agent Alex Coleman about the untimely passing of Trooper Quinten Rose due to complications from an off-duty incident. DPSOA assisted by hosting the lunch fundraiser at the DPS Hurst Office. We also provided legal assistance to assist the family with the difficult legal paperwork to follow.

DPSOA was happy to sponsor the DPS Retiree's Annual Qualification by providing a fish luncheon after the sharp

more ➤



*Retired Colonel Beckworth at firearms training.*



*Quinten Rose Fundraiser.*



*continued*



*Northeast texas retiree firearms qualifications.*

shooting was complete. Texas Highway Patrol Captain Kevin Gray requested and organized the event which was a huge success. It is always great to see retirees reconnect and visit with the new Troops in North Texas. A lot of fun by active members and retirees sharing fellowship together is always a good cause!

In closing, I wanted to let everyone know that I intend on retiring after twenty-seven plus years with the Department. It has been a great career, and I am looking forward to the

next chapter in my family's life. We need to treat my replacement well. I am sure he/she will be a great asset to DPSOA.

As always, keep our DPSOA members, non-members, along with friends and associates who have experienced tragedy in your thoughts and prayers.

Everyone, take care and God bless.

Conrad Rodriguez  
DPSOA Region 1 Representative

□



## REGION 2 – SOUTHEAST TEXAS

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*Richard Krenek  
DPSOA Region 2 Representative*

Greetings, From Region 2, Southeast, Texas.

As we are nearly halfway through 2022, I'd like to congratulate all the high school and college graduates so far this year. By now all the DPSOA scholarships have been awarded. I would also like



to congratulate each student who was awarded financial support. Your years of hard work and dedication to preparing yourself to enter the workforce will pay off. If you have a high school student preparing to graduate in 2023 or a child still enrolled in college, don't forget to encourage them to apply with the association next year for a scholarship grant. The application will be posted on the website next spring sometime after spring break. Don't let them miss out on a good opportunity. I attended the DPSOA board meeting on April 30th in Tyler, where I was thrilled to find out the DPSTF granted the association

\$60,000 this spring to be used for scholarship grants. I believe that's money well used.

An easy way to support the Texas DPS Troopers Foundation Inc is to shop Amazon Smile. You will find a link to access Amazon Smile on the association's website. You may also use your smartphone application. Open your Amazon app and click on to the main menu. From there, just follow the instruction to turn on AmazonSmile. When prompted, enter Texas DPS Troopers Foundation. After your settings are all entered, just start shopping.

*more ➤*



*Southeast Texas Troopers taking a quick meal break while working Operation Lone Star near Carrizo Springs.*



*Sergeant Brad Russo working the Centerville manhunt.*

continued



Front left to right: Herbert Fuentes, James Hogg, Frank Rangel. Center left to right: Clint Henderson, Darick Stinson, Corporal. Austin Lunsford, Jesse Fountain, Brian Barnes. Back left to right: Sergeant. Robert Shugart, John Allen, Corey Seymore. Photo taken on 02/16/22. The highway memorial sign is located on US 59 north of Nacogdoches and was dedicated on 11/20/19. Corporal Austin Lunsford, THP Nacogdoches, is the grandson of Constable Darrell Lunsford Sr.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey sent out a few months ago. This information provided a lot of valuable information to help our association set goals to better help our membership. If you did not receive the emailed link to participate in the survey, it is likely you provided your department email address, which is often blocked by DPS internet security settings. Please visit the association website at [texasdpsoa.com](http://texasdpsoa.com). You will find a section on the home page to enter your personal email and your name. Then just click signup and you'll never miss any important information again.

Membership has voted to approve a change to the association bylaws.

This change now permits anyone to become an associate member. An associate member will include a 20% discount on items purchased at the store, access to insurance benefits, but most importantly, legislative support. Our legislative committee has a long and storied history of incredible success with the Texas Legislature. Including pay adjustments and other employee benefits, passage of bills which help the agency achieve important goals, and laws which make Texas a better state to be a citizen. The associate membership is available for the cost of only \$5.00 a month and will be due as one single payment of \$60.00 each year in January. Please help us encourage others

to take advantage of this new membership opportunity.

April and May have seen a lot of activity affecting Southeast Texas members. We've seen major changes to the way deployments are made for Operation Lone Star, a major and extended TDCJ manhunt for an escaped convict near Centerville, National Police Week, and FFO deployments to Houston during the National Rifle Association conference in Houston. I am proud to see members of our fine agency continue to provide the citizens of this state with professional service. Even with the extreme challenges we are faced with, we somehow always get through the long hours of exhausting work and consistently make a positive impact.



continued



*Trooper Steven Taylor family.*

Congratulations to third generation department member Trooper Stephen Taylor and his wife Ari welcomed their third child, Levi, on January 22, 2022. Pictured are all three beautiful children four-year-old Mattie, two-year-old Davis, and newborn Levi. Levi had a cousin who was also in January. Stephen's brother, Trooper Jacob Taylor and his wife Michelle named their new son Luke.

