

## **Remembering Senior Trooper Mark Cosslett**

On Oct. 23, 2002, Senior Trooper Mark Cosslett was involved in a fatal accident on Interstate 95 in Fairfax County. He was responding to a call of shots fired just off I-95 at Newington, a potential sniper call. Another vehicle pulled off onto the shoulder and collided with the motorcycle Mark was riding.

Mark had just finished standing outside his son's school, on his own time, giving out junior trooper badges to the children. He was trying to make them feel safe as well as protecting them from the sniper's shooting spree that had been plaguing the area.

Those of us who knew and loved Mark knew what kind of person he was. He was a loving husband and a devoted father. He gave so much of himself to others. There were so many things he did that no one knew about, according to Trooper E.J. Kelly.

Trooper Kelly, who was Mark's best friend, said, "Each year for the past 15 years on Thanksgiving, Mark would fix a huge dinner and invite everyone that was going to spend the holiday alone to come to his house and have Thanksgiving dinner. He made sure those troopers working the road and that could not be with their families stopped by and had something to eat."

For 12 of the last 15 years on Thanksgiving morning, including the four years he was undercover, Mark would get into his uniform, boots and helmet. He would cover his beard with a scarf and hide his long hair under a helmet. "Then, no matter what the weather was or how cold it was, he would come out and handle traffic for my annual Thanksgiving day 5K run benefiting Fairfax Hospital's Life With Cancer Program. This is a free program for children who live with Cancer."

He helped raise money each year for the Law Enforcement Officer Torch Run for Special Olympics. If he wasn't selling motorcycle raffle tickets, he was getting sponsors for our Seventh Division Golf Tournament benefiting Special Olympics. Mark came to the tournament every year and helped set things up, and he and his Booze Fighter friends would set up a big table on the course and serve food and refreshments to the golfers. He also spent a lot of time helping raise money for HERO's Inc. an organization that helps families of police officers and fireman who die in the line of duty. These are just some of many things Mark did on his own and not wanting any recognition.

"If you look closely at the picture of the four motors in front of the runners at the Turkey Trot, you will see Mark. He's the one with the scarf covering his beard." Mark was one of a kind. He was a fine trooper, a leader and a friend to everyone. It's not hard to describe Mark.

"I keep thinking of a sign I once saw. It describes Mark perfectly. It was talking about courage and it read, 'Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.' Mark never followed. He lead the way doing the things he wanted to do, and he did them well."

# **Trooper C. Mark Cosslett**

## **1962 - 2002**

### **A Eulogy**

**By John Marshall**  
**Director of Public Safety**

*"Humbly recognizing the responsibilities entrusted to me as a member of the Department of State Police, an organization dedicated to the preservation of human life and property, I pledge myself to perform my duties honestly and faithfully to the best of my ability and without fear, favor or prejudice. I shall aid those in danger or distress, and shall strive always to make my State and Country a safer place in which to live.*

*"I shall wage unceasing war against crime in all its forms, and shall consider no sacrifice too great in the performance of my duty. I shall obey the laws of the United States of America and of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and shall support and defend their constitutions against all enemies whomsoever, foreign and domestic. I shall always be loyal to and uphold the honor of my organization, my State and my Country."*

Each Virginia State Trooper accepts and recites this pledge prior to graduating from the State Police Academy. We are here to remember and pay tribute to a member of the 77<sup>th</sup> Basic Session who recited these very words in July 1986. We are here to remember a Trooper in that class who accepted each and every word of that pledge, in particular, "I shall consider no sacrifice too great in the performance of my duty."

We are here to remember Senior Trooper Charles Mark Cosslett, killed in the line of duty on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2002 at 5:39 p.m.

Mark's last day with us epitomized each and every word of the Trooper's pledge. As we all are too painfully aware, at the time, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia were dealing with a sniper on the loose, who had already claimed 13 victims. Before I go any further, I know that Mark would want us to include the families of these other victims in our prayers.

I would like to read an excerpt from a letter dated Oct. 24, 2002, from Chris Motley, the Director of Bush Hill Presbyterian Day School, to the parents.

The Director wrote, "Mark was in full uniform, with his motorcycle at our Day School. Here was here during arrival time and stayed the entire morning. Mark had told me that he had worked just a few hours in the morning and thought our parents would find comfort and security in the sight of a police officer at the day school. How right he was. Mark distributed Junior Trooper Police badges to all of our kids as they were put in

their respective cars during dismissal. I find comfort in knowing that on the last day of Mark's life he was at his son's school – protecting children and comforting parents. Doing what he loved most. Protecting those he loved.”

That day was actually Mark's scheduled day off, but he had signed up to work HOV enforcement for both the morning and afternoon rush hour. After the morning rush hour, he went straight to the school, where his son, Trevor, attends. Not only did he do this on his day off with no pay, he did this without being asked.

Mark returned home for a short break after making sure that all of the kids had gotten into school safely. Later he called Leslie at work to make sure that she would be able to pick up Trevor in the afternoon. Leslie assured the worried father that she would be there on time.

And she did make it there on time. As she sat in the line of cars waiting for the kids to be dismissed, she decided to give Mark a call so he would stop worrying, because she had been running a little late. Well, no answer at home, no answer on his cell phone, and no response from his pager.

As she got closer to the front of the line, she saw Mark. He had returned to the school in uniform, on his motor and – not only was he making sure that the kids got safely into their parents' cars, he was talking with them, reassuring them and handing out Junior Trooper badges.

Later that afternoon, as Mark sat in the office doing some paperwork, the call went out about a report of shots fired in the Newington area of Interstate 95. Without hesitation, even though the call didn't go to him, Mark jumped out of his chair, got on his motor and responded to the location. It was while enroute to this call that Mark was involved in the crash, which tragically took his life.

On behalf of Leslie and Mark's family, and Col. Massengill and the State Police, I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to Chief Manger and the Fairfax County Police Department, in particular the Motor Squad, who were so helpful at the crash site and honored Mark with a 10 motor escort, lights and siren, as he was transported from the scene. I know that Mark was looking down on you as you did this, grateful and with a huge amount of pride. This was a fitting tribute to a fellow motor officer, a fitting tribute to a true hero.

But I think that we must never forget that Mark was a hero even before this tragedy. Look at his life that day. Had the crash not occurred, Mark still would have been a hero.

