



# TEXAS STATE TROOPER

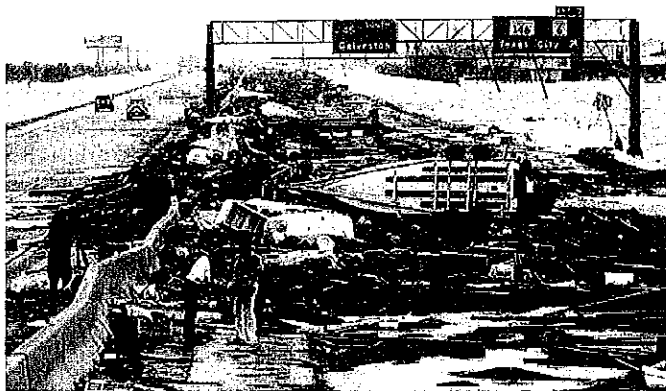
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TSTA REPORT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008

## Troopers battle Hurricane Ike, endure it's wrath, help many



**"This was no reality TV show. This was reality."**

- DPS trooper Mike Cantu

Hurricane Ike was a horror story for the Texas Gulf Coast, parts of East Texas and Southwest Louisiana. Thousands of people were devastated, before, during and after the "hit." The mandate for providing public safety by troopers and other DPS personnel suddenly mushroomed to immense magnitude. As Hurricane Ike bore down on the coast with Galveston and Houston dead ahead of it, troopers from all over the state were ordered into the danger area. Others were readied for Ike's aftermath.

Troopers who went into the devastated areas endured many of the same hardships as the weary citizens: sleeping in warehouses or on church floors or in their patrol cars, hustling for food in towns where restaurants and stores were closed, sweating with the humidity without air conditioned buildings for relief. Days later, after returning to their homes away from the desolation, many troopers had sad and pathetic stories to tell the families.

Such a trooper was trooper Mike Cantu, HP-Seguin. Mike was teaching field sobriety testing to recruits at the DPS training academy when the hurricane news began to get bad. Recruit classes suddenly began losing in-

structors. Mike was soon ordered to report back to his Seguin duty station to begin working 12-hour shifts (hurricane duty). His sergeant got sent to the San Antonio Emergency Operations Center (EOC). During this time, the DPS underground Division of Emergency Management (DEM) was on full alert working with storm specialists, the National Guard, FEMA, the Governor and DPS trooper leadership.

Then Trooper Mike Cantu got his special hurricane duty orders. "Be in San Antonio tomorrow at 6 a.m. Be prepared to be gone seven to ten days. Bring your own food and supplies. "You may have to fend for yourselves."

Mike and other troopers prepared. His supplies included Gatorade, bread and turkey sandwich slices. He and other troopers assembled with a caravan of National Guard military vehicles to provide DPS patrol car escort for travel toward the coast. In these assembly moments, Hurricane Ike struck Bolivar Peninsula and Galveston with monster force. As they headed for Beaumont, the big military vehicles were slow, which made for a long trip. Arriving in Columbus, the caravan stopped for gas and to possibly get some food.

They found very little of either. Most restaurants were out of food. The local Subway sandwich shop was out of bread. Whataburger was open but overloaded with crowds of hungry travelers fleeing the storm. The troopers and guardsman had not known that the effects of Hurricane Ike had affected areas this far inland such as Columbus.

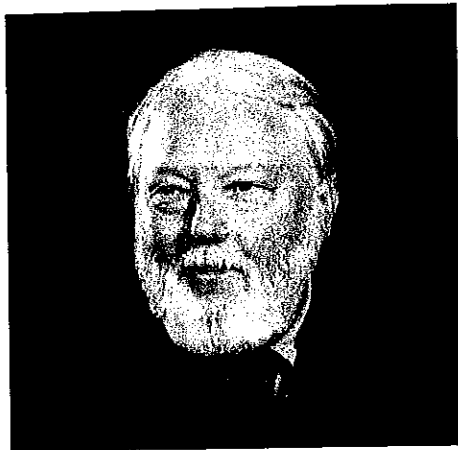
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# Court's In Session

By Judge Larry Gist



## Reel Justice

Did you ever think of just how many movies there are dealing with trials and criminal justice issues? They are everywhere. And like it or not, the average person forms their opinion about the criminal justice system from what they see on TV and at the movies.

Just think of the hit we took when everyone was glued to the OJ trial (if you want to call that circus a trial) and the average guy on the street just accepted that everything done in every courtroom was identical to the farce in California.