To recognize a job well done by Trooper Josue Alvarez. On May 6th, [more](#) ➤



*Trooper Daniel Zamora – Talking to the children of West Columbia Elementary during career day.*



*Captain Derek Rodriguez and Corporal Lee Swango.*



*Captain Derek Rodriguez and Sergeant Chris Koonce.*



*Captain Derek Rodriguez and Trooper Emily Shepard.*



*Captain Derek Rodriguez and Lieutenant Matt Ochoa.*



continued



*Southeast Texas Region troopers working during the TDCJ manhunt near Centerville.*

Trooper Alvarez stopped to assist a stranded commercial vehicle on US 59 near the Wharton County Line. During this occurrence, Trooper Alvarez was able to determine the trailer was out of fuel and loaded with dozens of victims. Trooper Alvarez summoned assistance from local agencies and medical services. Many of these people were suffering from dehydration and other heat related health problems. In all, seven were transported to a hospital in Jackson County. Trooper Alvarez's actions undoubtedly prevented further injury and possibly death.

At a recent District Staff meeting, Captain Derek Rodriguez presented several awards including a recognition of promotion to Sergeant Chris Koonce, a 25-year safe driver award to Lieutenant Matt Ochoa, and service



*I happened to cross paths with Major JR Allen (retired) one evening at a grocery store.*



*Sergeant Levi Nett speaking at a peace officer's memorial in Brazoria County.*

awards to both Corporal Lee Swango and Trooper Emily Shepard.

On, Sunday, April 3rd, 2022, Trooper Martin Goodwin, conducted a traffic stop on a pickup truck for multiple violations. The driver and a 16-year-old female passenger were identified and during the interview, deceptive and nervous behavior was observed. Trooper Martin Rodriguez and Trooper Dylan Duke were contacted to assist with the investigation. The passenger and driver originally stated they were father and daughter however, things in their stories did not match up. Troopers requested consent to search the vehicle and cell phones. During the investigation Troopers discovered a video on the drivers' phone of the juvenile engaged in illegal relations with him. The driver and juvenile were further interviewed by a CID Special Agent and information was discovered that the driver and passenger were not related, and they were both from El Salvador. The driver was charged with Indecency with a Child and Possession of Child Pornography and the juvenile was released to a family member.

Richard Krenek  
Southeast Texas Region □

## REGION 3 – SOUTH TEXAS

---

*Cesar Cuevas*  
*DPSOA Region 3 Representative*

From the Mind of  
Cesar Cuevas!

This year has been a demanding year for all our troopers and their families. It started with the continuation of Operation Lone Star border deployments, traveling to the far reaches of Texas and its vast borders for weeks at a time.

Troopers are continuing to deploy to the border at a rapid operational tempo, and any issues faced back home are put on pause for another few days as the wave finishes. Yet the Troops take it in stride, supporting on each other as they are away from their homes and regular lives, finding creative ways to unwind and decompress. That is what DPS Troopers do, they adapt to their surroundings and making it their own, as some circles would state, "It IS their state." Some transition from the urban sprawl of their populated hometowns to the rural scrub, brush and heat of Eagle Pass or Del Rio. Others come to the RGV which can be like Eagle Pass and Del Rio but with better Tacos, and that makes a world of difference. Usually by the second wave deployment back to their assigned remote locations, Troops have made inroads and long-lasting professional relationships with the local USBP Agents, National Guard, and State Guard troops, knowing the landmarks and locations as if they were working their home station.

Gone are the days of a Trooper simply working traffic, and crashes.



*On deployment.*

Today the expectation for a Troop is to be a peace officer, first line medic, translator, subject matter expert, and humanitarian.

I have seen first-hand, interagency cooperation and communication so effective that it is a force multiplier and accomplishes the given mission. Perfect example is the Region 3 DPS Tactical Marine unit, training up National Guard soldiers for water operations using State Guard boats. Region 3's TMU was able to train up and ensure that the National Guard boat crew volunteers were well prepared for the rigors of the Rio Grande River. In Spanish, the name of the river is called Rio Bravo; the brave river, and I assure you it lives up to that name, day in and day out.

I am proud that DPSOA is here to support these Troopers, the Holiday BBQ held in Pharr back in December, fed over 200 Troopers, EMS, and other law enforcement who caught the smell



*TMU training.*

of great food, and worked their way to a good meal, camaraderie, and a full stomach.