Mark and the rest of the 77<sup>th</sup> Basic Session all became heroes when they recited and accepted the trooper's pledge 16 years ago. As a state and as a nation, we must never take for granted that there are men and women who have the courage, commitment and dedication to serve as law enforcement officers so that we can all be safe and secure. Men and women who are willing to risk their lives each and everyday. Men and women willing to leave their homes each and every day not knowing if they will return.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our law enforcement officers, true American heroes. And we must never forget the families of these heroes, for whom it becomes a way of life, dealing with watching their loved ones leave for work each day, not knowing if they will return to their arms. Leslie was a pillar of strength and support for Mark and played a crucial role in all that he achieved as a Trooper.

I know that, by now, Mark is saying, enough of the serious stuff. How about a few stories? I know that he is saying, “No crying, no sorrow. How about a few laughs?”

And Mark provided so many laughs and good times for all who had the opportunity to know him and work with him. Mark loved life. He loved having a good time. I made a list of Mark Cosslett stories to consider relating this morning. The problem was, every time I would come up with a good one, I would think to myself, “No, better not tell that one.”

I went by the Cosslett residence later that day, where many of Mark’s friends had gathered, quite a few from the State Police. I asked each one of them for a few good “Mark stories,” but the response was always the same: “I’ve got a bunch, but none that you could tell.”

Later in the evening, Mark’s mom and dad arrived so I thought to myself, “Now I can at least get some stories about Mark’s childhood.”

Guess what? I sat down with Reverend Cosslett, and he said, “Of course, I have numerous stories about my boy. The problem is, there aren’t that many which would be appropriate for you to tell.”

I laughed to myself and said, “Thanks, Mark. You certainly aren’t making this easy on me.”

One thing that we can all say about Mark is that there was never a dull moment whenever he was around.

His dad told me about the time when Mark was about 14. Reverend Cosslett had just sat down with a glass of warm milk and was enjoying a quiet evening in the family room when, all of a sudden, he is startled by a loud bang in the room. Mark had thrown a lit cherry bomb into the room and yelled, “Raid!” as he ran through the room and out the front door. Needless to say, Reverend Cosslett spilled his milk everywhere and about fell out of his chair. Little did his dad know that 20 years later, his son would be conducting raids while assigned to narcotics investigations with the State Police.

Mark enjoyed wrestling and playing football in high school. His dad told me how Mark did, indeed, graduate from Monocan High School in Chesterfield County in 1981, although he didn’t actually participate in the ceremony. Seems that earlier that day, Mark was out with a few of his classmates enjoying the day and eagerly awaiting the night’s festivities. Somehow, Mark ended up on a swing – a kid’s swing that he was way too big for, but he couldn’t resist. As the swing went higher and higher, the upper support which the swing hangs from broke and came crashing down right on top of Mark’s head, knocking him out. So, while his class graduated, Mark was in the emergency room with a concussion.

Mark spent several years proudly serving his country as a United States Marine. His mom laughed as she told me how worried she was about Mark while he was going through basic training at Parris Island. He called home one night and told his mom that he had something to tell her that she probably wouldn’t be too happy about.

Mark told her that he had just gotten a tattoo. Accepting that he had already done this, in a concerned mother’s voice, she asked, “Mark, WHERE did you get the tattoo?”

While thinking that he would probably reply that he had gotten the tattoo on his arm, Mark’s reply to his curious mother was, “Oh, I got it at a little shop near the base. Gotta go now, Mom.”

I spent some time with Leslie on Saturday and my first question was how she and Mark met. She smiled and knew that I must have heard the story, which I had, but I wanted her version.

It seems that back in August of 1991, she was out with a friend late one evening, riding in a convertible in Annandale. As they sat at a stop light, they heard the sound of some motorcycles starting up – loud motorcycles, Harley Davidson, of course. They saw several guys getting ready to pull out of the parking lot of a restaurant. The light changed and they drove off. A few minutes later on Rt. 236, as they were stopped at another traffic light, they heard a loud motorcycle approaching from the rear. One of the bikes pulled right up next to them at the light.

Leslie told me how she had always liked motorcycles and was so impressed with the one that was now sitting next to them. It was loud and loaded with chrome. She told the rider, “I really like your motorcycle.”

His reply? “Well, if you really like my bike, what are you doing sitting in that car? Hop on and let’s go for a ride.”

He had an extra helmet, and Leslie took him up on his offer, telling her girlfriend to follow. They made it to her girlfriend’s house and got off the bike.

As Leslie tells the story, “Well, the ride was fun and I loved the motorcycle, but now the moment of truth was coming as the mystery rider was taking off his helmet.”

Up to this point, she had only seen the bike and this guy with a helmet and dark glasses on. As he took his helmet off, Leslie related to me how she thought to herself, “Yes! He’s cute, too!”

As I’m sure you can all figure out, the mystery rider was Mark. She thanked him for the ride and gave Mark her telephone number.

Mark waited three weeks before calling her, Labor Day weekend. He invited her to go for another ride, and she accepted. As they were riding on the Beltway, she realized that she didn’t even know this guy’s last name, what he does for a living, or where they were going. But, obviously, she was a captive audience. They arrived at a residence and were greeted by a friend of Mark’s. The two started talking about shift work, but Leslie still didn’t know what kind of work they were talking about.

As she looked around, off to the side of the driveway, she saw a blue and gray state police car. They didn’t stay long, and shortly after leaving, she hit Mark on the helmet.

His reaction? “Hey, why did you do that?”

Leslie replied, “Why didn’t you tell me that you’re a state trooper?”

Mark answered something to the effect that Leslie hadn’t asked.

Once, shortly after they began dating formally, Leslie was working at an Open House at a business, greeting visitors as they arrived. She looked out the window and saw Mark pulling up right in front on his state police motorcycle. She saw him take something out of his saddlebag, but she couldn’t make out exactly what it was. She just had to laugh when Mark entered, carrying a Sesame Street lunchbox. He had just bought the lunchbox especially for Leslie and had packed her a lunch.

He said he didn’t know if she liked ham or turkey sandwiches, so he brought her both. Mark told her how much he would like to stay and have lunch with her, but he needed to get back on the road.

Mark and Leslie were married in 1996, a beautiful wedding and reception, which I shall never forget. Everyone had a great time, especially the bride and groom. Two people very much in love. Two people who were meant to be together.