So let's take a look at some of the most popular, successful and acclaimed movies and see just how they make the criminal justice system appear.

Let's start with two very funny movies. In **My Cousin Vinny**, Joe Pesci plays Vincent Gambini, a brash, profane and totally inexperienced New York lawyer. He and his fiancée, Mona Lisa Vito travel to a small Alabama town to defend his nephew and a friend who have been wrongfully arrested for the murder of a store clerk. Gambini is uncouth and unkept, having no idea of how to dress for court or handle himself in the courtroom.

The film's tongue-in-cheek approach conceals a substantial issue present in many trials; the credibility of eye-witness testimony. In one instance, Gambini discredits an adverse witness based on the time it takes to cook grits down South. Funny as all get-out, but everybody appears to be an idiot.

And speaking of idiots, **My Cousin Vinny** is a misdemeanor compared to **And Justice For All**. Al Pacino is Arthur Kirkland, an idealistic Baltimore lawyer who has every off-balanced person in town as his clients. The system abuses them at every turn, and their arch-enemy is the ruthless right-wing sadistic Judge Fleming. But when his honor is himself charged with rape, he compels Kirkland to represent him. Judge Fleming knows how much Kirkland despises him, and because Kirkland is his lawyer, it lends credibility to his claim of innocence.

All of the proceedings are before Jack Warden who

plays Judge Rayford. It seems Rayford has a death wish and he is a ringer for the very best totally nuts judge of all time. He sits on the ledge eating his lunch with the pigeons, keeps a shotgun by his side sitting on the toilet, and flies his helicopter just past the half-way point to see if he can get back with not enough gas. The price for this lampoon of the criminal justice system is total detachment from reality. But just how many people think our system operates exactly like it does in the movie?

I suppose everybody that has ever gone to law school has been told that there is no better model of a lawyer than Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch in **To Kill A Mockingbird**. The movie has been described as one of the most inspiring pictures about the law ever made. Atticus is called upon to defend a despised black man in a hopeless sexual assault case of a white woman. And of course all of this happens in a small southern town where the people turn to hate Atticus for accepting appointment to represent this clearly guilty criminal. At one point, Atticus even has to face down a lynch mob.

Although his courage and devotion to the law appears to make Atticus a standard to which all lawyers should aspire, does the public watching the movie get to see a really good lawyer in action. Of course not. With prejudice abounding, he never asks for a change of venue and tries the case before an all white male jury. After the defendant is convicted, Atticus tells him not to worry because he will definitely win the case on appeal. But guess what? Atticus never made an objection during the entire trial. So nothing was preserved to be reviewed by an appellate court.

And how does a jury deal with the critical issues and decisions in a major case? Well, along came **Twelve Angry Men** where a jury deliberated the fate of a young minority defendant in a murder case. If you are ever on trial for your life, you had better hope that you had a juror like Henry Fonda in the jury room.

All of the jurors except him want to have a quick conviction. One wants to get to the baseball game. Another is too hot in the jury room. Others are bored or inattentive. But one by one, Fonda convinces them that the defendant is innocent of the murder. And the sweaty and cranky jurors start coming around to his way of thinking.

His argument is that the defense lawyer did a terrible job, doing almost no cross-examination. He identified inconsistencies not apparent at trial. And in the final analysis, a criminal case is about reasonable doubt. **Twelve Angry Men** may be the best film about jury deliberations ever made. It contains many realistic insights about the jury system where jurors often resent being stuck with jury duty. And as the original holdout, Fonda sticks to his views. But was the jury chosen correctly? What we have is a minority defendant being tried by all white male bigots. Bias and prejudice abound. These 12 guys could have probably served in the Atticus Finch trial too!

In **Anatomy of a Murder**, an army officer is charged with killing a man who allegedly raped his wife. With a little prodding from his lawyer, James Stewart, the officer ultimately claims the murder was as the result of an ir-

*Continued on back page*

Hurricane Ike...continued from front cover

They arrived at Beaumont at 10 p.m. that same day. Hurricane Ike had struck that city. There was no electrical power or plumbing. On I-10 East, moving slowly, they encountered lots of debris and other highway damage. Lt. Tyler Harpole and Sgt. Sid Pullin drove ahead of the convoy and served as lookouts for large debris on the roadway. They unloaded at a deserted old "Academy" building which had no facilities. Most of the troopers slept in their cars. Mike was lucky. He got to sleep in a Comal County (New Braunfels) emergency trailer.