Better yet, is seeing troopers wearing DPSOA Online store merchandise, notably OLS shirts and morale patches, usually at the Gym. It makes me chuckle when members of the Military ask where they got such items and where can they get one, and of course I will shill and send them to our website. <https://dpsoa.store>. One of the privileges I currently have is being able to travel across the border region. There isn't a road, I don't see a black and white keeping things calm and safe. I have met with plenty of Troops along the way during this border mission, and the conversations range from comedic banter to philosophical discourses. We talk about the ups, and I listen to their downs. Sometimes I am the first person they see in several hours on a desolate road, and a five-minute conversation can make a day go by that much faster.

The one thing I get from everyone is the pride and esprit de corps that they have, in what they are doing.

Cesar Cuevas  
South Texas Regional  
Representative

□





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## REGION 4 – WEST TEXAS

*Justin Baker,  
DPSOA Region 4 Representative*

Greetings, West Texas!

By the time you read this article, the Bicentennial of the Texas Rangers will be right around the corner. The Texas Rangers were unofficially created by Stephen F. Austin in a call-to-arms written in 1823. Since 1935, the organization has been a division of the Texas Department of Public Safety. As of 2019, there are 166 commissioned members of the Ranger force.



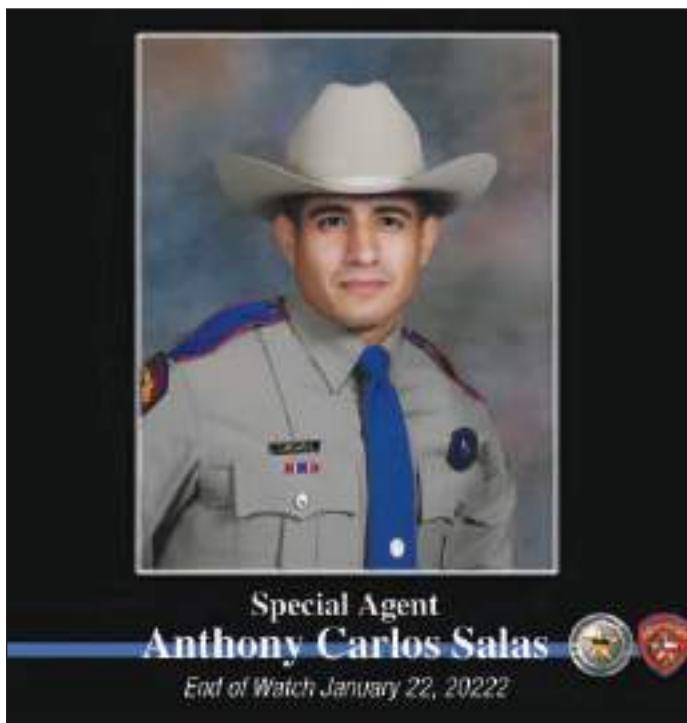
The Texas Rangers have taken part in many of the most important events in Texas history, such as stopping the assassination of President William Howard Taft and Porfirio Diaz in El Paso. The Rangers were also involved in some of the most notable criminal cases in the Old West, which include gunfighter John Wesley Hardin, bank robber Sam Bass, and outlaws Bonnie and Clyde.

Over the years, the Texas Rangers have investigated crimes ranging from murder to political corruption, acted in riot control, protected the governor, and apprehended wanted fugitives. Additionally, The Texas Ranger Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program was created on September 1, 2001, by the 77th Session of Texas Legislature. The

program's primary objective is to provide Texas Law Enforcement agencies with a process for investigating unsolved murders or what appear to be serial or linked criminal transactions. Since there is no statute of limitations on the offense of murder, the State has the moral and statutory obligation to pursue these cases to a successful resolution, or until no other lead is viable. Since its inception, the Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program has recorded 145 cleared cases, 120 of which are homicides. The oldest case solved was 1960 case which was solved in 2016, 56 years after the crime.

The Texas Rangers Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program is made up of the Program Supervisor and six Texas

*more ➤*



*Gone but not forgotten.*



*Genesis Daniella Martinez, daughter of Trooper Daniel Martinez, El Paso and his wife.*



continued



Mateo Ruvalcaba son of Angelica Ruvalcaba TIC-El Paso.



Samuel Wade Morante born to Alex and Ashlea Morante.



415 lbs of marijuana from traffic stop for speeding on US 285.

Rangers, one in each Company. The West Texas Region is home to Company "E" Texas Rangers. Company "E" was founded in 1874 as part of Major John B. Jones' Frontier Battalion and has served with distinction for parts of three centuries. Company "E" serves west Texas from Brady to El Paso and Lamesa to the Mexico border.

The Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program in Company "E" is led by Jeff Stain, Texas Ranger Division, Company E, Midland, TX. Strain joined the Department in 2002. After 5 years, 8 months of Texas Highway Patrol (THP) service, Strain promoted to the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) where he completed a variety of investigation for 4 years, 3 months. It was in 2012, Strain felt the calling to take his investigative skills to the next level by going through the stringent process of joining the Texas Ranger Division. Jeff Strain is an experienced Ranger with an established history of working in the law enforcement industry. He is skilled in Criminal Law, Internal Investigations, public corruption, crime analysis, forensic crime scene investigation, as well as advanced interview and interrogation strategies. Ranger Strain is a firearms instructor, previously

served as a Precision Rifle Operator, and is a certified TCOLE Instructor. Ranger Strain is a Master Mason and has a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Finance from Texas Tech University.