Mark and Leslie became parents in 1999, with the birth of Trevor. Trevor was joined a year later by his sister, Meghan. Leslie described Mark as “quit the dotting, loving father.”

Earlier this year, Mark was elected as the Seventh Division representative for the Virginia State Police Association. Leslie and Mark decided to bring Trevor and Meghan with them to the association’s annual conference at The Homestead.

I’ll never forget the first morning of the conference when I ran into Leslie just prior to the brunch program. She introduced me to their babysitter, who had accompanied them on the trip. I asked where Mark was. Leslie told me that he wanted to spend some quality time with the kids by himself and for them to go ahead and enjoy brunch. That was Mark.

Leslie told me that, when Trevor was born, they decided she would sleep in a twin bed in Trevor’s room so that Mark could get his rest and be ready for work each day. Mark still insisted on putting a baby monitor in the room with the speaker in the master bedroom. That lasted for just a few weeks. Mark would listen to the monitor and get up to help out with the baby whenever he heard any type of noise, even if just a cough.

Finally, he couldn’t take it any longer and told Leslie that he had to be in Trevor’s room, too. Leslie, knowing how important it was that Mark get his rest, explained to him that there was no way that both of them could fit on the narrow twin bed, so he should stay in their bedroom. Well, Leslie couldn’t believe her eyes when she saw Mark coming into Trevor’s room with a sleeping bag. And that’s where he slept for the next several months, on the floor in his sleeping bag.

Quite simply stated, Leslie, Trevor and Megan were Mark’s life. He loved them with all of his heart and soul.

Now, let’s talk a little bit about Mark, the trooper. Whenever new troopers report to a division, it’s always amusing to hear the new voices and badge numbers on the radio. You can quickly tell which ones are going to need extra attention and which ones who seem to be grasping their new duties without much problem. And every once in awhile you have a new trooper who is overly enthusiastic, and you just have that feeling that this is going to be a good one. That was the case with Mark.

When he graduated from the academy in 1986, Mark was assigned to the Fairfax County office, Area 9. At the time, I was assigned to the adjoining county, Prince William, Area 11. The two areas worked together closely, and we often backed up each other. That was how I met Mark. He was one of those troopers who always had a knack for being where the action was. He wouldn’t call and see if somebody needed assistance, he would just show up. You could always depend on Mark to be there when you needed him. I also got to know Mark over the years on a personal level, at social events and on off-duty motorcycle rides.

Mark got on the motor squad a few years before me. He was one of those guys who came down to the academy during my basic motorcycle school and made every course that I was struggling to maneuver the motor through look like child’s play. He was smooth. He knew how to ride a motor.

Somehow I managed to graduate from the training, but before I was allowed to patrol on my own, Motor Squad Sergeant Dean Jones said that I would need to ride with one of the experienced motor units for a few days. He assigned Mark to this task. I met up with Mark at the Hunter Restaurant parking lot and, before we could plan out our shift, a call went out on the radio to another trooper reference an accident blocking traffic on I-95. Before I could get my helmet back on, Mark had started his bike and said, "We're motor units. That's our call. Let's go."

Mark had quite a unique radio voice, and the Fairfax Channel just won't be the same without him. Whenever I saw Mark, I would do my impersonation of him. "968, Fairfax." He would always laugh, then he'd shake my hand and say, "Hey, man. How are you doing?"

That was the case the last time I saw Mark. I was standing outside the State Police Mobile Command Post in Manassas, at the scene of one of the sniper incidents on the morning of Oct. 10. It was about 5 a.m. and there was a cold rain falling. I knew that Mark had been assigned to the command post for the morning shift and would be arriving soon. Sergeant Jones was with me and, as we heard the roar of an approaching motor, we looked at each other and said, "COSSLETT."

Sure enough, Mark pulled up on his motor, soaking wet. Only Mark would have opted to ride out on the motor, rather than hopping in a warm, dry cruiser. When he got off the motor, I greeted him with my usual, "968," and he flashed that big smile, shook my hand, and gave me a hug. That's the picture and memory of Mark that I will ALWAYS remember and treasure.

If Mark was working, he was on that motor, Sergeant Jones told me about a time when he was driving his Seventh Division Commander, along with the Fourth Division Commander, to a meeting in Washington, D.C. The Fourth Division covers the southwest portion of Virginia. Now keep in mind that the only motor squads in the Department are in northern Virginia, Richmond and Tidewater.

So, you can imagine Sergeant Jones' reaction when the Fourth Division Commander told Dean that he had seen one of the State Police motors in Richlands, all the way down in Southwest Virginia.

Dean's response, knowing that he wasn't anywhere near retirement, was that surely that must have been one of the motors from Richmond or Tidewater.

No, the captain replied, and continued, "I was so surprised to see one of our bikes in front of the courthouse that I just had to go inside and investigate further."

Well, Dean knew what was coming and said, "Cosslett."

The captain replied, "Hey, how did you know that?"

Dean's reply was that he had only one trooper who would ride a motor eight-plus hours -- one way -- just to go to court. And, of course, he was right. While assigned to coal strike duty a few weeks prior, Mark had made an arrest, which required him to return for court. And return he did ... on his motor. AND, you should also know that this was in January, so you can imagine just how cold it was.

Yes, there was never a dull moment if Mark was involved. He is the only one who could make an in-service school course exciting. While Mark was assigned to narcotics investigations in the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, he was tasked with making a presentation about outlaw motorcycle gangs involved in narcotics trafficking. Well, we have all heard of props and their effectiveness when making presentations, but Mark took

this to the extreme. Not only did he physically bring his personal Harley Davidson into the classroom for exhibit purposes, he started it up and rode it the short distance from the classroom and out the door of the State Police Academy after class was over. That was the Mark we will NEVER forget.

But don't get me wrong, Mark was serious about his work. He was an intense trooper who gave his all to both traffic and criminal enforcement. He truly was a credit to the Virginia State Police and to law enforcement. In 1998, as a result of a traffic stop he made, \$250,000 worth of heroin was seized – one of the largest heroin seizures ever made in Virginia.

Mark was well known throughout the northern Virginia law enforcement, particularly among the motor officers. As a matter of fact, I can honestly say that Mark was the most well known trooper among other law enforcement officers in northern Virginia.

For Mark, the motto of the Virginia State Police Association, "To be mutually helpful to one another," was his way of life.