The word had come that the nearby town of Orange, 30 miles away, had been terribly devastated. The team of DPS troopers, EMS, medical specialists and National Guardsman left for Orange at 6 a.m. the next morning and truly found devastation. There was no food, water or electrical power anywhere. No functional traffic lights. No air conditioning. Trooper Mike Cantu and his fellow troopers set out on public safety rescue patrols, slushing through high waters with the guardsman in their big vehicles.

Many of the homes they saw had three to five feet of water in them. Some were wading or floating in small boats - or anything "floatable" - in a desperate search for food and drinking water. Mike and his trooper comrades went door-to-door, trying to get people to leave their flooded houses. One man told a Trooper, "I ain't going nowhere."

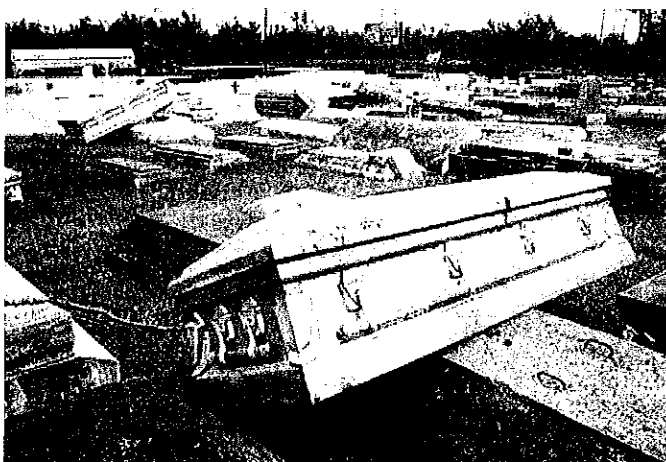
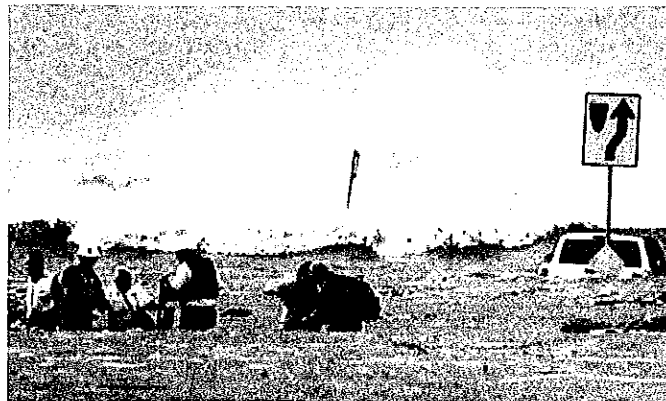
Another worried homeowner called and stated, "Please look for my uncle. I haven't heard from him. He lives three blocks north."

Mike and two troopers escorted two civilians to the town's large historical cemetery. All were shocked to see coffins floating above ground everywhere. "We saw a concrete vault in the middle of the road" The hurricane's wind/water surge had lifted coffins out of the graves. Mike thought to himself: "This is no reality TV show. This is reality."

They pulled into a HEB parking lot, where they were greeted by the manager and several employees. "Come in and help yourself to anything you want. Our meat that was frozen is still good to eat. We have no electricity for cooking, but have lots of charcoal broilers you can light up."

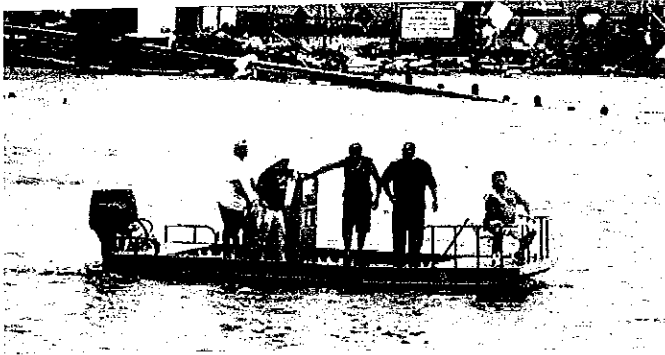
"All our guys," said Trooper Cantu, "took advantage of this and we thanked the HEB people over and over."

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Left to right: Troopers Mike Cantu, Deon Baker, Jason Reyes. Others are HEB employees (Orange, TX).

Hurricane Ike...continued from page 3



As water in the streets began receding and citizens began to move around in cars (and boats) the troopers did unique traffic control work. Electrical wires were down, telephone poles had been snapped off and uprooted trees were everywhere. There were no working telephones. As to where food and clean drinking water could be found, word-of-mouth was the communication.