We interviewed Ranger Strain about his experiences since taking over the Cold Cases in the West Texas Region.

When did you become the Company "E" cold case Ranger? *I was first assigned to Cold Case investigations in 2018, at the time, I was still working on active cases, responding to emergencies, and operating as precision marksman for SRT4. Later, I was given the option to be a full-time UCIP cold case Ranger, I jumped at the opportunity to fully focus my efforts on solving cold cases.*

What do you enjoy the most when investigating these cases? *As most folks in Law Enforcement would agree, we don't do this for the money or the fame, we do it so we can help and serve our communities. Cold Cases are very challenging, and it allows me to learn and become a better investigator as well as letting the families know we haven't forgotten what happened. The biggest enjoyment comes from the success, there is nothing better than being able to call a family to provide some closure and justice on these cases.*

What do you enjoy the least? *There are not enough hours in the day to do this job, I tell folks, I absolutely love what I do, and I would work 24/7 if I could, but I also strive to succeed in the responsibilities I have outside of work, especially with my family and the few hobbies that I enjoy.*

How has modern technology changed and assisted since the program was implemented? *Technology has drastically improved over the years. In 2020, I was able to utilize Forensic Genetic Genealogy (advanced DNA analysis) to help solve the 1982 rape and murder of 64-year-old, Velma Nessel in Odessa, the first Texas Rangers case to be solved with this technique. Technological advancements in DNA, Latent Print comparison, digital forensics, crime scene analysis and profiling are all playing a key role in finding justice on these cases.*

What's your oldest case? *The oldest case I actively work is the 1953 murder of Raul Arevalo in Sutton County. There are other cases older in Company "E", but this is the oldest I actively work.*

What's your newest case? *I recently identified several cases of Aggravated Sexual Assault which are attributed to one unknown suspect who has committed sexual assault offenses both in Texas and in other states. I am hoping I can get this suspect identified and provide justice for the victims.*

How many cases have been solved since you took the lead on cold cases? *I have been the lead on four cases solved so far, a 13-year-old cold case murder, a 38-year-old cold case murder, a serial*



Texas Ranger Jeff Strain.

rapist, and discovered the identity of a previously unidentified human remains case. I have furthered numerous cold case investigations and I have also contributed to successful cases outside Company "E".

What's your most memorable or most impacting case you've investigated? That's a tough question. I have been involved in the investigation of the El Paso- Wal-Mart mass shooting, the Odessa mass shooting, worked overwatch at the Super Bowl, investigated the senseless capital murders of Peace Officers, contributed to a death penalty case, meaningful public corruption cases, and countless other shootings, etc. But as far as cold cases, I would say the Nessel case is dear to me, because through technology, teamwork with the local agency and old-fashioned police hard work, we were able to find the answer and justice for her.



TFO James Morris.

How can people see what cold cases are in their area? *The Texas Rangers Cold Case website has profiles of unsolved cases from each Company area. I would also encourage folks to look at their local crime stoppers websites for information about local cases.*

How can people report information they might have on a cold case? *The Texas Rangers website has a link to "Submit a tip online". This link will allow a person to submit information which will go directly to the investigating Ranger. Also, I welcome anyone to contact me directly at the Midland DPS office.*

*In closing, I would just like to mention that working cold cases is a team effort and luckily, I work with some of the best. My chain of command, fellow Rangers, our local law enforcement agencies, analysts, and crime lab folks are some of the many that remain steadfast in the fight for good, to see that justice prevails.*

We honor the life of Special Agent Salas who joined DPS in July 2013, initially stationed in McKinney. In 2015, he transferred to El Paso, and in 2019, Salas was promoted to Criminal Investigations Division special agent. He was also a member of the DPS West Texas Special Response Team and routinely participated in special operations. He was a man dedicated to service. Prior to joining DPS he served in the United States Marine Corps for almost nine years, earning the rank of sergeant. He remained a proud Marine.

Salas was a loving husband to his wife, Lizzett, and a devoted father to their three children, Alessandra, 14; Isabella, 11; and Luke, 7. Salas loved the Pittsburgh Steelers, DC and Marvel, Wu-Tang Clan and trying new restaurants. Above all else though, he was a family man.

Sergeant Tactical Flight Officer James Morris – received the 2022 William P. Clements Excellence Award at the Public Safety Commission Meeting.

Sgt. Morris, Aircraft Operations Division (AOD) Alpine, began his career with DPS in 2002. His productivity, loyalty and devotion to duty have significantly enhanced the services provided to AOD.