As I mentioned, Mark was serious about his work. He was tough as nails when he had to be. But he was always professional.

His dad told me about how you used to worry about Mark when he was playing high school football as a 125 pound defensive back. But those worries were put to rest when, during a game, a 195 pound running back for the opposition got through the line and Mark was the only player between him and the goal line. Mark squared his shoulders and hit the back head on. They both hit the turf, but only one of them got off the ground, Mark. The running back was carried off the field. That was Mark, tough and determined on the outside when he had to be, but inside the compassion and caring was ALWAYS there.

Many of us who were blessed to have been able to have Mark as a friend saw that compassion. Mark was a lot of fun, but we also knew that he truly was a caring and giving person. His friends were important to him. Many of his friends were law enforcement officers, but just as many weren't. To Mark, a friend was a friend, and he would do anything for you.

And I would be remiss were I not to mention the "Booze Fighters Motorcycle Club," of which Mark was a member. You were an important part of Mark's life, and I know that you miss him.

I would like to read from a letter written by a State Police Motor Unit to the Association. This trooper was involved in a crash while on duty and had to have surgery on his knee as a result. He developed heart problems and other complications and was in bad shape for quite some time, in and out of the hospital.

He wrote:

*"During all these stays, God was definitely by my side, but there was also a closer presence. He had long hair and a full beard. And no, it wasn't Jesus, but he was sure there for every hospital stay. And, with all the morphine, sometimes I wasn't sure. Trooper Mark Cosslett is whom I'm talking about. Mark is currently assigned to BCI, to explain the long hair and beard. I'd like to see him clean cut and back on his state motor patrolling with me!*

*Trooper Patrick Boland*

Mark, the friend. Always there for you. Giving of his time. Giving of his heart.

The next letter, which I'm going to read in its entirety, really says it all. As Reverend Cosslett said when he handed it to me, "This is my boy. This is Mark."

*"Mom and Dad, I have been meaning to tell the two of you a few things, but for some reason, time seems to get away from me. First, I'd like to apologize for all the stupid things I did in growing up (not that I'm finished) and for the ones I do in the future. Now that I have kids, I see things from a different perspective.*

*In being a parent, I'm finding that I think of my son and daughter constantly and worry about them all the time. When they are sick or sad, it feels like someone is standing on my chest. I can't imagine how you must have felt with some of the things that I did or had happen to me.*

*Secondly, I want you to know how proud I am of you two. Every chance I have to brag, I take advantage of it. I'm proud of myself in the profession I've chosen and the way I perform my work duties. I attribute them from the way I was brought up.*

*Not many people can boast that his mother is a nurse and father a minister. Both of which are very honorable professions, which take a lot of patience and compassion. I wish my brain matter wasn't so thick and that it would not have taken me 40 years to realize this.*

*As time passes and I see people from the past, it's nice to know that they think so highly of you two and that you had such a positive influence in their lives. I hope that someday I will achieve this as well.*

*I love you both with all my heart and appreciate everything you have and are doing for me. My kids are very fortunate to have such great grandparents. It's not a lot to say, but something I wanted you to know and important for me to say.*

*Love, Mark*

Reverend and Mrs. Cosslett, I thank you for allowing me to share this with all of Mark's friends. You're right. That was Mark.

We can all learn so much from Mark and the way he lived his life. He lived life to the fullest, each and every day. He took nothing for granted. Mark enjoyed life. He loved and enjoyed his family. Mark saw to it that all of the time he spent with Leslie, Trevor and Meghan was quality time. He enjoyed his friends. He enjoyed his work. He was a courageous and dedicated trooper, committed to making a positive difference in his community and our state. He gave all that he could give. And through it all, he always had that Mark Cosslett smile on his face. The smile, which we will NEVER forget.

Mark could always make you laugh. That was a gift which he shared with us, and we are all the better for it.

We can take comfort in knowing that Mark's last moments were on his motor, doing the job which he loved. We can take comfort in knowing that, on that day, he had been there for Leslie, Trevor and Meghan, along with the other kids and their parents at the day school.

The following words capture the essence of Mark:

*"Live your life each day as you would climb a mountain. An occasional glance toward the summit keeps the goal in mind, but many beautiful scenes are to be observed from each new vantage point. Climb slowly, steadily, enjoying each passing moment; and the view from the summit will serve as a fitting climax for the journey."*

If Mark were here, he would have two requests. First that we take care of Leslie, Trevor and Meghan. That we will do. Second, he would ask that, whenever we think about him, we do so with a smile and remember only the good times. All the fun that we had. All the laughs that we shared. That, too, we will do, but without a doubt, the laughter many times will be either preceded or followed by a few tears.

Finally, Mark would say:

Motor units, it's time to ride.

Let's mount our motors, put up the kickstand,

And hit the Start button.

Give the throttle a quick turn so that we can hear the crack of the exhaust.

Plug in your set com, then let's pull out in style.

Let's drag those running boards,

And let's see a smile.

Stay in formation, side by side,

Motor units, it's time to ride.

While we are about to take Mark down Interstate 95 one last time, please know that Mark will be by your side today and always.

I would like to close with the following Irish blessing:

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May the rain fall soft upon your fields,

And, until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Yes, Mark lived up to the Trooper's Pledge. He always did all that he could to make his state and country a safer place in which to live, and he was always loyal to and upheld the honor of, his organization, his state and country.

So long, my friend. I will miss you terribly, but you will NEVER be forgotten.

God bless Senior Trooper Charles Mark Cosslett, UNIT 968.

*The following remembrances are reprinted from the Officer Down Memorial Page.*

## **Senior Trooper C. Mark Cosslett**

Mark,

Man, I know that we had only worked with each other for almost a year now, but what a year it's been.

I can remember the first time I met you at the Virginia State Police Association election meeting in Fairfax. That's when we both found out that we were elected to the association for the first time.

You sat in your chair and had that familiar smile on your face.

In the months to come, I got to know that smile a lot better. You would listen to everyone else talk and talk, and when the discussion was over, you would say something out of left field, just to make everyone laugh. You could always find humor in any situation.

The thing I will remember most about you is your smile and quiet disposition. After each association meeting, you or E.J. would invite me to go to lunch. I'm going to miss that.

Mark, you died doing something you loved, and not many people can say that. Your kids will be so proud when they say, "My father was a hero. He did his job and did it well. My dad was responding to a sniper call when everyone else was running away. He's a true hero."