Moving from place to place, National Guardsmen gave out ice, MRE's (packaged food) and bottled water. Many DPS troops still rode in the military vehicles, some of them often calling out, "Watch out for the power lines." A few meat markets opened and gave out BBQ chicken at no charge. When night came, patrols became more difficult.

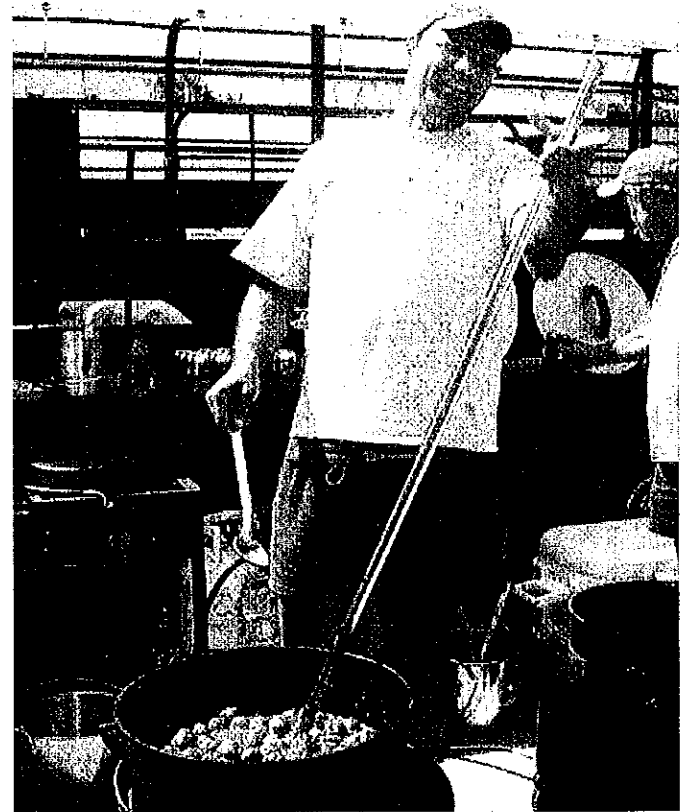
During evenings, a weary trooper Mike Cantu called home on his cell phone with assurances to his wife Lydia that he was safe and well. His 4-year old son Mike, Jr. often said, "Daddy come home!"

Mike's final days of hurricane duty were at another



nearby town, Bridge City, population 8,000. This town was right on the coast. The hurricane's surge (wall of water) really hit it hard. The highway to it had been flooded. The Rainbow Bridge, with its high arches, was impassable. The troops discovered that every home had three feet of water. They did intensive security work. There was looting. All motels were filled with electricians and other civilian repair crews. Not all of them got motel rooms. Some stayed in schools and churches without AC or plumbing. Mike's trooper group was fortunate to have been housed in a fire station, which had AC. It took 2 days before the group found hotel rooms.

In Bridge City, DPS troopers got a marvelous surprise/morale boost and a huge helping hand. A group of Louisiana troopers (troop A) came there and cooked some hot meals for them. These great guys and gals were veterans of Hurricane Katrina (with their own losses). This great effort was organized by Louisiana troopers Patrick Auzenne and John Cannon, under the approval of Louisiana State Police Cap. Mike Edmundson and with help from the Louisiana State Troopers Association. Some Louisiana businesses helped.



Louisiana State Police Sgt. Patrick Auzenne cooking his Spaghetti and Meatballs Cajun style.

*Continued on page 5*

**Texas State Troopers Association  
CARES BIG  
and Thanks  
Louisiana State Police  
for coming to help our troops!**



Trooper Cantu was asked: "What was the toughest thing about working the hurricane?" And also, "What were the good things?"

"The toughest thing," says Mike, "was trying to get people to leave their devastated homes and businesses"

"The good things? There were several. Stricken people helping stricken people. Our being able to help hurting people, and their appreciation for our being there. Seeing our DPS uniforms cheered them. Often, they thanked us. Our presence lifted morale and it was a great feeling for us. People bonded with us, and with each other. The cooperation between the National Guard, EMS people, the Red Cross and local police was great. And we can't say enough praise for the HEB store folks in Orange who shared everything with us."

Trooper Mike Cantu had two other overview comments: "DPS was better prepared to work "Ike" than previous Hurricane Rita. I worked that one, too. Also, I was mighty glad my family was safe and out of harm's way back home in South Central Texas."