He has worked with numerous pilots and agencies in the Big Bend area and is an expert tracker on the ground and in the air. Additionally, he's been involved in numerous life-saving missions during natural disasters, active shooter events and other critical incidents. Morris has also earned several awards and letters of commendation.

Justin Baker  
West Texas Regional  
Representative





## REGION 5 – NORTHWEST TEXAS

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*Joe Cannon,  
DPSOA Region 5 Representative*

Greetings from the greatest region of the state of Texas. My last article was a bit premature. I wrote a farewell address to the DPS nation even though I still had one more article to craft for the information and entertainment of the masses. This article, however, will certainly be my last as DPSOA representative for region 5, or the Northwest Texas region.



Having been a part of region 5 is one of the best parts of my career. There is no cop job better than being a Trooper. The closer I get to the beginning of my civilian career (around the 1st of October), the more I realize there won't be any more manhunts, pursuits, deployments, task forces, tactical training, or unique policing activities that



*Region 5 CNU Training with WFPD – Feb. 2022.*

very few people will ever experience. We all have a few stories of things we have been able to do because of our job that very few folks, even other cops, will ever be able to do. There have been ups, downs, great days and bad days, sometimes all in the same day. It has been phenomenal.

One of the best parts of this career was being able to work inside of DPSOA and see what really goes on behind the doors of headquarters and in front of the pulpit of the legislature. DPSOA is responsible for a lot of what provides for my family. Without the work of DPSOA leadership and lobbyists, the paycheck I will be receiving after retirement would be much less. Moral issues may sometimes go unnoticed without the help of DPSOA addressing them. Communication, both political and social, throughout the state would be immensely more difficult if DPSOA were not a part of DPS. I will always be appreciative of what has been done and I look forward to what will be done in the future.

DPSOA has worked tirelessly for the 20 years I have been a part of their membership. When something does not work out the first time, the fight continues into the next session. This past session DPSOA was able to work with ERS to create the first real plan to make retirement actuarially sound. They were able to secure a phenomenal raise for communications and schedule C after a four-year struggle. There have been a few folks who are under the mistaken impression that the 50-hour workweek is something that cannot go away. The 50-hour workweek must be approved every session. DPSOA works to help secure that at every session.

Highway signs for fallen Troopers have been secured as DPSOA worked and continues to work with TXDOT on



*Supervisor Jacque Blair and PCO Olivia Gonzalez at the Chad Walker Memorial Obstacle 5K Beach Run.*



*5B Off Duty Pistol Qualifications.*



*DPS Representing at the Chad Walker Memorial Beach 5K.*

bringing those signs to the roadways. Funding for bullet resistant windshields was also something that DPSOA helped to secure. Most importantly, the Daniel Shown Bill, SB1071, was passed with exclusive work from DPSOA to ensure Troopers who are injured in the line of duty are able to medically retire at the highest salary for schedule C. DPSOA is the only agency lobbying exclusively for the DPS employee.

Most of you know I will be 45 years old when I retire at the very end of September. Sometimes folks do not believe that is possible. Folks have given me all of their reasons why I cannot retire at 45 years old with a brand new kid. There is an acronym called F.I.R.E. that has been impactful in how I plan for my future. It stands for Financial Independence Retire Early. That statement highlights the hard work that went into the first two letters of that acronym and the enjoyment that comes from the second two. With a paid

off mortgage, paid off vehicles, no credit cards, and no other debt of any kind, it's a lot easier to retire early, even if you have to take a percentage cut of your final salary. Thanks to DPSOA, that percentage cut will cut even less with the latest pay raise.

There are many folks with a bunch of ideas about how to get ahead or how to retire early. Most of them involve more debt or leveraging debt for "income" from other assets. We all have different opinions. The difference in everything I have seen from others and what I have done in my life is that what I have done actually worked. Most of you know my story, that I paid off \$174,000 of debt, started coaching others in finance, and followed a plan to retire early. Most of you also know I am always willing to help others create a plan to do the same thing.

*more ➤*



continued



Chryst Smith with Region 5 Command before her retirement.



Meredith Domme receives her 30 year award from Region 5 Command.



RD Joe Longway gives Sergeant Jason Rogers his 20 year award.



RD Joe Longway gives Sergeant Oscar Esqueda his 25 year award.



Region 5 Communications at the Chad Walker Memorial Obstacle 5k Beach Run.

There are a lot of things about this job I know I could do much better if I had the opportunity to go back. There are even more things I am grateful for.

Using my past mistakes to make a better future is the best part of life. As I ease out the DPS door into to the world of home renovation projects, traveling

with my family and coffee on the patio, those grateful things are what I want to remember. If any of you ever want to contact me after I retire, I do not plan to change my phone number. 806.336.9100 has been a great way to get in touch with me for the past twenty years. I plan to keep it around another twenty.

