



TEXAS STATE TROOPER

www.texasstatetroopers.org
TSTAMAIL@aol.com

NUMBER 175

TSTA REPORT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

APRIL/MAY 2009

Fredericksburg trooper, other officers and community praised for kindness following fatal automobile crash

Kerrville troopers help, too

Mrs. Cathy Jo Haney was killed in a highway crash last Christmas season on Highway 16 near Fredericksburg, leaving three small children and a young husband. For the young family survivors, strong and quick community support was mounted by area officers, businesses, schools and Fredericksburg people. Much of the outpouring of support was spearheaded by Fredericksburg Highway Patrol Trooper James Scoggins, who was the first to arrive at the scene of the tragic accident. The death scene and wreckage was very bad.

Trooper Scoggins made his investigation. Mrs. Haney was dead. The funeral home came and picked up her body. The young husband came, and seeing the trooper and the wreckage of his wife's car knew the news was bad even before he asked the dreaded questions. Trooper Scoggins had to give him the news at roadside. "He took it as you might expect," said Scoggins later.

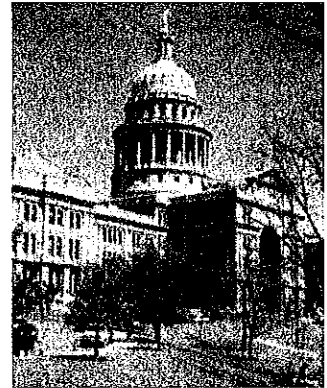
The Fredericksburg trooper drove the husband home in his patrol car. En route, he called his neighbor, Rev. Paige Findley, a pastor who dropped his Christmas shopping and quickly hurried to meet them at the Haney home. The trooper's escort and pastoral arrangement was one of those priceless acts that met a rare moment of ultimate need. The pastor became a quick spiritual friend in need to Haney and his three children as they struggled to react and cope. Rev. Findley prayed with Mr. Haney and his children, and later spent personal time with the children. Trooper Scoggins, who made a follow-up visit to the family later, learned that the minister made several follow up visits.

Then, the Fredericksburg community began pouring out its heart to the grieving young family. HEB gave hams and other groceries; other merchants gave other gifts, as did other anonymous citizens. Schoolteachers and students

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To end soon: 81st Legislature: Session Update

By
Deborah C. Ingersoll
TSTA's Legislative Liaison
President, Legislative Solutions
☆☆☆



The 81st Session of the Texas Legislature is now in its critical final stages. At this writing, little has been ultimately decided. The issues most important to our members, pay raises for commissioned officers and benefit increases for retirees, will be resolved by a conference committee of select members of the House and Senate, whose job it will be to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the state budget.

Early hopes for very substantial raises for Schedule C personnel were dashed by the recession and by very disappointing revenue figures from the Comptroller. The Public Safety Commission originally hoped to receive more than \$100 million to fund pay raises for commissioned personnel. The Commission's request was pared back to the \$48 million recommended by the State Auditor, but even this number got sliced up very severely in the legislative process. The Senate version of S. B. 1 - the 2010-11 Appropriations Act - includes about \$19 million for Schedule C pay raises for the biennium, which would yield raises ranging mostly from 4-7% for officers at all ranks. In the House version of S.B.1, no money was appropriated, and all Schedule C pay increases were moved in Article XI of the bill, which is commonly referred to as the "wish list." We are cautiously optimistic that the final version of the budget will include appropriations for a modest pay increase. It should be noted that despite a well-organized and vocal lobby campaign by corrections officers, and despite a crippling shortage of corrections officers at TDCJ-ID, the Legislature has only been able to fund a 5% increase in their pay, and not the 20% they had requested and hoped for.

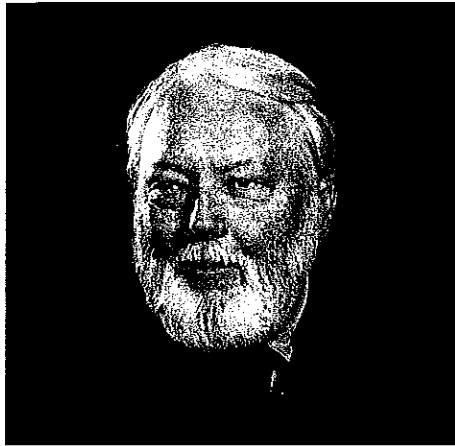
For retirees, there is good news and bad news. The bad news is that neither a benefit increase nor a "13th check" appears likely at this time. There was considerable

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OFFICERS: Lee Johnson, President • Herschel Henderson, Vice-President • Anne Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer
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• Trooper Don Bender, (Retired) • Trooper Kenny Wadsworth, CVE- Ozona • Trooper David O'Neal, HP-Marshall
EDITOR: Jack Lawler • PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: JoAnne Smith

Court's In Session

By Judge Larry Gist



Therapeutic Justice

From the beginning of Western Culture, it was generally believed that we could correct those who violated the law by always imposing a suitable prison sentence. Great thinkers called it "just desserts" or in more simple terms, "you got what you deserved."

That theory resulted in our having a higher and higher recidivism rate and in short, it just wasn't working. In more modern times, it boils down to our need to confine the most dangerous among us. That approach is designed not to change them for the better but just to keep them from hurting us again.