On 10/23/02:

A wife lost a husband.  
Children lost a daddy.  
The Virginia State Police lost a great Trooper.  
And I lost a true friend.

May God keep you and your family. The meetings will never be the same without you.

**Trooper S. Fregoso**  
**Virginia State Police**

May GOD be with the family and friends of Trooper Mark Cosslett. He is a HERO for his service.

May God bless Trooper Cosslett's soul. I know that the Virginia State Police has had their hands full with the current state of emergency in the Greater DC area. I am sure he was responding with bravery and honor when the Lord took him home!

**Police Officer R. Smith  
Seattle PD**

Mark became a very dear friend to me in just a short period of time. I know that he was proud to be a VA State Trooper and I know that he exerted his last breath doing his very best at what he loved.

Mark will be sorely missed, he was a wonderful human being. I fervently pray for his family, they will need all of our prayers to help them through this.

I will miss Mark and I pray for comfort to all of you that miss him also.

**Jeffery Payne  
Pensacola, Florida**

My prayers go out to Trooper Cosslett's family.

**Vicky Davidson  
Seattle, Washington**

God Bless Trooper Cosslett. May time heal the heart and soul of his family. He is now an angel with a badge working a higher beat.

God Bless

**LEO Wife  
NJ**

My heart and prayers go out to the wife, young children, family and co-workers of Trooper Cosslett. May God help you through this very difficult time and remember that he is now in a safer place watching over us all. Let the kids always know what a true HERO their dad was. Rest in peace Trooper Cosslett.

**Deb Azure  
Mother of Deputy Renee Azure, EOW 08/06/2002**

To the family and fellow officers of Trooper Cosslett, I extend my deepest sympathy from all of us at District 2900 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. May you find peace and guidance during this most difficult time.

**Lt. Dan M. Vickmark  
Minnesota State Patrol**

My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Trooper Cosslett. May God comfort us all at this most difficult time.

**Investigator Vic Ingram  
Pittsylvania County, Virginia Sheriff's Office**

To our brother in blue, may you rest in peace. Your family, friends, and co-workers are in our thoughts and prayers.  
God Bless

**Officer D. Johns**  
**Georgia Perimeter College Police Department**

God Bless Trooper Cosslett and his family. They should add another murder to list of charges and prosecute the two of them to the end. My deepest sympathies to Trooper Cosslett's family, friends and co-workers. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

**Stacy Smith**

**Police Widow of Sea Isle City NJ Police Officer Mickey Cullinane EOW 8/26/92 and current wife of a Montgomery County, MD Police Officer**

May God Bless and Keep Trooper Cosslett's family, friends and co-workers during this time.

**Cpl. J. Dailey**  
**Shreveport Police Department**

My thoughts and prayers are with the wife and children of Trooper Cosslett. The pain you feel is felt by all. You are not alone. Trooper Cosslett made the ultimate sacrifice and for this he is a hero. May his children know what a hero their daddy was.

The policeman turned to face his god  
which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his boots were shining  
just as brightly as his brass.  
"Step forward now, policeman,  
how shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To my church have you been true?"  
The policeman squared his shoulders and said,  
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't,  
Because those of us who carry badges,  
Can't always be a saint.  
I've had to work most Sundays,  
and at times my talk was rough.  
Sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the streets are very tough.  
But I never took a penny that wasn't mine to keep.  
Though I worked a lot of overtime  
when the bills got too steep.  
And I NEVER passed a cry for help  
though at times I shook with fear,  
And sometimes, God forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.  
I know I don't deserve a place among the people here  
They never wanted me around except to calm their fears.  
If you have a place for me, Lord  
It needn't be so grand,  
I've never expected or had too much  
But if you don't, I'll understand."  
There was a silence all around the throne  
Where the saints had often trod,  
As the policeman waited silently

From the judgment of his god.  
"Step forward now, policeman.  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in hell."

**Criminal Justice Student**

Trooper Cosslett, thank you for your selfless sacrifice and professionalism on the job. May you rest in peace. Don't worry, your brothers and sisters in Law Enforcement will watch over your family. You now patrol with the Highest Authority on streets of gold. God Bless.  
John 3:16

My heart goes out to Trooper Cosslett's family, friends and the men and women of the Virginia State Police. Each of you will be in my thoughts and prayers. Rest well my brother in blue, for the Lord has called you home.

**Ofcr. Susan Harmison  
Tampa PD Tampa,FL**

To the family of Trooper Cosslett, my prayers are with you. He is in heaven now with all the other officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

To the man in Blue  
Who has protected us through and through  
For you are in a better place  
As St. Paul meets you at the Pearly Gates  
He says, Son, you have done your job well.  
As your brothers in blue say goodbye to you,  
Blue lights run as police cars lead the procession  
Bagpipes played out over the land  
Tears stream down our face  
For we have lost another brother in blue.  
When will it end?  
Too many have crossed the THIN BLUE LINE.

**Expl. Captain Michael P. Kiniry  
Chesterfield County Police Explorer Post 609**

God bless the family and friends of this fallen hero. Rest in peace, Mark.

**Andrew  
Baltimore City Police**

Mark was a very dear friend of mine, he will be missed!  
He was dedicated to his job! He was a great Trooper and will be remembered. May God hold the family in his hands and be with them each step of the way

**Lisa- Communications Tech**

To Trooper Cosslett's family and friends, our hearts and prayers go out to you. God Bless you

**Terry Miyares, surviving spouse**  
**Officer Emilio F. Miyares, Hialeah PD, FL, EOW 11/6/86**

Semper FI

Sincere sympathy to the family of Trooper Mark Cosslett. May God grant you His Supreme Peace.

**Anonymous**

May you rest in peace, brother in blue, you have paid the ultimate price in protecting the public. My thoughts and prayers go out to your wife and children.

**Kent County Sheriff Department**

I just learned of Trooper Cosslett's death and am deeply saddened by yet another law enforcement loss. My thoughts and prayers are extended to the family, friends and the VA State Police. May you rest in peace, Trooper Cosslett. You will never be forgotten.

**Corporal Lynn Mihelick**  
**Minnesota State Patrol**

We lost another great hero today. God be with you. We will never forget you. God bless your family.