Thank you again to all of you who have been a part of my DPS career. I learned something from each of you. Stay safe.

Joe Cannon,  
DPSOA Region 5  
Representative

□

## REGION 6 – CENTRAL TEXAS

*Monte Carroll,  
DPSOA Region 6 Representative*

Howdy, from  
Central Texas!

I trust  
everyone is  
doing well.  
Summer will  
be upon us,  
and we are  
already deal-  
ing with our  
typical hot

days. This has been an active tornado  
season. It has been a while since we  
have seen this many tornados.

Since I last wrote, the DPSOA Board  
has held a couple of Board meetings.

*more ➤*



*Sergeant Ryan McKittrick providing guidance to members of the Lampasas High School Criminal Justice class as the students experience the law enforcement side of high risk stops.*



*TASER training A-2022.*





continued



OC training A-2022.



In January, we met in San Antonio. Cesar Cuevas was sworn in as the Region 3 Representative. Cesar has been very active in the Association, and I look forward to working together in the future. We met again in Tyler in April.

Recently, the Department made a welcome change to the Operation Lone Star (OLS) rotations. While I cannot say with certainty that the survey DPSOA conducted had an impact, I like to think that it did. If you were unaware of the survey, it is likely due to the firewall protections that are associated with our work emails. If you have not already done so, please take the time to contact the Association and change your email address to a personal email instead of your work email. We conducted the survey in March of 2022. It was dis-

covered that many members did not receive the survey notification. We still had many responses, but it would have been better to have had even more members respond. Most of the respondents had more than 10 years of employment with the Department. I was pleased to see that Region 6 had the most members respond. While most respondents rated their overall satisfaction with the Department as "Satisfied", there was still over 21% that responded that they are considering seeking another job. Morale within the Department was found to be primarily in the average to low range.

The annual conference will be upon us soon. This year will consist of our annual meeting, which will take place at the Tremont Hotel on October 10th,

followed by a cruise. You do not have to go on the cruise in order to come to the annual meeting. Members of the Association are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, and any board meeting throughout the year. The Association is only as strong as our membership, and attending the meetings gives you, as a member, the opportunity to know what your Association is doing for you.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege to meet with members of the soon-to-be graduating class of B-2021. We had the opportunity to visit with the class to explain to them what DPSOA is about and offer them the opportunity to join. Almost every member of B-2021 joined. Besides the other benefits of being a member of the DPSOA, our legal rep-

continued



*Fleet crash award.*

resentation is awesome. I recently had the opportunity to visit with a Region 6 DPSOA member who voiced his appreciation for the excellent legal assistance that he was provided. He said I could share his comments with others. He described being involved in a critical incident on the 13th of May 2021. I remember the event, while I was not personally involved. He said he needed of a defense attorney, not because he had done anything wrong, but simply protect him as he should be. Being a member of DPSOA, he contacted the office of Bob Gorsky and he was quickly connected to attorney Zach Horn in Plano. Mr. Horn promptly arrived on scene within the hour and went right to work. Our member said he was very impressed with Mr. Horn's care and concern. He knew Mr. Horn had his best interest in mind and he described Mr. Horn doing an outstanding job assisting throughout the lengthy process. Mr. Horn stayed involved to the end. Mr. Horn also offered his future assistance to our member. While our member hopes he never has need of this service again, he said he has confidence in the process because the service was second



*Crash.*

to none. In closing, our member said, "Thank you DPSOA and Zach Horn for your excellent service."

While I was not surprised at what our member shared about his experience, I was happy to hear that he received such excellent and satisfying legal assistance.

In closing, once again, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Be safe and watch your six.

Until next time,

Monte Carroll  
DPSOA Region 6 Representative







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## REGION 7 – CAPITOL

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*Tyler Warner,  
DPSOA Region 7 Representative*

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Howdy, from Region VII!

I hope everyone had a blessed Easter. I always enjoy Easter Sunday and being able to spend time with family.

Since the last article, my wife and I welcomed our first child. I have been in and out of the area since January, but I have done my best to stay informed of area happenings.

On March 26, 2022 the 4th Annual Ken Copeland Challenge took place in San Marcos. This competition was held in memory of Kenneth Copeland, a fallen San Marcos PD officer who died in the line of duty on December 4, 2017.

He was passionate about physical fitness and the competition was created to continue his fitness mindset for local first responders in the Hays County area. Capitol Region DPS entered two teams this year. Team One consisted of Lieutenant Larry Ferguson (EPB) Corporal Freddy Duran (THP) Trooper Gershon Joseph (EPB) and Trooper Michely Simon (EPB). Team Two consisted of Captain Henry De La Rosa (EPB) Lyndsi De La Rosa (Crime Lab) and Captain Jeremiah Richards (THP) and Lieutenant Kevin Allison (EPB). DPS Team One was the overall winner out of 9 total teams. Congratulations to those folks! Lieutenant Larry Ferguson was the overall individual winner of the 36 total competitors. DPSOA donated shirts for

both teams and the DPS Fitness Unit provided the necessary fitness equipment. Congratulations to all who participated. What a great way to keep the memory of a fallen officer alive, and positively represent DPS.