That leaves a very large group of offenders who we're not afraid of but who we really don't like. Is there some way we can change them for the better without it costing taxpayers an arm and a leg?

That has evolved into a system of an ever-growing number of therapeutic courts dealing with various types of specific offenders. We now have drug courts, mental health courts, family violence courts, teen courts and the list continues to grow.

These specialty courts have achieved a very successful record of reducing recidivism and costs. As new treatments are developed, the future looks brighter than ever.

Drug courts were originally established in the 1990's with the first being set up in Miami. Research on drug courts suggests that the court can effectively address the intractable problem of drug abuse and criminal behavior. Drug courts provide a close and comprehensive supervision environment. In most instances, the drug courts take cases away from traditional processing and punishment and move them into a treatment program.

They substitute the normal adversarial approach with a collaborative case management style where everyone works together to help the offender change drug usage and criminal behavior.

For some unexplained reason, the judge is central to this unique approach. The judge seeks to affect the behavior of offenders by using the influence of the bench,

support and guidance rather than the intimidation often found in regular court proceedings. The judge functions as a reinforcer of positive behavior.

Judges actively participate in a constructive, positive effort to help offenders change. They thus adopt a social service role as a supplement to the traditional role of adjudicator and enforcer of legal norms. The judge's reaction is supportive if the offender is making a bona fide attempt to complete the treatment program. And equally important, the judge must impose penalties if a negative offender continues their failure to abstain from drug use.

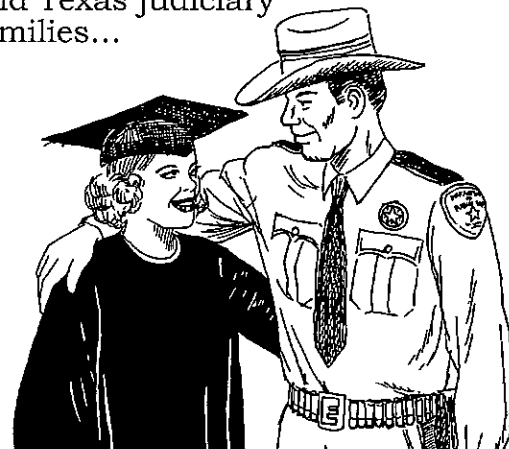
The Government Accounting Office issued a positive report on the original Miami drug court. It found that drug courts must operate on the philosophy that drug addiction is a disease, relapse can occur, and that the court must respond with progressive sanctions and enhanced treatment rather than immediately terminating the program when a violation occurs.

The time an offender spends under drug court supervision varies. Some keep an offender a minimum of one year while others last much longer. Admission qualifications and requirements also vary from place to place. Drug courts respond to relapse in a variety of ways too. Some increase the frequency of court hearings; others impose short periods of incarceration, more frequent drug testing and an increase in treatment programs.

Judges in drug courts are working in new roles and making decisions entirely distinct from those made in regular court proceedings. They are required to direct the treatment options that are imposed on offenders. Those may include (1) acupuncture, (2) group therapy, (3) individual therapy, (4) emotional workshop, (5) anger management, (6) HIV education, (7) GED training, (8)

Continued on page 3

TSTA congratulates the
GRADUATES
of Texas law officers
and Texas judiciary
families...



and wishes them all success
and happiness for the future!

Texas State Troopers Association
5540 North Lamar * Austin, TX * (512) 450-1814

81st Legislative update...continued from front cover

speculation that a 13th check might be funded with federal economic stimulus money, but the proposal seems to have lost momentum as the session has progressed.

The good news, for retirees and employees alike, is that despite taking huge losses in the economic downturn, the state pension fund and group benefits plan are in much better condition than the great majority of state and municipal pension funds and benefit plans. The Legislature has taken a conservative approach to fund and plan management in this session, more concerned with preservation than enhancement of benefits. As a result, at a time when most government employees and retirees are losing benefits, our state employees and retirees should experience no changes or reductions in health insurance benefits, and no increase in contributions.

There is more good news for commissioned officers, in that it appears that the Legislature is likely to appropriate most, if not all of the funds the Department sought for the purchase of 450 additional patrol cars. We may not reach the objective of one-car-one-Trooper in this biennium, but we will be closer to it than ever before, and this, combined with the Department's relaxation of the residence rule, should represent an important quality-of-life enhancement for commissioned officers.

As the session enters the home stretch, TSTA's legislative team continues to work hard on these issues and on countless other bills that could affect our members in one way or another.

We will continue to monitor developments that affect TSTA and its members. For timely updates on legislative affairs please visit the TSTA web site at <http://www.texasstatetroopers.org>.

AD&D Benefit Renewed

We are pleased to announce to our members that at **NO COST TO YOU**, we have renewed a \$2,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit for each of you.

A notification of these benefits was mailed to each member, so be sure to watch your mail for a yellow response card. **You do not have to return the card if all you want is the \$2,000 AD&D benefit.**

However, if you are interested in participating in the Health Services Discount Plan, members should return the reply card for further information on the Health Services Discount Plan. An AIL (American Income Life) representative will contact you to set up an appointment to deliver and explain the no-cost benefits. This plan provides members and their families with discounts at point of service on vision, hearing, prescription drugs and chiropractic. On average, members receive discounts up to 30% per prescription and up to 60% on vision care, chiropractic and hearing aids. This program is not insurance, so members are not required to fill out forms. All they need to do is show a discount card when they visit a participating pharmacist or health care provider.