By Jack Lawler

Trooper Mike Cantu was born and raised in Mathis, near Corpus Christi. He attended Pan American University on a track scholarship, then finished college by graduating from Texas A&M's branch college at Corpus in 1998. During his younger days he worked for Mathis P.D. as a dispatcher and also rode with some Mathis city officers. Later he became a reserve deputy in San Patricio County. He joined DPS in September, 1998 and graduated with Recruit Class A-99 in March, 2000. His first DPS assignment was HP-Mathis (four years) then he transferred to Seguin in 2004. He and his wife Lydia and four year-old son Mike, Jr. live in New Braunfels.

### TSTA Membership Advantages

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

## TSTA sends financial help to many Hurricane Ike victims

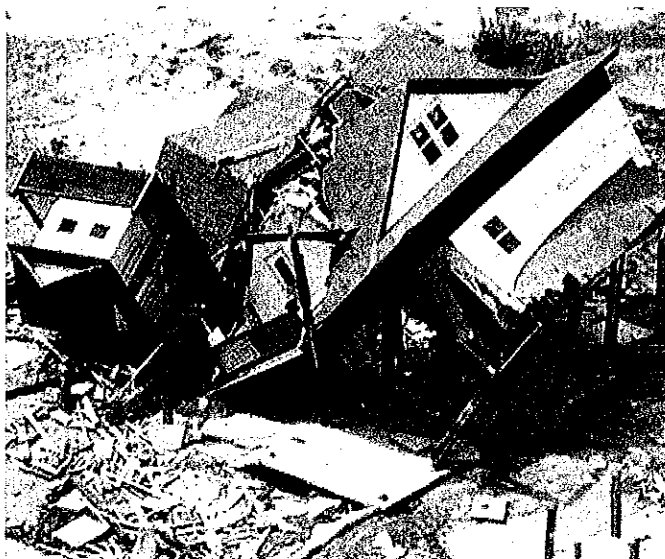
As Hurricane Ike stormed ashore on that terrible September Saturday morning, a different type of news channel soon sent in damage/disaster reports to the Texas State Troopers Association. It was gulf coast troopers reporting the severe damage and losses inflicted on both TSTA members and non-members. TSTA quickly dipped into its disaster funds and dispatched recovery financial money to the victims. Some were not TSTA members.



Beaumont DPS Communications staff who experienced Ike's wrath, Sr. Operator Pat Cheshire (left), Latrecia Howard, PCO.

Over 50 relief checks were sent to troopers, other DPS officers and also DPS civilian employees. These included hard-hit people in Beaumont (DPS Communications personnel), Spring, Orange, Bridge City, Jasper, Buna and Willis. Some had home damage, some were injured, and almost all lost electrical power, which caused food spoilage. Financial aid was given according to the degree of need.

TSTA also sent a truckload of gasoline (5-gallon cans), paying for the gas and assisting in getting it to the disaster areas.

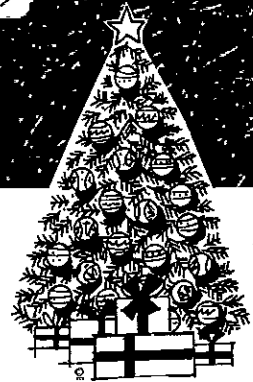


to those who work that others may have a safe holiday season...



*we wish a very special  
Merry Christmas and a safe  
Happy New Year!*

**TEXAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION**  
\* 5540 North Lamar \* Austin \* 1-800-289-8782



*"In hurricanes or blizzards,  
when the need is  
great, TSTA is there."*

[www.texasstatetroopers.org](http://www.texasstatetroopers.org)

**Please visit our web site.**

If you have an e-mail address,  
please send it to  
Don Dickson at:

[webmaster@texasstatetroopers.org](mailto:webmaster@texasstatetroopers.org)

Then there was the little boy who peeked and saw his mommy kissing Santa Claus near the Christmas tree, on Christmas Eve. He asked her next day if Daddy knew she was kissing Santa Claus.

## **Individual troopers donate to Hurricane Ike trooper victims**

The DPS trooper family has always been close, helping each other in times of need. The following troopers sent money to TSTA requesting that it be given to DPS hurricane victims. They were:

**Trey Pellizzari**  
Sr. Trooper CVE-Rockwall

**S. Lee Brakefield**  
Former Trooper  
Training Coordinator/Public Safety & Security  
Texas A&M University

**Trooper Kevin Gaskin**  
HP-Franklin

The checks were substantial and probably required some sacrifice.



# DPS graduates 106 new troopers Sept. 26

## Almost 40% are from military ranks

Now they are all over the state where they are spending their first six months as a new DPS officer in on-the-job-training with a senior trooper. The September 26 graduation of Recruit Class A-2008 marked the end of 28 weeks of grueling training at the DPS Training Academy in Austin.