**911 Dispatcher**  
**National Park Service**

Thank you, Trooper Cosslett, for being a hero and a role model. You will not be forgotten.  
**Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Trooper Cosslett's family, as well as the members of the Virginia State Police. May your soul and body rest peacefully, and continue to watch down upon us, your brothers and sisters in the Commonwealth.

**Officer**  
**Henrico County Division of Police**

God bless Trooper Cosslett and his family. His death is one more that the sniper is responsible for. May justice be served. My prayers are with Trooper Cosslett's family and co-workers. He will never be forgotten.

**Denise**  
**Survivor of Calvin E. Taylor NCSHP E.O.W. 10-3-01**

**Telecommunicator**  
**NC Highway Patrol**

Our condolences to the family and friends of Tpr. Mark Cosslett, and the Virginia State Police. To our fallen hero, we shall forever pledge: YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN...

The men and women of The Illinois State Police.

**SGT FRED SCHOLL  
ILLINOIS STATE POLICE**

It's always sad to see an officer pass in this way, but we don't get to decide which calls we respond to and we must treat them all as a potential threat. Semper Fidelis, Trooper Cosslett. May you rest in peace guarding the streets of Heaven.

**Senior Patrol Officer Kevin Armstrong  
Anchorage Police Department**

Semper Fi brother ... Gone, but not forgotten. Rest in peace.

**Officer William J. Fritts  
Columbus Police Department**

May God comfort this family in their time of loss. Also may these two small children who lost their daddy always be reminded by family and friends that their daddy was a hero in his service to mankind.

**Jean Vincent**

**Mother of Off. Joey Vincent**

Members of the Illinois State Police send out condolences to the family and Virginia State Police for the lost of one of their "finest." Trooper Cosslett will always be in our thoughts and his family in our prayers.

**Illinois State Police**

Thank you, Lord, for all of the times this officer has helped one of your children.  
Thank you, Lord, for the legacy this officer leaves behind.  
Thank you, Lord, for this role model to our poor society.  
Thank you, Lord, for telling his children what a real hero he was and is.  
Thank you, Lord, for the comfort and peace to the family and friends of this officer during this, their darkest hour.  
Thank you, Lord, for your blessing on all Law Enforcement personnel during this time.  
And, Thank You, Lord, for the ONE who reads this and decides that they are the ONE who MUST fill this officer's place in the THIN BLUE LINE that will never break!

**Officer Eric Evans  
Hanover Police Department Indiana**

You were most likely responding to call that was thought to be related to the sniper incidents. All law enforcement officers in the region know what it has been like to respond to those types of calls. It does appear that the sniper, indirectly, managed to cause one of us to pay the ultimate price. I hope that you are resting a little bit easier knowing that WE got them. Your family will be in all of our thoughts and prayers.

**Anonymous**

To the family, friends and co-workers of Trooper Cosslett ... I'm so sorry for your loss. May his children always know their Daddy was a hero. God bless and comfort you all.

**Jamie Johnson, surviving sister of  
Officer Jon Cook  
San Francisco Police Department**

May you rest in peace, Trooper Cosslett. You made me and my family feel very safe. You are a real American hero. God bless your family and friends. Keep marching on and protect the sky.

**R. James  
Citizen of Virginia**

God favors the bold and strong of heart.  
Semper Fi!

**Special Agent  
Virginia State Police**

How our hearts break for you, just trying to do your job the best you knew how. As someone wrote to our daughter's reflections, "... while en route to assist..."

**With Love, Mom and Dad of  
Officer Kristin Pataki EOW 05/04/02**

**MNCP**

I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to Trooper Cosslett's family and to the Virginia State Police on their tragic loss.

" A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer. Ralph Waldo Emerson"

May God be with you.

From your brothers North of the border.

**Anonymous**

Semper Fidelis, Trooper Cosslett.

**Anonymous**

For I saw the Heavens open up.  
The Earth shook with Fear.  
For Evil knew of God's Army.  
They were Heroes, men on steel horses.

Thunder Rolls...

**Cpl. James J. Crawford**  
**Lower Providence Twp Police Motor Unit , Montg. Co. PA.**

To the family and co-workers of Mark, my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this trying time, may God bring comfort to you all. I am sure he was a truly great Trooper as all the ones of the Virginia State Police are that I have ever met or worked with.  
Rest in peace, my brother

**Deputy Jacob A. Sparks**  
**Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office**

I met Mark for the first time when I worked in the radio room at Division VII Headquarters. At the time Mark was a Trooper-Agent with BCI working on many drug related cases and, being new to the Department, I had yet to meet him. One night he tried to enter the locked building through the front door, and I would not let him in. Working undercover on many occasions, Mark had let his hair grow quite long and had plenty of facial hair. In all honesty, he looked more like a "street bum" than he did a trooper at the time. Thinking I was doing good by not letting him in the building, I later discovered he was a member of the Department when he displayed his badge and ID card.

Throughout my tenure in the radio room and before I became a trooper myself with the department, Mark would constantly give me a hard time about that night. He always thought it was funny, and I think it made him proud to know that he had fooled me into thinking he was some bum.

As a young trooper with the Department, I can only hope that I can carry on the tradition that Mark helped create over 16 years of dedication. I will always remember his smile, his sense of humor, his eagerness to work and help others, and most of all, his dedication to the Department. Mark, you are and always will be a Trooper's Trooper and Blue and Gray shall always be a part of you.

In closing, I begin my tour of duty with this Department as a trooper as you conclude yours, and I only hope that I grow to be a trooper as well rounded and dedicated as yourself. You will be missed, but never forgotten as we, all troopers, continue in your mission .. to serve and protect the Commonwealth of Virginia.

God Bless you my friend,

Tpr. S. R. Mittendorff U-1252

**Trooper S. R. Mittendorff**  
**Virginia State Police**

Trooper Cosslett  
Semper Fi, Leatherneck, thank you for your service to country, corps and the Virginia State Police. You will never be forgotten. God bless you and your family.

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MILITARY POLICE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION  
DIVISION (5811) (5813) Anonymous**

I would like to offer my deepest sympathy to Trooper Cosslett's family, friends, and co-workers. I hope that one day his wife and children will be able to read the words on this page and take great comfort in them. We buried one of our own last month. I still feel such deep sorrow each time I think of his family. Trooper Cosslett died trying to protect the people of his great state from the ongoing sniper attacks. He died with honor,

purpose, and valor. I am deeply saddened by his death. May the Lord bless and keep all of his family, friends, and co-workers.