The TSTA provider is very strong financially. TSTA has been working with them for the past several years with outstanding service provided on all levels.



Court's In Session...continued from page 2

pharmacology of substances, (9) relapse and recovery, (10) stress management, (11) relapse prevention and (12) employment counseling.

The success of drug courts is apparent and the results much better than those obtained by confinement alone. The newer therapeutic courts dealing with mental health, family issues, etc. have yet to develop a record but there is every reason to believe that they will mirror the success of drug courts.

In general, therapeutic jurisprudence suggests that offenders may be more responsive to an orientation of a court that uses positive reinforcement rather than the traditional tools of retribution, deterrence and punishment found in regular criminal case processing.

It will be interesting to see if the public responds favorably to this new approach to criminal justice in certain specific types of cases. The cost of treatment is far below the cost of incarceration. The results of treatment are much greater than the recidivism from incarceration. These specialty courts are designed to deal with people we don't like but who we're not afraid of. The majority of the harm they cause is to themselves rather than innocent victims.

These new approaches to criminal justice deserve a close look by the public they are designed to serve but so far, it looks like they are working incredibly well. So stay tuned.

Until next time, you'll be careful out there, you hear.

FOR US...SOME GAVE ALL

**Monday, May 25, is
MEMORIAL DAY**

Folks who have no vices have very few virtues.
-Abraham Lincoln

Fredericksburg Trooper...continued from front cover

sent money. One Fredericksburg city police officer, Frank Habecker, who didn't even know the Haney's, stopped by their house to offer his help with anything needed. "That was typical," says Trooper Scoggins, "of Fredericksburg people."

Some Fredericksburg law officers – troopers and sheriff's deputies - raised money and presented it to Mr. Haney to help with family expenses. Trooper James Scoggins was involved in this. In his very next church worship service, Rev. Findley spoke of the tragic accident and Mrs. Cathy Haney's death. He asked his congregation if anyone would like to make a financial gift to Robert Haney and the children to help with funeral expenses. The financial response overwhelmed the pastor. It was a large amount.

Later, he called the funeral home and told them that his church, the Hill Country Evangelical Free Church, wanted to pay for the funeral. He was told that a relative of Cathy Jo Haney in Houston had already paid for it. Temporarily taken aback by this, and in possession of the large gift by his congregation, Pastor Paige Findley began researching Robert Haney's financial needs. He learned that the Haney's lived in a rent house and had wanted to buy the house. Result: the gift from this small church pastor and his people to the Haney's resulted in the Haney's being able to purchase the house in which they have been living. Today, Robert Haney and his children have a permanent home.

"I cannot say enough in praising Rev. Findley," says Trooper Scoggins. "He and his church put their Christianity in action when the need was really there. Also, along with the great Fredericksburg community, this minister is a strong supporter of law enforcement."

Trooper Scoggins also has high praise for some Kerrville DPS troopers, especially James Salas, Coy Morales, Travis Hall and Cpl. Keith Olive. There had been a "hit and run" vehicle in the fatal highway crash. This vehicle had been headed toward Kerrville, about 20 miles away, after the accident. Knowing that the driver could be from Kerrville, these troopers quickly set out to find and identify the vehicle.

"I didn't have to ask them to do this," says Scoggins. "They knew I needed help and responded. They spent days looking at similar vehicles, gathering video from retail businesses and interviewing potential witnesses. It meant a lot to me that they took such valuable initiative. Not all organizations have voluntary teamwork like this. I'm honored and proud to work with a great bunch of professionals like this."

Speaking about Trooper Scoggins, Pastor Findley says, "If all the other DPS troopers are like Trooper James Scoggins, then I want them all with me when I get into a crisis."

WE CARE
Texas State Troopers Association

What can you say about a town that so quickly and vigorously puts its arms around hurting people in need? Or, about DPS troopers and other officers who do the same? Or what can you say about a compassionate pastor who responded to a huge need quickly along with his generous congregation? We in the DPS family know there are other towns, other troopers and other law officers who score high on kindness and going the second mile for people, but the officers and people of generous and caring Fredericksburg deserve a national news story. Perhaps some "national" will see this TSTA story. We'll give it to them.

By Jack Lawler

Fredericksburg Highway Patrol trooper James Scoggins was a 20-year veteran law officer before he joined the Texas Department of Public Safety. He was a patrol officer in the Helotes Police Department who started in 1984, resigning as a Captain in 2000. Then he worked in the Attorney General's office and spent time in child pornography investigations and in money laundering cases. During these years he met many DPS officers and admired the way they conducted themselves. This motivated him to join DPS. He graduated from the DPS Recruit Training Academy at age 42, served first with Cleburne-HP, then transferred to Fredericksburg-HP.

THAT DREADED FATAL NOTIFICATION

To all of the Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers who work terrible and sometimes fatal traffic accidents and then have to notify the next of kin, we want to say "Thank You for your service." The families never have to see what you see and we want you to know that your kindness and compassion are noticed and appreciated. We know you are trained to handle difficult situations, but also know your hearts are touched. Your compassion can only come from within.