The troopers began their long training "grind" in March. 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 training in use of force, communication skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness training.

Col. Stan Clark, Interim Director of the DPS, told the graduates that the people of Texas will depend on them for safety and protection. "You are taking on a great responsibility when you wear the highway patrol uniform. Your fellow Texans will expect a lot out of you when you wear it, and you will be representing seventy-three years of excellence in law enforcement. Wear it with pride."

Forty-one of the 106 graduates had former military experience, and that experience was strongly noticed by training academy instructors. DPS training Sgt. Laurence Klekar says, "These guys and gals came loaded with self-discipline and leadership abilities, which was an asset to both us and their fellow classmates. Many were combat veterans. One was a former drill instructor, age 40."

TSTA congratulates these fine new officers and invites them to check out TSTA membership advantages. To do this, call 1-800-289-8782, or email [tstamail@aol.com](mailto:tstamail@aol.com).

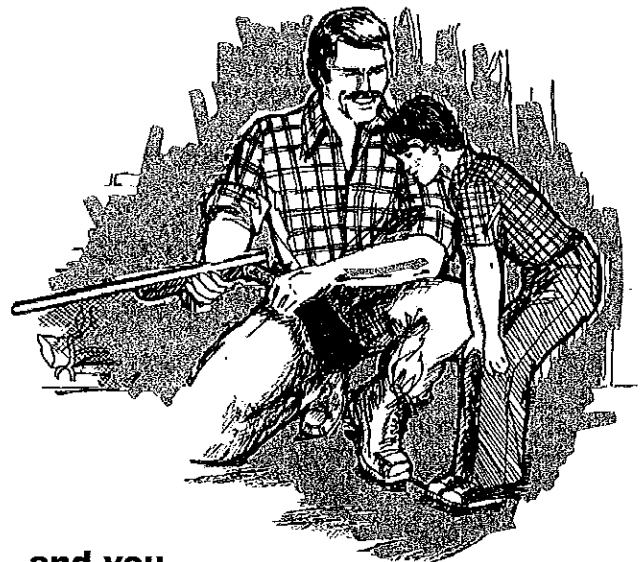


Graduating recruit/trooper Eric Munoz was awarded the Ratliff Award. Beside him (left to rt.): Gail Ratliff, Gail's granddaughter and Jennifer Hobdon Ratliff. Better known as the "Top Gun" award, the (late) Major Ratliff award is for recruit leadership in physical training, driving and shooting.



Graduating recruit/trooper Jonathan Charles Aldredge won the Class B-2008 Phebus Leadership Award. It was presented to him by Frank and Margaret Phebus, whose outstanding trooper son Mark was killed at roadside in 1990.

## Hunt with your son today...



and you  
won't have to  
hunt for him tomorrow!

Deer season Nov. 1 - Dec. 31

A guy finishes mowing his mother's grass, comes home in his pickup truck parks in front of his home, leaves his lawn mower and gas can in the truck. He comes out later, sees that the gas can is gone. He obtains another gas can and goes to the service station, refills the gas can, returns home and pours a 2 lb. sack of sugar into the gas can. Later, he notes the gas can is missing again.

Still later, he passes two teenage boys who are pushing their car. One is a neighbor's son. They tell him "We have engine trouble."

Did the man do a mean thing? His wife thinks so. Or did he steer the boys away from a life of crime?

From Ann Landers' column

**There are no routine stops.**

## Health tips

### Canned food, healthy choices

Fresh fruits and vegetables are often the best for nutrition, but it's hard to beat canned foods in terms of convenience. And any way you can add vegetables to your diet is a good idea. In fact, foods such as canned beans are just as good as dried beans. Spare yourself extra sugar and salt by looking for:

- **Low-sugar or "lite" canned fruit** – Buy fruits such as pears, peaches and pineapple that are canned in their own juice or in pear juice, with no added corn syrup. This cuts the number of calories per serving by about half.
- **Reduced-salt or no-salt-added vegetables and beans** – A half-cup serving of no-salt-added vegetables or beans has about 8 to 20 milligrams (mg) of sodium, compared with 300 to 500 mg for the salt-added product. If you can't find a no-salt-added product, rinse regular or reduced sodium canned vegetables or beans with water to remove about a third of the sodium.
- **Soups** – A typical canned soup can contain close to 900 mg of sodium a serving. Better choices are reduced-sodium versions of regular soup. Enhance their flavor by sprinkling in seasonings such as oregano, basil or garlic.
- **Applesauce** – Without added sugar, a half-cup serving is about 50 calories, compared with about 90 calories in the sugar-added variety.