Members of Region 7 also attended the annual Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony located at DPS Headquarters. This was a special time to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice while honoring them along with their families. Region 7 members participated in the Honor Guard, Motors, Mounted Patrol, Bikes, and operating the Drone during the event.

Troopers have been recently deployed to the Capitol for Roe v. Wade

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protests. Many of the protests have occurred at the Capitol and on the Capitol grounds while awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court. It is important to recognize the visiting Troopers who

have protected the Capitol on multiple occasions. These Troopers are called to balance duties within their duty stations, at the border and the Capitol. Region 7 is grateful for their assistance during these times. As usual, DPSOA has ensured the Troopers stay hydrated and fueled during their stay by providing Gatorade and snacks. With the weather warming up, we will continue to keep our Troopers as comfortable as we possibly can.

As mentioned in the previous article, we continue to prepare for another legislative session. It will be here before we know it. I was also fortunate enough to address the most recent recruit class prior to graduation along with many

other DPSOA board members. While speaking to them, I told them that at some point in their career, they would most likely find themselves assisting at the Capitol in some capacity as the Capitol Region continues to grow. The Capitol Region plays a vital role to our agency. We have the ability to make a positive, long-lasting impact with those we encounter while at the Capitol. I hope each of you have a wonderful rest of your summer, and I look forward to a full return to work and providing more information in the coming months.

Take Care!

Tyler Warner  
Capitol Representative



## RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

*Alex Bartee,  
DPSOA Retiree Representative*

A LEGEND has retired. My classmate from A-79, **Jeff Sones**, retired the first of June 2022 with 47 years of service to the Department of Public Safety and the State of Texas. Colleen and I were able to attend a gathering in his honor and there was a very good turnout. After a BBQ dinner he was given a large photo of his Sgt. Area taken at Texas State University Bobcat Stadium. He was also given a Texas flag that was flown over the Texas State Capitol, and it was folded and mounted in a nice triangle frame. A few speeches were made from Jeff's friends and co-workers.



Jeff was a firearms instructor for about 40 years, and he conducted pistol qualifications for lots of Retirees. Corporal Sones was a longtime CVE Trooper in the San Marcos area. He was also a



SWAT Team member. Jeff will be missed in this area and town because he is moving to Alaska and will be a part-time Texan. Best wishes for Jeff and his wife Karen. He plans to write a book of his adventures with the Department of Public Safety.

April 28, DPS hosted a Retiree Qualification in Florence at the DPS Tactical shooting range. About 150 DPS Retirees came out and qualified with NO BLOOD SHED... Always a good sign. DPSOA provided an excellent BBQ meal after the shoot with many door prizes. The active members of DPS are always fun to talk to from the Chiefs to the Troopers.

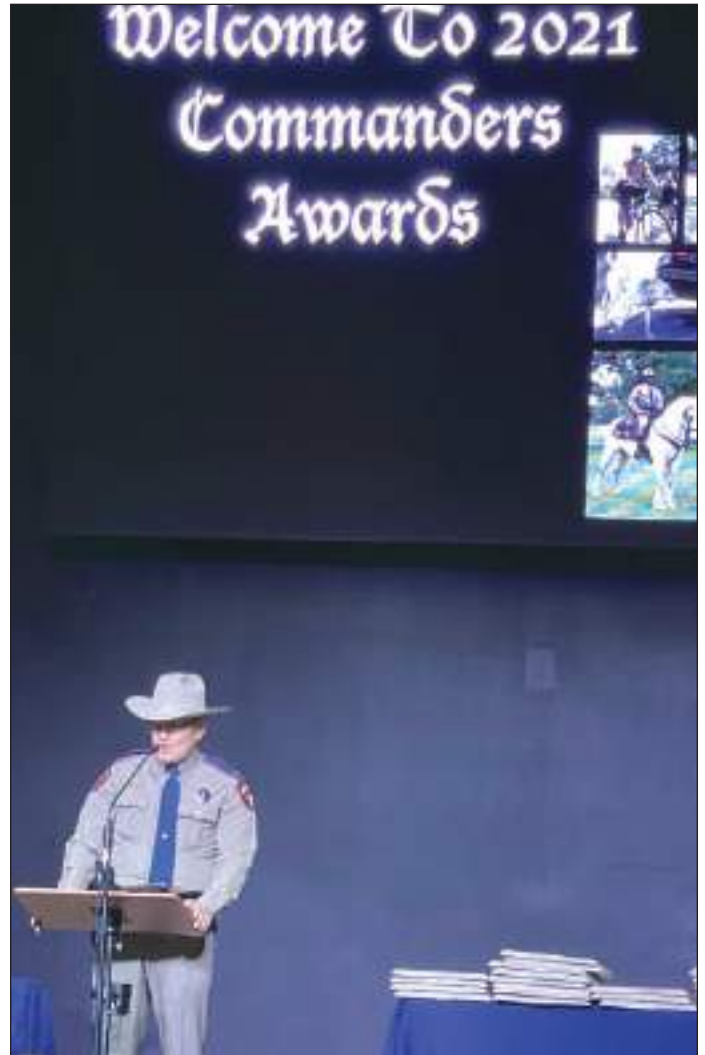
May 9, I hosted a Retiree qualification at the Bexar County firearms training facility in southern San Antonio. We had 24 retirees attend and qualify. Thank you, Trooper Harold Estep, for being our Range and Safety Officer.