The family of Cathy Jo Haney, killed December 11, 2008 on Hwy 16 near Fredericksburg, wants to especially thank Trooper James Scoggins for all his support and kindness to Cathy's three children and husband. Trooper Scoggins will never know how he has affected the lives that he has touched during this tragic time. The community of Fredericksburg has blessed this family beyond words. Teachers, Coaches, Girl Scouts, Citizens and Churches have helped ease the family's burden of losing a daughter, wife and mother. Thank you all for your support.

No family wants that phone call or knock on the door to tell them their family member is gone, but when it does occur, thank you DPS troopers, for your support and kindness that you so willingly give. We will never forget you.

Gratefully,
The Family of Cathy Jo Haney

TSTA Membership Advantages

- Free Last Will & Testament • Free AD&D Insurance • Emergency Assistance • Legal Assistance • Recreational Facilities • Legislative Representation • Personal Counsel

If you don't like someone, the way he holds his spoon will make you furious. If you do like him, he can turn his plate over onto your lap and you won't mind.

Two trooper family: Father and son stay close today although miles apart

When Highway patrolman Bill Nelson arrived home after patrol one evening, he wearily took off his hat and duty belt with sidearm and handcuffs on it, after hugging his wife and four-year-old son Richard. He placed his handgun up high and out of reach of little hands, but laid the Sam Browne belt with the handcuffs pouch on a coffee table. Noting his young son's interest in the handcuffs, Bill warned him away from them and left the room. Several minutes later, Bill and his wife heard little Richard cry out from the bedroom and ran to him.

There the four-year-old had handcuffed himself to the bed frame and was struggling. That was the first shocker to the trooper father. The second was his discovery that



Highway Patrolman Bill Nelson with son Richard
(Photo courtesy Nelson Family scrapbook)

he didn't have the key and had probably left it at his DPS office. The problems got solved, and little Richard Nelson got a spanking from his trooper father.

There would be other spankings as young Richard grew up.

Like most DPS troopers' children, Richard Nelson's growing up days were characterized by where his parents lived and where his DPS trooper father was stationed. His father Bill Nelson was born in the oilfield area near Henderson, in East Texas. His father (the grandfather) had come there from Arkansas to work as a "roustabout" during the oil boom of the thirties. After high school in Henderson, Bill joined the Army, in between two wars – Korea and Vietnam – and served three years. Returning home to Texas he joined DPS, graduating in January, 1963.

His first assignment was to the Driver License service in Beaumont, where his son Richard was born in 1964. Also during the Beaumont years, Trooper Bill Nelson moved to the highway patrol, and on one special night, made a significant assist to his highway patrol partner Lee Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was en route to a hospital to have a baby. Nelson and Johnson were working, and Nelson took Johnson to the hospital to witness the birth of his son, Steve. Troopers Nelson and Johnson were partners for almost two years.

The Nelsons then transferred to Tyler DPS. During these days, the impact upon Richard in having a DPS trooper father must have been strongly felt by the growing son. He got rides in his father's patrol car, went on DPS family picnics, made pals with the son of another trooper – and always, always, was aware of the DPS uniform his dad wore, and the DPS patrol car his father drove. On special occasions, at about age nine, he learned how to flip on the switch under the dash that activated the old wind-up siren. The car: an old '73 Plymouth.

The old Plymouth didn't have much equipment, but nine year-old Richard Nelson soon mastered what little it had. He could turn on the red light mounted on the door post (for signaling speeders) and he could steer standing up. Richard was energetic and also athletic. He started playing flag football in the fourth grade. His trooper father somehow managed to see all his games. Bill Nelson saw that his son had a talent for catching the football. The two-some played a lot of backyard "catch." Richard's football continued for a long time. And he was not always a model student. One day at school, facing a hard assignment, Richard (age 10) simply walked out and walked home. He sat in his tree house, waiting for the school bus to arrive to make his arrival look legitimate to his mother.

But the school had already called his home. "Richard ran off!"

His mother had called her husband's partner, Glenn Miller. (Trooper Bill Nelson's partners were all like "second fathers" to young Richard.) The partner found Richard and sternly asked him to explain his conduct, then took him to a restaurant. They both knew that when the "runaway" was returned to school, he would be "paddled" by the principal. Nelson's partner (Bill was in Austin) said, "You'll have to go back and face the music."

He took Richard back, but interceded for him with the principal. He stressed that the lad was regretful for leaving school. The principal dismissed the spanking. But back in class, Richard knew that his father would get the news and spank him later. It was two days before Trooper Bill Nelson arrived home – a long two days of anticipation by his son. Yes, the spanking came. Discipline and church attendance were maintained in the Nelson home during the growing up days of Richard and his younger sister Rebecca. The discipline and the backyard pass catching between father and son paid off in Richard's high school years. He played a lot of good football for *Port Neches High, caught a lot of passes at his split-end position.

The DPS family in the Tyler area was close and smaller. The Nelson family was happy. But one factor troubled Bill. "The salary was lousy," he recalls. "We were barely making it." In 1976, he regretfully resigned DPS and took a job as a sheriff's deputy where he stayed five years and

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* At one time coached by Bum* Phillips, who went on to coach the Houston Oilers.

Two Trooper Family...continued from page 5

made lieutenant. Then, he got a job in security with Gulf Oil, and stayed eight years, but DPS was still in his blood. He returned, this time in Communications.

Meantime, Richard had graduated from high school (1983) and went to work at the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC-Rosharon). He liked it because he was a field officer who guarded prison farm workers on horseback. He stayed 11 years and made lieutenant. "I learned a lot about people there," he says.

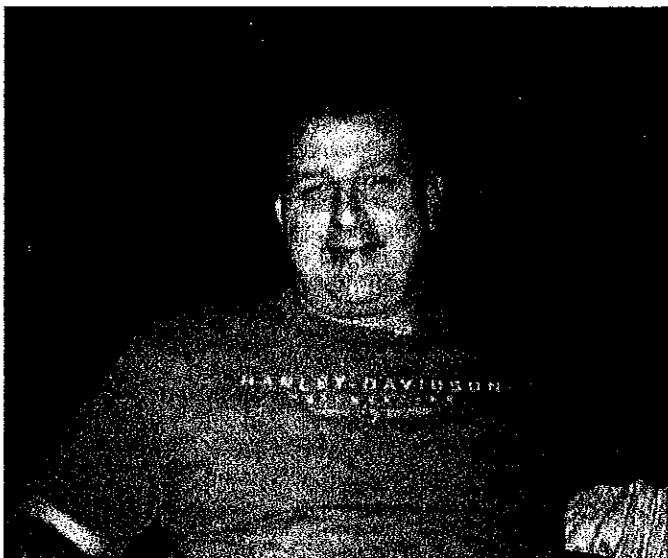


Throughout these different careers, the father and son stayed close. They often met at a central point and went fishing together, just the two of them.

At a Christmas family reunion in Silsbee, Texas in 1987, a DPS cousin, Ed Cain, talked to Richard about changing from TDC to DPS. "My dad, your dad and me," Ed rationalized, "are all DPS. You should be, too." Richard's uncle, Cecil Cain is also a retired trooper.

The idea stuck with Richard Nelson – but he needed 60 hours of college. By this time he was married, with a baby daughter. With determination, while keeping his TDC job, he started night classes at Alvin Jr. College. His 60 hours took him three years. He applied with DPS in 1994 and was accepted. He graduated from the recruit training academy in June, 1995 and was assigned to the highway patrol in Silsbee (Hardin County). His Field Training Officer (FTO) was none other than his cousin Ed Cain. (All DPS rookie HP officers ride with a veteran officer their first six months.) At the end of the six months, Ed Cain resigned from DPS, ran for sheriff and got elected.

By then, his father had retired and moved to Arkansas. The two Nelsons kept in touch.



Sgt. Richard Nelson

By 2006, Richard was Highway Patrol Sgt. Richard Nelson, stationed at Anahuac, Chambers County. Today, with 14 years diverse DPS experience plus his 11 years work with TDC, he is well-qualified for his unique function as a training instructor at the DPS Recruit Training Academy in Austin. There he teaches physical training, general police procedures, the use of pepper spray and classroom driving instruction. The latter involves frequent trips to the new DPS state-of-the-art driving facilities at Florence. His father says, "I'm proud of him today, and have always been proud of him – except for the time he messed with my handcuffs!"

Did this trooper father influence his son to become a DPS trooper in earlier days? "I never did talk to him much about a DPS career," says Bill Nelson. "Mainly, I just tried to set the right example for him. I guess he just watched how I did things."

They both have big memories of the earlier days. "DPS in Beaumont and Tyler was more of a family then," recalls Richard. "The wives and mothers socialized more and their officer husbands and kids often met in somebody's home to discuss work problems. There were DPS picnics in parks, and meals together. It's not that way anymore."

One of the best memories Bill and Richard Nelson have is the many times they went fishing together. "There were several small lakes around Tyler," recalls Bill. "Often we would head out to one of them right after church on Sundays. Once when Richard was about ten, he caught a big one...a 4 3/4 lb. bass. His line got so tight he thought he had hooked a stump."

Being much older, Bill Nelson's memories are more than Richard's and go back further. He remembers going through recruit training with Col. Dudley Thomas (now retired) and with Lee Johnson, now President of the Texas State Troopers Association and a practicing attorney in Beaumont. Lee Johnson's memory of Trooper Bill Nelson: "The best partner any HP-trooper could ever want." Richard Nelson's special memory: "On my trooper recruit graduation day, I received my commission and badge from Gov. George Bush. What made this so special is that this was a governor who became president of the United States."

As a highway patrol sergeant, Richard says that he tried to always be available when his troopers needed him, but to mainly let them alone to do their job. He often told his

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This summer...

Visit TSTA and enjoy its health/recreational facilities!



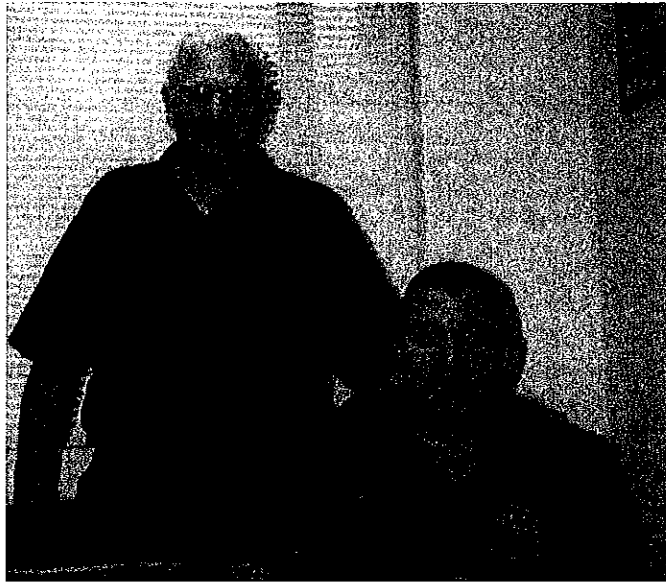
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- exercise room
- racquetball court
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troopers, "You took a job that others cannot do. Be yourself, be true to yourself."

Does the oldest one in this two-trooper family have any advice to fathers raising sons and daughters? "Yes, it's from the Bible. Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is older he will not depart from it."



His advice to rookies? "Keep looking forward. It's going to get better."

The senior Nelson has a grandson and two granddaughters. He lives at the foothills of the Washita Mountains on 2 3/4 acres in Arkansas. He still goes fishing, and likes retirement. Richard Nelson and his wife Colette live in Austin. Richard has two daughters, Krista, 13, and Kalea, 19.

What does a trooper father and a trooper son like these two say to each other on Father's Day? It may start with a hug, and then they probably say, "Let's go fishing."

By Jack Lawler

Words from the Book

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.

He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day.

Psalms 91

Do you know the words to "TAPS"

*Day is done...Gone the sun...From the lakes...From the hills.
From the sky...All is well...Safely rest...God is nigh.*

Fading light...Dims the sight...And a star...Gems the sky. Gleaming bright...From afar...Drawing nigh...Falls the night.

Thanks and praise...For our days...Neath the sun...Neath the stars. Neath the sky...As we go...This we know...God is nigh.

Health tips

Activity benefits the aging mind and body

Need more evidence that it's worth staying active as you age? A recent study of women in their 80s found a direct correlation between activity level and cognitive function – meaning how well the women were able to plan and accomplish their daily tasks.

The study appeared in the September 2008 issue of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society and involved 2,736 women. The women – who had no evidence of memory problems – wore a specialized, watch-like device (actigraph) on their wrist for several days. The actigraph measured daytime wrist movements, essentially capturing movements as small as fidgeting to larger physical activities tied to things such as gardening or cleaning. The women also took several standard cognitive tests.

Researchers found that those who were most active scored better on the cognitive tests than did the least active women.

Mayo Clinic doctors say the results add to the growing number of studies that point to the apparent benefits activity has for not only the body, but also the brain. In general, aim for at least 30 minutes of activity on most days of the week for a healthy body and mind.

Reprint with permission from *Mayo Clinic Health Letter*, February 2009.



Quarter Century Club

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

5805 N. LAMAR BLVD.
BOX 6067
AUSTIN 78773

March 25, 2009

T. S. T. A.
Attn: Jack Lawler
5540 N. Lamar Street
Austin, TX 78751

To Mr. Lawler;

I would like to extend a thank you for donating towards the Quarter Century Club at Texas Department of Public Safety. The recipients were very pleased with the door prizes. The 53rd year for our banquet was a huge success and having door prizes made it even better for the employees that have completed the milestone of working for TXDPS for 25 years.

Again, thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lamar Beckworth
Lamar Beckworth
Chairperson, Quarter Century Club

WE CARE

TEXAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

TSTA holds barbecue for Class B-2008 Recruit graduates; March 27 ceremony gives Texas 104 new troopers

They came mostly from small towns all over our state. After 28 weeks of intensive training completed, they have now been sent all over Texas to provide public safety. Practically all are Texans, most are married, and within the 104 new officers, 39 were military veterans and many of these did combat duty in Iraq.

The troopers began the 28-week training academy in September 2008. Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including counter-terrorism, traffic and criminal law, arrest and control procedures, accident reconstruction, first-aid and Spanish. They also received extensive use of force, communication skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness training.

Keynote speaker for the graduation ceremonies was State Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine. "Texas will be a safer place thanks to you," he said. "I am humbled by your commitment to serve and protect our people."

Col. Stan Clark, Director of the DPS (retired), told the graduates that the people of Texas will depend on them for safety and protection.

"It's an exciting day for you and your families. You are now a part of one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country. You will be on the front lines protecting the citizens of Texas, who will expect you to act with the highest integrity. Make all of us proud," he said.

Two nights before this important (and happy) event for these 104 men and women, TSTA gave a rousing barbecue for Class B-2008. They all came, brought their counselors and also huge appetites! TSTA Executive Director Claude Hart greeted the group with congratulations and information about TSTA membership advantages. A special part of the evening was the gift of a Gideon Bible to each graduating recruit, presented by Austin representatives of Gideons International.

A crashing spring storm with hail attacked the TSTA building during the barbecue, but the ravenous barbecue troopers paid it little mind.

Most of the new troopers were assigned to the highway patrol service and are now on duty. They will spend their first six months in on-the-job training with a veteran trooper. TSTA congratulates this fine group, and is proud they got to meet them before they left Austin.

Excerpts courtesy DPS/PIO

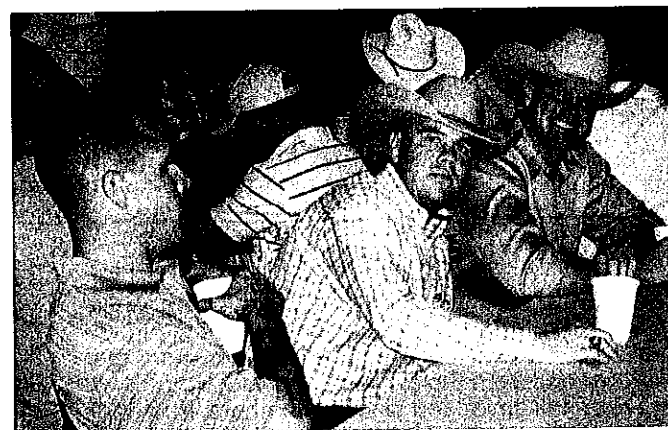
There are no routine stops.

Good words for troopers in a roadside fight: "Never, never, never, never, never, never, never, never, never give up."

-Winston Churchill



Trooper Charles Lindorfer won the Major James Ratliff Award "Top Gun Award" presented by Mrs. Ratliff and daughters.





Trooper Landon Corbett with Administrative Div. Chief Valerie Fulmer, received the B-2008 Academic Achievement Award.



New Trooper Gernan Chavez hails from Edinburg in the Rio Grande Valley. He is married (wife, Elizabeth) and has a two year-old son. He comes aboard at DPS after a tour of duty as a sheriff's deputy in Hidalgo County. He grew up in Edinburg where he graduated from high school, then attended Pan American University.

Why did he choose DPS for a law enforcement career? "I felt it was the best agency, and offered a better future," he said.

And there was another reason. One of his brothers, Eduardo, was a DPS highway patrol trooper who was killed in the line of duty three years ago. "I want to honor my brother," he adds.

Trooper Chavez has another trooper brother: Enrique, Weslaco - CVE. His parents and a sister live in McAllen. Chavez's DPS assignment is Rio Grande City-HP.



New Trooper Enrique Cantu, hometown Falfurrias, has been assigned to the highway patrol in Edinburg, hometown of his close friend Trooper Gernan Chavez. The two worked together as sheriff's deputies in Hidalgo County, which they both note is the 5th largest county in Texas. He is married (wife, Clarissa). He graduated from high school in Falfurrias where he played football (linebacker!). He holds a B.S. Degree in Criminology/Sociology.

Why did he choose DPS for a career? "I grew up on a small South Texas ranch," he says. "After my chores were done, I watched a lot of television. My favorite show was 'Walker, Texas Ranger.' It influenced me."



Trooper Melvin Allick II was presented the Phebus Award by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Phebus.

(Awards photos courtesy DPS Crime Lab, (Chris Singleton)

Law officers, tell your civilian friends who are worried about their investments:

One of the most secure investments you can make is in Public Safety. It affects jobs, crime and taxes.

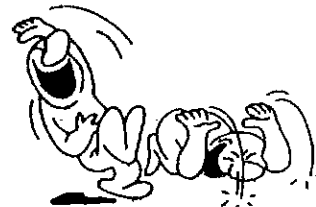
WE CARE

Texas State Troopers Association

Snap judgment has a way of becoming unfastened.

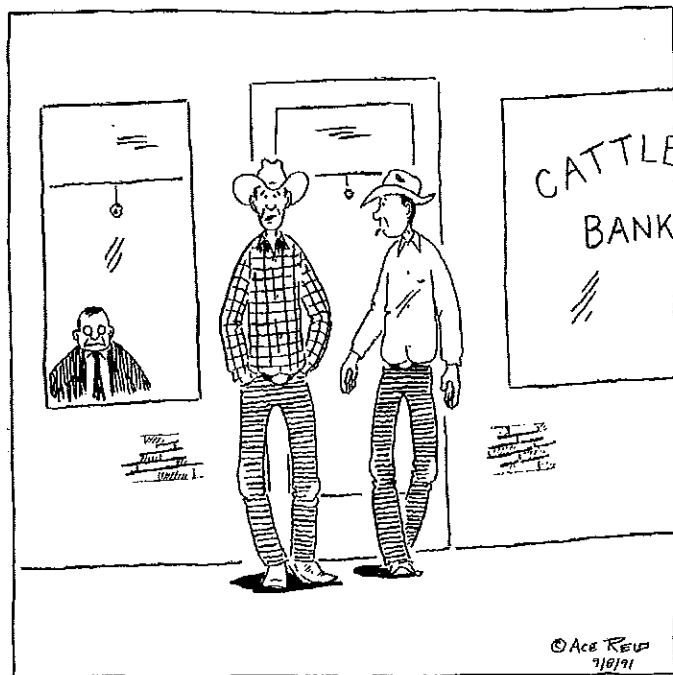
There never was a champion who was a good loser.
-Notre Dame Coach Knute Rockne

* Kuempel's Korner *



COWPOKES

By Ace Reid



"First he said my assets were frozen, then liquidated and now they have evaporated!"

A vast portion of the truth arises from the seemingly irrelevant.

Justice travels with a leaden heel, but strikes with an iron hand.

When all else fails, read the instructions.

Laugh big at your supervisor's jokes. He may be giving a loyalty test.

The late Justice Felix Frankfurter once said he did not have the authority to perform a wedding. Someone asked why.

"Marriage is not considered a federal offense," he answered.

Recent newspaper ad: "For sale, complete set of Encyclopedias. Good condition. \$1000. Just got married. Wife knows everything."

"Minds are like parachutes. They only function when open."

-Thomas Dewar

Your body is the baggage you carry through life. The more excess baggage, the shorter the trip.

Man hurries in to his doctor's office. "Doc, you got anything that will cure the hiccups?"

"Stand right where you are," said the doctor, moving close to his patient. He unleashes a powerful 'haymaker' to the jaw, decks his patient. The man raises to one elbow, feels his bruised jaw.

"Lord, doctor, why did you do that?"

"Well," said his doctor smiling, "You don't have the hiccups anymore, do you?"

"Oh no, doc," said his patient. "It's my wife. She's out in my car."

"Do you have a criminal lawyer in town?", a tourist asked an old-timer.

"Well, we think so," the old man replied, "but we can't prove it."

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Statement of Purpose

Texas State Trooper is an official publication of the Texas State Troopers Association. Should you have news you would like published, mail it to:

Texas State Troopers Association
 5540 North Lamar
 Austin, TX 78751
 E-mail us at TSTAMAIL@aol.com
 Website: www.texasstatetroopers.org

The Texas State Troopers Association is open to all first-line commissioned members of the Department of Public Safety, both current and former.

TSTA intends no indictment of those of supervisory rank through their exclusion as members of this organization. We do understand, however, that no association can be all things to all people. Therefore, we have chosen to represent those who need our services more: first-line troopers. This policy negates the probability of conflict of interest that stems from multi-class representation.

TSTA will work hard for the betterment of life for every member of the department.

FOR MEMBERSHIP: Complete the application below. Mail it and a check for \$25 payable to the Texas State Troopers Association to the address at the top of the application. Include your jacket size: M, L, XL, XXL or XXXL. Your cap and jacket will be mailed to you.

WILLS: Members are reminded that one of your benefits from TSTA is the free preparation of a last will and testament. This service is performed by Lee Johnson. He may be contacted at:

Lee Johnson
 Attorney-at-Law
 575 N. 7th Street
 Beaumont, TX 77702
 Telephone: 409/833-8911

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2009

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_____	_____

OFFICE ADDRESS (street, city, zip code)	OFFICE PHONE NUMBER (include area code)
_____	_____

DATE EMPLOYED	DATE OF COMMISSION	DATE OF TERMINATION (if no longer with DPS)
_____	_____	_____

Membership dues paid to TSTA are not deductible as gifts or charitable contributions but may be deductible under an IRC Section other than Section 170 (c).

I, _____, request membership into the Texas State Troopers Association, and if accepted agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, the rules and decisions of its officers. I also agree to pay annual dues of twenty-five (25) dollars for all of a calendar year or any part thereof.

I understand that any unreasonable failure to assist a fellow member of the Texas State Troopers Association will result in this membership being cancelled by the board of directors at their option.

I also understand this membership will terminate immediately if I am promoted to any supervisory rank of sergeant or above.

 Signature of applicant

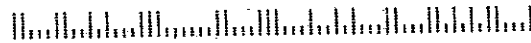
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TSTA MEMBERS!

Your TCLEOSE Hours Can Become College Credits, Enhance Your DPS Career

TSTA has been contacted by Mountain State University asking for our help in advising our members about their degrees in Criminal Justice through their distance learning program.

Obtaining your degree from a respected, nationally accredited institution is the key to advancing your criminal justice career. Earning a degree can boost your earning potential and increase your chances of getting a promotion. Employment for Criminal Justice professionals is expected to increase 36% or more through 2008. As more qualified candidates enter the field, the best opportunities will go to those with advanced degrees.

Finding time to study while maintaining your professional and personal obligations can, at times, be difficult. Mountain State University recognizes this challenge and has created their distance learning program specifically for busy criminal justice professionals like you. At MSU there is no wasted time with required in-class room meetings. Everything you need to complete your coursework is either delivered to your door or available anytime, anywhere through their online virtual classroom and live chat sessions.

There are several degrees to choose from. One undergraduate degree, a Bachelors of Science in Administration of Criminal Justice, allows students to transfer up to 54 TCLEOSE credits into the program so as to hasten progress towards a degree. Additionally, Mountain States also accepts certain TCLEOSE courses as substitutes for General Education requirements. For instance, a TCLEOSE instructor can substitute for speech. A certified accident investigator need not take college business math. Forty-eight hours of TCLEOSE Spanish can replace one course in humanities as can a 40-hour HazMat course replace a science course.

We have spoken with the Houston Police Officer's Union which has a significant relationship with Mountain State University and speaks highly of their program.

If you are interested, contact TSTA and we will mail you an information packet. For specific questions please contact Mountain State University as follows:

Mountain State Univ. /CJ-Direct, 1-866-312-9595
sbarnette-admissions@adjc.com

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Many gave much, some gave all. This is true of many Texas law officers. TSTA remembers.