**Tammie Harrison Lang**  
**Wife of Deputy J.D. Lang, Jefferson Co. Sheriff's Dept, Beaumont, TX**

This list is far too big. Heaven is bursting with heroes today, and they have another one in Trooper Cosslett. Though I never had the pleasure of meeting him, I miss him and I mourn the loss of another brother. It hurts, and yet there is pride knowing that he died helping people. His last act was to speed to someone's aid, founded or not. God Bless you, Mark, may the flights of angels take you to your final resting place. Be well, and take care of us.

**Officer Graham Campbell**  
**New York City Police Department**

Our sincere sympathy to the family of Trooper Mark Cosslett.  
May Gods' Grace give you peace and understanding.

**Lyndell & Elizabeth Taylor**  
**Parents of:**  
**Deputy Sheriff**  
**Morris Taylor**  
**Douglas County, Oregon**  
**EOW: 9-14-02**

For Trooper Cosslett, his family and friends:

May Trooper Cosslett be the one singing this psalm ~

PS 71:19 Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God,  
you who have done great things.  
Who, O God, is like you?

PS 71:20 Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter,  
you will restore my life again;  
from the depths of the earth  
you will again bring me up.

PS 71:21 You will increase my honor  
and comfort me once again.

PS 71:22 I will praise you with the harp  
for your faithfulness, O my God;  
I will sing praise to you with the lyre,  
O Holy One of Israel.

PS 71:23 My lips will shout for joy  
when I sing praise to you--  
I, whom you have redeemed.

PS 71:24 My tongue will tell of your righteous acts  
all day long,

for those who wanted to harm me  
have been put to shame and confusion.

**Anonymous**

Another senseless death brought on by (2) infamous men that brought sorrow and sadness to (13) other families. You died as a hero while en route to help a helpless victim by a serial sniper, which turned out to be unfounded. God bless your family during this time of sorrow. Gone, but never to be forgotten.

**CHIEF RONNIE WATFORD-RETIRED  
JEFFERSON POLICE DEPT,S.C.**

SEMPER FI, My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. May God Bless and Keep You.  
Father of Deputy Richard A. Weinke EOW 04-05-98

**Deputy H.R. Weinke  
Sauk County Sheriff's Dept**

To the family, friends, and co-workers of Trooper Cosslett, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God comfort you during this time of loss. And may justice truly prevail in regard to the sniper that was the cause of this accident. May God guide those beautiful and innocent children who won't understand the sacrifice that their Daddy made until later on in their lives.

**JIMMY E. BARTLEY  
BEAUMONT P.D.**

May God bless Mark's family and friends in this time of sorrow. Words can't express the sorrow we feel in times such as these. God Speed, Mark.....

"The wicked flee where no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion".....

**Trooper J.P. Flanary  
Virginia State Police**

A very sad day in America, Another hero lost tragically. RIP, Trooper Cosslett. May God bless your family and fellow Troopers and may he give them all the strength and courage to get through this horrible sad time. Your sacrifice will not be forgotten.

A Brother in Blue

**Ptlm  
CPD, NY**

Brother Cosslett,  
It saddens me deeply to hear of this tragedy. Despite the miles that separate us, we, the Columbus (Ga.) Police Department Motorcycle Squad send our deepest sympathies and condolences. God Speed.

I saw the heavens open up.  
The Earth shook with fear.

For Evil knew of God's Army.  
They were Heroes on steel Horses.

**Patrolman Tim Wynn**  
**Columbus (Ga,) Police Department**

This just solidifies how one evil action can have so many dire consequences. You are a hero. You will live on through your brothers and sisters. God speed.

**Anonymous**

Semper FI

**Trooper**  
**Tennessee Highway Patrol**

For the past several weeks, we have been responding to these calls just as Mark was. Each time, believing that our response could truly be life or death for someone, we gave it our all. Mark was doing the same.

We will carry on, Mark. Please watch over us.

**Anonymous**  
**Montgomery County Police, MD**

I send my prayers and condolences to the family, friends and partners of Trooper Cosslett. We grieve with you in the loss of yet another brother responding to serve and protect. He is a hero and will be remembered!

**Officer T. Hodge**  
**US Park Police / District 5**

SEMPER FI, my fellow Marine and State Trooper. To the family, The TX DPS would like to send our deepest sympathy on your loss. Trooper Cosslett, I did not know you personally, but to be a Marine and a Trooper, I feel I know you on a different level. GOD SPEED, brother.

**State Trooper**  
**TX. Dept. of Public Safety**

... as a former Marine and police officer and the father of Trooper John Bishop, 858 (Fairfax), may God rest the soul of Trooper Cosslett and his family ... there is nothing on God's green earth lonelier than taps ... all dues "paid in full" ...

**Chief Herman Bishop, retired**  
**Adams, Mass. Police Dep't**

"... and when I get to Heaven, to Saint Peter I will tell, another Marine reporting, Sir, I've served my time in Hell..."... there are no words, Trooper Cosslett ... you now sit in Valhala ... as the father of a VSP Trooper, what happened to you brought tears to this old Marine/cop's eyes ... Rest in peace ...

**Chief Herman Bishop, retired**  
**Adams, Mass. Police Dep't**

God bless those left behind. Rest in peace, our fallen hero.

**S. Yates**  
**concerned citizen**

It sounds like thunder far away, but the skies are blue and bright. And soon they crest the hill nearby, and ride into our sight. They shake the ground with powerful sound, and they make some hearts beat fast. They look so proud and noble, like knights come from the past. Side by side, they always ride, and seem to move as one. From early in the morning light, to the setting of the sun. And children point and wave to them, from cars that pass them by. And young ones ask their parents, why the men have mirrors for eyes. They ride the roads, and fight for good, and defend small ones like you. They ask to ride, and do with pride, and sometimes they are few. Like men of steel, on silver wings, they sparkle in the light. Then with a roar and rumble, they ride out of our sight. Sometimes when one has fallen, never to ride again, you can hear the others calling, like thunder on the wind. Side by side they slowly ride, and their thunder is a mournful sound.. And the mirrors hide their eyes from us, when teardrops fall to ground. So if you see one riding, and you look into his face. You see your reflection in his eyes, you know that you are safe. For motormen are a special breed, they love to ride the wind. And when you hear the thunder boom, the fallen one rides again.