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May 26, 2022, Colleen and I were invited by Captain Tellez to the 2021 SERVICE COMMANDERS AWARDS DISTRICT 6C. Capt. Tellez gave 28 awards for OUTSTANDING SERVICE in areas of Traffic Enforcement, Criminal Law Enforcement, DWI and CMV areas of enforcement. Capt. Tellez gave some background on each Trooper from memory with no written notes. Our own DPSOA President, Lt. Richard Jankovsky, received his 20-year service award. Capt. Tellez also recognized 29 of the administrative staff from the District and gave each a gift and thank you for their work and service. The Family of Texas State Trooper Terry Miller was present, and Capt. Tellez presented them with a DPS License Plate he had

made with Trooper Miller's ID number. Trooper Miller's ID plate #08933 is still on a Black and White that has not been retired at this time. Trooper Miller Graduated the DPS Academy in July 1997. Trooper Miller was killed in an ambush in the Pleasanton area on October 12, 1999 in Atascosa County.

Thank you, Captain Tellez, for inviting us to this event. Capt. Tellez is very active in getting retired HP License plates to Retirees with the same ID number. Thank you, Captain, for acknowledging our DPS Retirees.

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## RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

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*Wayne Williams,  
DPSOA Retiree Representative*

Hello, from the hot humid south Texas coast!

When Clay Taylor emails all the reps and tells us it is time for another article, you begin wondering what you are going to say that hasn't been said before.

As a retired representative for many years, I have written about a lot of things. The one thing though that does stick out in my mind is the state and morale of DPS now as compared to when I was on the road. I have watched the constant sending of our troopers and CID to the border time after time, causing many people to leave DPS or think about leaving this career. This has caused a hardship on family life like never seen before. DPSOA submitted a survey for members' comments about various job-related issues. There were numerous negative comments about the border issue. I can only hope that the Governor and the Colonel read the comments and do something positive about this issue.

There was a nice pay raise for the Schedule B employees again, but there are still many vacancies. Troops want to stay in their counties and work their counties. They don't mind an occasional special duty assignment but having to go on one, month after month, year after year, is not what they signed up for. Sure, I can talk like this because I am retired. But I will hopefully speak for those who feel they cannot. Other changes I have seen are the uniforms the troops wear. I am envious of the uniform as I had to wear either a short sleeve shirt or a long sleeve shirt with a blue tie. I hated the clip-on tie. The vehicles they drive are not the Plymouth Fury. I did enjoy the Mustangs and Camaros.

DPS now has the DPS Navy, Swat teams, canine teams, interdiction teams, and a few others. They don't have the Narcotics Division, Criminal Intelligence Division, and MVI anymore. They have closed numerous communication stations. I read the various comments by retirees on Facebook



all the time. The one thing I hope the active troops know is the troopers and employees who are now retired are the group of men and women who demanded and earned respect for the badge and the job. There can be a great debate on how law enforcement is now being looked at by the public and how some of the respect has been lost, but I don't want to get into politics and talk about how that happened. I have watched how the police officer puts the murderers and rapists in jail only to have very low bonds set and these people (and I am being nice here) are back on the street committing the same crimes if not worse. That is Harris County and Travis County. Mental health will be the next new thing. I think there will be more

education for the police officer in the future. You see more and more mass shootings with the shooter being bullied in school, shunned by his peers, or just being loners who don't mix well in public. The law enforcement people are going to have to be more subjective and less reactive. When these ill people make comments about committing these heinous crimes, then law enforcement must be given the power to take them into custody before they commit the crime.

I know this article may have rambled a bit, but these are the few things I see in my old age and hope that the active employee stays safe and does their job without fear that they will get a C-1 (do they still have those?) or sued. I hope that their immediate supervisor gives the employee the benefit of the doubt and protects them from malicious complaints.

For the retirees, stay busy, get a second career or volunteer, but don't just sit and do nothing. Stay busy and keep your spouse happy!

Wayne Williams  
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