Reprint *Mayo Clinic Health Letter*, October 2008.

I am writing to say "thank you" for your act of kindness in our time of need during this case. Just knowing that someone out there cared so much meant a lot to me. I am a single parent with a disabled child and honestly after seeing my damages did not know what I was going to do but I was able to handle some things thanks to you all. May God Bless!

Thanks  
Anita Lawrence  
DPS. Beaumont  
Communications

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.



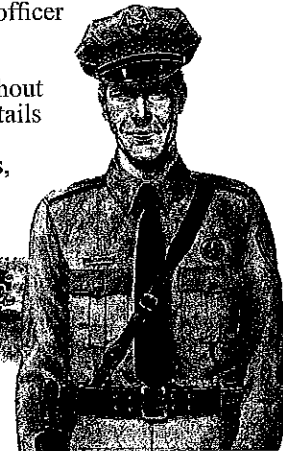
Give a unique

## CHRISTMAS GIFT

...TSTA editor Jack Lawler's book

### "ODYSSEY OF A HERO"

...about a DPS highway patrol officer in the old days (WWII Marine) when they rode motorcycles in blizzards and old patrol cars without radios, heaters, AC or radar. Details are authentic in a story that is gripping, with high speed chases, shoot-outs and a kidnapping involving the Texas Rangers. It has a sweet Christmas Eve rescue.



It's a beautiful hardcover in color, Christmas priced at \$21.00 plus \$3.00 shipping/tax.

*It will make former officers proud they served!*

#### ORDER FORM

Please ship me \_\_\_\_\_ copy (copies) of "Odyssey of a Hero" at \$21.00 (plus \$3.00 tax and shipping, total \$24.00).

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Enclosed is my check or money order, made out to Jack Lawler in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

Mail to Jack Lawler, 11462 Bristle Oak Tr., Austin, TX 78750.

Jack, please sign my book (\_\_\_\_).

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Christmas shop the easy way



For further information, call Jack Lawler at (512) 219-0592 or (512) 450-1814, or E-mail at [semperfilawler@aol.com](mailto:semperfilawler@aol.com).

### Tough opponent

It was a bruising boxing match. One fighter was getting badly beaten. As the bell signaled the end of round eight, he staggered back to his corner with lips cut, one eye swollen shut and discolored bruises on his cheek. His trainer encouraged him.

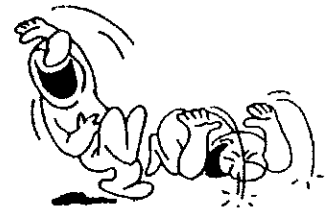
"Attaboy Champ," he said. "Keep throwing your left. He never touched you that round.. Never laid a glove on you!"

"Say," the fighter mumbled, "if he never touched me, keep your eye on that referee. Somebody is beatin' the hell outta me!"

**WE CARE**  
Texas State Troopers Association



# \* Kuempel's Korner \*



## COWPOKES

By Ace Reid



**"With the energy crunch and the stock market like it is, I can't make it. Why now I can't even get a flu shot on Medicare."**

Eagles fly above the storms.

\*\*\*\*

Then there was the weight-conscious lady who, on board the Titanic, passed up dessert at the April 14, 1914 evening meal.

\*\*\*\*

**"Solitude is creativity's best friend."**

- Naomi Judd

\*\*\*\*

**"If you stand with one foot in a bucket of ice and the other in a bucket of boiling water, on the average you'll be comfortable."**

-Abraham Lincoln

\*\*\*\*

It was a big problem for Moses to get 100,000 people across the Red Sea. It was not a problem for God.

\*\*\*\*

If I were to come back to life again, I would want to be Mrs. Churchill's second husband.

-Winston Churchill

\*\*\*\*

When you pay the price of discipline, you are winning the game.

Talk slowly, but think quickly.

\*\*\*\*

When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"

\*\*\*\*

Sign outside a secondhand shop: "We trade for anything - bicycles, appliances, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?"

\*\*\*\*

The most generous givers in the world are those who have the least money.

\*\*\*\*

God whispers to us in our pleasure, but He shouts at us in our pain.

\*\*\*\*

One hunter to another: "I got a gun for my wife."  
Second hunter: "Good trade."

## Save Money on Quality Double-H TROOPER BOOTS!

•soft, durable leather • cushion insole • high abrasion, oil-resistant sole and heel • long-wearing • meet DPS uniform requirements!

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in USA!



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**WELLINGTON**  
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## Wisdom from former Longhorn football Coach Darrell Royal

Breaks balance out. The sun don't shine on the same ol' dog's rear end every day.

Don't matter what they throw at us. Only angry people win football games.

Football doesn't build character. It eliminates the weak ones.

I don't count on the boy who waits till October, when it's cool and fun, then decides he wants to play.

I knew that when I resigned from the University of Texas that I would never coach again.

I know that the odds are against a marriage lasting 60 years. (His did.)

I learned this about coaching: You don't have to explain victory and you can't explain defeat.

If worms carried pistols, birds wouldn't eat 'em.

Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.

Punt returns will kill you quicker than a minnow can swim a dipper.

Sometimes you have to suck it up and call a number.

Three things can happen when you pass and two of 'em are bad.

You never lose a game if the opponent doesn't score.

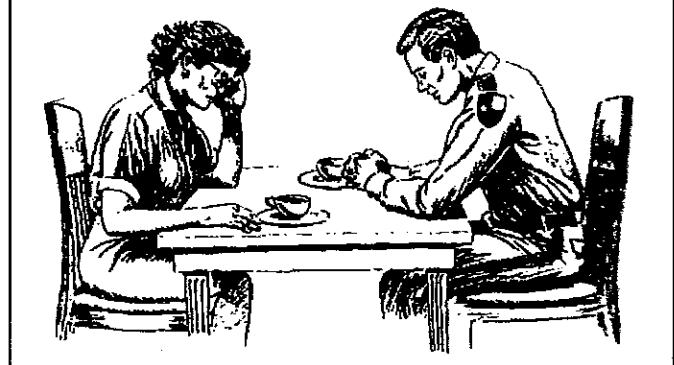
You've got to think lucky. If you fall into a mudhole, check your back pocket - you might have caught a fish.

### From Beaumont Hurricane victims

TSTA,  
Thank you for the monetary donation to me and my operators. It was definitely a Blessing.  
May God continue to watch over you. Thank you  
Sharon Griffin  
Supervisor of Police  
Communitatis

Luckenbach is so small, both city limits signs are on the same post.

## Prayer changes things



## If a dog was your teacher you would learn things like:

- \* When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- \* Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.
- \* Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy.
- \* Take naps.
- \* Stretch before rising.
- \* Run, romp, and play daily.
- \* Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- \* On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- \* On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- \* Live simply.
- \* Love generously.
- \* Care deeply.
- \* When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- \* Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- \* Be loyal.
- \* When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

## Words to ponder

- "This year will go down in history. For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration. Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead into the future!"  
-Adolph Hitler, 1935, Nazi Germany
- "Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong."  
- Ronald Reagan
- It was so cold in Amarillo last month a rancher threw a dipper of water; it froze in midair and knocked his dog unconscious.
- A child is not a vase to be filled, but a fire to be lit.

## 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

## Moving?

For fastest service, attach old mailing label in this space. If label is not available, print your old address in the box. Be sure to include your ZIP CODE.

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 5540 N. Lamar  
 Austin, TX 78751

**2009**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Jacket Size \_\_\_\_\_

**Application for Membership**  
**TEXAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION**  
 5540 NORTH LAMAR  
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78751

**Dues \$25**  
**As of Jan. 1, 2004**

**for office use only**

LRE \_\_\_\_\_

Payment \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Last) (First) (M.) Date of Birth Rank Service

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# 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@adcj.com

## TSTA Membership Advantages

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

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

resistible impulse. **Anatomy of a Murder** is one of the grittiest and most dramatic trial movies ever made. It involves eloquent attorneys who believe fervently in their cause, and a calm sensible judge whose rulings reflect both common sense and sound legal wisdom. But the trial process makes no sense. District Attorney Dancer, played by George C. Scott, spends the whole trial attempting to show that the defendant's wife was not raped. That was never the issue. The focus was and should have been on whether the defendant believed his wife was raped, and because of that got so angry he killed on impulse – the classic heat of passion murder.

Of course Stewart has his faults too. He spends entirely too much time on the theory that nobody will convict someone for killing a man believed to have raped the defendant's wife. Great movie drama, but not a sound legal principle.

And finally, when a not guilty verdict is returned, the defendant is immediately released. In the real world, an acquittal by reason of insanity usually results in an immediate order of hospitalization. The defendant is released only when it medically appears he is no longer a danger to himself or others. But not in the movies.

The bottom line: Good criminal justice movies are often exceptionally entertaining. But they seldom reflect the real world. I would like to continue but I have to go get my make-up on for the next scene!!!

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

## There are no routine stops.



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