This entry is for Trooper Cosslett's family & friends from a fellow officer, and brother Marine here in Michigan. Mark will never be gone ... he now rides alongside every motor officer, and like the poem says you'll know he's there every time you hear that roar of a police motor.

God Bless & Semper Fi

**Ofc. Keith VanValkenburgh**  
**Dearborn Heights Police (MI)**

My prayers are with the wife and two small children of this brave man. He gave his life trying to help others. He is truly one of the many heroes that are now watching over all of us from above.

**Lori Brown**  
**Aunt of Deputy Renee Azure EOW 8/06/02**

May you rest in peace. God bless you and your family.

**Trooper GN Hartley**  
**Virginia State Police**

From one motorman to another. You did what you loved to do and that was to ride and do law enforcement. God bless you.

**Motor-officer John W. Pretti**  
**Tallahassee Police Department Florida**

I would like to send my condolences to Trooper C. Mark Cosslett, family, friends and to the Virginia State Police.

**ROBERT WIGTON #9516  
PATROLMAN  
SAN ANTONIO PARK POLICE**

God bless you and your family for your ultimate sacrifice.  
May you rest in peace.

**Deputy Mark L. Spencer  
McKinley County Sheriffs Dept.**

To the Family of Officer Cosslett,

Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. I lost my brother Officer John C. Bohach, Reno PD just over a year ago. Officer Cosslett will forever remain a hero and his memory will live on forever. We must remain strong and live on. God Bless You.

**Jean M. Buckley  
Citizen of Virginia and Sister of Officer Bohach  
Reno PD EOW 8/22/01**

Thank you so much for keeping Virginia safe in pursuing the sniper that propelled the whole East Coast into utter terror. Thanks to people like you, we can sleep a little easier at night. You are our defender, and we will never forget the price that some pay to provide us that safety. Rest well, sir, and to your family, my sincere hope for closure, and peace. Thanks again.

**Concerned Military Member  
USAF**

I am so sorry for your loss. Here on the West Coast we slept peacefully in our beds -- while Trooper Cosslett put himself at risk so that you on the East Coast could sleep peacefully in yours. God bless you, Trooper Cosslett. You died a true hero to us all.

**Sami Thomson  
Surviving niece of Officer Jon Cook  
San Francisco Police Department**

Gone But Never Forgotten, For now we have the watch that you so bravely gave your life for. Honor and defend it we will, for now we have an Angel to always guide us. Rest In Peace our Brother, you shall Forever Be Missed.

**Keith Porter  
Son of VSP Master Trooper James E. Porter (Retired)**

To Trooper Mark Cosslett's family.  
I did not have the pleasure of personally knowing Mark. My husband and I attended Mark's funeral and were blessed by getting a glimpse of Mark through the many remarks shared about his life. May God grant peace and comfort to each family member. You are blessed with many good memories.

A Fellow Survivor

**Maureen Wash Cuthrell, President  
Old Dominion Concerns of Police Survivors of Virginia**

God bless this hero taken from us. May you rest in peace my brother. God bless the wife and children.

**Detective J.C. Johnson  
Danville Police Dept. Danville VA.**

So sad, so unbearable, except for God, the pain of the loss for Trooper Cosslett's family. My deep, deep sympathy to them and to all his professional and personal friends. I was privileged to learn about what an outstanding trooper and man he was at the funeral service at Immanuel Bible Church. Truly, he was a hero and I am thankful for him and for all the other men and women of the Virginia State Police. The snipers had 14 victims; Trooper Cosslett was the last. May the peace of Christ comfort.

**Dianna Sutherland  
Virginia Citizen**

My thoughts and prayers are with this officer's family and his co-workers. May God comfort you through this very difficult time. Always tell the children that their father was a HERO.....

**Shelly Ragsdale, surviving spouse  
Officer Alan Ragsdale, Hohenwald Police Dept., EOW 11-27-00**

SEMPER FI You have done your time in Hell. I would like to leave this Prayer as I have carried it through Harms way and I hope It will Help with the pain to the loved ones and friends of this Brave soul

One night a Marine had a dream The Marine dreamed of walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from the Marine's life. For each scene, the Marine noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to the Marine and one belonging to the Lord. When the last scene appeared, the Marine noticed many times there was only one set of footprints and this seemed to happen during the lowest and saddest times in the Marine's Life. This really bothered the Marine. The Marine questioned the Lord. Lord, you said once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way, but during the most troublesome times there is only one set of footprints This Marine does not understand. When I needed you most, you left me The Lord replied, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of pain and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then I carried you.

SEMPER FI, BROTHER

**STATE TROOPER K-9  
TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL**

My thoughts are with the family and friends of this brave man. God bless

**Anonymous**

From all of the officers with Chesterfield, I would like to reach out and offer our prayers and sympathy to the family of Trooper Cosslett. I'm sure he will patrol the heavenly highways as well as he did those in Virginia.

"What we do in life echoes in eternity"

**Ofc. Michael C. Elliott, Unit 430  
Chesterfield County P.D.**

Semper Fi

A Brother,  
Houston PD

**Anonymous**

On 23 October, 2002, as we sat in our seats listening attentively to the material that was being covered by the instructor representing the Virginia State Police, there was a disruption from her pager revealing news of a Trooper who was just involved in an accident in Northern Virginia. When we came to a breaking point in the lecture, she made a phone call and came back to tell us that it was confirmed that a Virginia State Trooper just lost his life in a tragic motorcycle accident. We send our deepest sympathy and regards to the family of Trooper Mark Cosslett and the Virginia State Police on their recent loss and a fellow BROTHER IN BLUE AND GRAY. May GOD comfort you in your time of sorrow. GOD SPEED. Semper Fidelis!!!

60th Basic Police Academy  
Crater Criminal Justice Academy

**Recruit Donald W. Reichardt  
Virginia State University Police Department**

If the army and the navy ever look on heaven's scenes,  
they will find the streets are guarded by Unites States  
Marines. Semper Fi, brother.

**Anonymous**

As I read these reflections, tears run down my face for not knowing why this happened.  
As A Marine/Trooper, this bothers me so much that this warrior has been taken from us.  
All I can say is, God Speed Brother, for you have done your time in Hell. SEMPER FI, my  
Brother.

**STATE TROOPER  
TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL**