

Remembering & Honoring Our Heroes

Who gave the Ultimate Sacrifice in August

The Colonel C. W. Woodson Memorial Gallery located in the Virginia State Police Academy is dedicated to those members of the Virginia State Police and their predecessors, the inspectors of the Division of Motor Vehicles, who gave their lives in the preservation of law and order, and who, in so doing, lived and died in the best traditions of law enforcement's duty and service to mankind. The Woodson Memorial Gallery proudly displays the portraits of six Virginia Troopers who lived their lives by this tradition and by the Trooper's Pledge down to the very letter and who in the month of August gave the ultimate sacrifice protecting and serving the citizens of our State and Country. We will always remember and honor them for how they lived and served.

God Bless our Heroes!



Trooper
Past Present and Future



Trooper-Pilot Berke Bates
(EOW 8/12/2017)



Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen,
III
(EOW 8/12/2017)



Trooper Jacqueline
Vernon
(EOW 8/16/1988)



Inspector Thomas Allen
Belt
(EOW 8/18/1930)



Inspector W. Neville
Hatcher
(EOW 8/19/1928)



Trooper Johnny Rush
Bowman
(EOW 8/19/1984)



Trooper
Past, Present & Future

We will never forget...



Trooper-Pilot Berke Morgan Matthew Bates, Badge # 764
Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen, III, Badge # 71
End of Watch: August 12, 2017
Albemarle County/City of Charlottesville

The Virginia State Police Family Remembers and Honors the Service and

Dedication of Trooper-Pilot Berke M. M. Bates and Lieutenant-Pilot H. Jay Cullen, III. On Saturday, August 12, 2017, Trooper Bates and Lieutenant Cullen were flying a Virginia State Police Bell 407 helicopter in support of Troopers and law enforcement officers working on the ground to protect the citizens and visitors of Charlottesville during the 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. They had been asked to surveil a potentially violent situation in Charlottesville when the helicopter crashed into a wooded area near a residence on Old Farm Road in Albemarle County. Trooper Bates and Lieutenant Cullen succumbed to their injuries as a result of the crash becoming the 64th and 65th Virginia State Police Troopers to give the ultimate sacrifice while performing their official law enforcement duties.

Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, the Superintendent of the Virginia State Police when this tragic event occurred, said "Our state police and law enforcement family at-large are mourning this tragic outcome to an already challenging day. Lieutenant Cullen was a highly-respected professional aviator and Trooper-Pilot Bates was a welcome addition to the Aviation Unit, after a distinguished assignment as a special agent with our Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Their deaths are a tremendous loss to our agency and the Commonwealth."

Lieutenant Cullen graduated from the Virginia State Police Academy in May 1994 as a member of the 90th Basic Session. He first joined the Virginia State Police Aviation Unit in 1999. Lieutenant Cullen was survived by his wife and two sons.

Trooper-Pilot Bates graduated from the Virginia State Police Academy in August 2004 as a member of the 107th Basic Session. He had just transferred to the Aviation Unit as a Trooper-Pilot in July. Trooper-Pilot Bates was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Trooper-Pilot Berke M. M. Bates and Lieutenant-Pilot H. Jay Cullen, III, are both Virginia Heroes for the way they lived, served and protected their fellow citizens. Their memories live and their service to the Commonwealth of Virginia stands tall as an inspiration for all that follow.

We will never forget...



Trooper Jacqueline Vernon, Badge # 660
Division VII - Arlington County
EOW: August 16, 1988

Today and always, the Virginia State Police Family Remembers and Honors Trooper Jacqueline Vernon's life of service to the Nation and to the Citizens of Virginia. Trooper Vernon served in the U. S. Army before joining the Virginia State Police. Trooper Vernon graduated from the Virginia State Police Academy as a member of the 73rd Basic Training Session in 1984. As a Trooper she lived and worked by the Trooper's Pledge always waging war against crime in all its forms. Trooper Vernon was recognized for her work in 11 commendations that she received following her graduation from the Academy and assignment to Arlington.

Tragically, on August 16, 1988, Trooper Jacqueline Vernon gave her life in the preservation of law and order, and who in so doing lived and died in the best traditions of law enforcement's duty and service to mankind. Trooper Vernon was struck and killed while making a traffic stop on an HOV violator on northbound I-395 in Arlington County at 8:50 a.m. She was struck by a Metro bus as she was standing on the driver's side of the car she had pulled over in the HOV lanes between the Shirlington and Glebe Road exits. The Interstate 395 bridge over South Glebe Road is designated the Trooper Jacqueline Vernon Memorial Bridge in her honor.

Trooper Jacqueline Vernon gave the ultimate sacrifice becoming the 43rd Virginia State Police Trooper to die in the line of duty while serving and protecting the Citizens of Virginia. Trooper Vernon is also Virginia's first African American and first female Trooper killed in the line of duty. The way she lived and served makes her a true Virginia Hero!

We will never forget...



Inspector Thomas Allen Belt, Badge # 20
Loudoun County
End of watch: August 18, 1930

The Virginia State Police Family Remembers and Honors Inspector Thomas Allen Belt. He served and protected the Citizens of Virginia as an Inspector with the Department of Motor Vehicles for 5 years building the foundation for what is now the Virginia State Police. The Staunton News Leader reported that “Mr. Belt was a state traffic officer on the Winchester-to-Washington run.” He was from Hamilton, Virginia which is located in Loudoun County. He was born on August 16, 1883. We honor his valor, dedication and life of service to the Citizens of Virginia.

On August 12, 1930, Inspector Belt was patrolling the highways in Loudoun County on a motorcycle. As he passed a slow-moving horse and buggy, he collided with a car that backed into his path from a store. He received medical treatment in the Leesburg Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries 6 days later.

Inspector Thomas Belt gave his life in the preservation of law and order, and who in so doing lived and died in the best traditions of law enforcement's duty and service to mankind. Inspector Belt became the 4th Virginia State Police Officer to give the Ultimate Sacrifice. His memory lives and his service stands as a model for troopers and law enforcement officers today.

Inspector Thomas Allen Belt is truly a Virginia Hero!

We will never forget...



Inspector W. Neville Hatcher
Culpeper County
End of watch: August 19, 1928

Today and always, the Virginia State Police Family Remembers and Honors Inspector W. Neville Hatcher. On August 15, 1928, Inspector Hatcher was shot four times at point blank range by a person wanted for murder. He received immediate emergency medical treatment from local doctors and was then transported to the University of Virginia Hospital for enhanced medical treatment. His condition did not improve and he succumbed to his injuries four days later becoming the first Virginia State Police Officer to give the ultimate sacrifice protecting and serving the Citizens of Virginia. To honor Inspector Hatcher's memory, the Virginia State Police Association shares

“Remembering the life and line-of-duty death of
Inspector W. Neville Hatcher”
By John Toler of the Fauquier Times

W. Neville Hatcher (1902-1928) was a local boy, the son of F. G. and Ethel James Hatcher of The Plains. A businessman, F. G. Hatcher was the owner of the Tourist Inn and Hatcher Coal Co.

Neville attended local schools and worked several jobs, and in the early 1920s, drove race cars for Tom Frost.

By 1923, Virginia's early highway system was showing the effects of the growing number of cars and trucks on the road, and the Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles – precursor of the Virginia State Police – was established to enforce the new traffic laws adopted by the General Assembly.

The enforcement arm of the DMV was its inspectors, which until 1928 consisted of only 15 men to cover the entire Commonwealth. Legislation passed that year added 20 more inspector positions. Hatcher applied, and was hired in June 1928. As sworn officers, DMV inspectors were charged with enforcing all state laws, not just traffic regulations.

Tragic confrontation: In August 1928, state law enforcement agencies, including the DMV, received an alert that Henry Shepherd, a fugitive from Culpeper, was back in the area. Shepherd had fled the state in 1927, charged with murdering a woman in Jeffersonton.

On Aug. 15, 1928, Hatcher – who knew Shepherd by sight and had an old warrant for his arrest – was working northeast of Culpeper with Inspector P. L. Thornton. They had learned about a gathering that afternoon at the Mount Zion Baptist Church, where Shepherd might appear.

The inspectors set up a checkpoint on the road near the church, and soon afterward, a car with a New York license plate approached. Hatcher ordered the driver to stop, and recognized Shepherd, sitting in the middle of the front seat.

Hatcher was just behind the car when it stopped. At that moment, Shepherd bolted from the car and ran toward Hatcher, gun in hand. Before Hatcher could raise his weapon, Shepherd shot him four times at point-blank range before running into the nearby woods.

Thornton, who was not injured, immediately came to Hatcher's aid, placing him in their patrol car and rushing to Culpeper. There Hatcher was given emergency treatment for serious stomach and abdominal wounds by three local doctors.

Word of the incident was quickly relayed to authorities in Fauquier County, and Hatcher's parents and Warrenton Mayor Thomas E. Frank arrived in Culpeper about 3 p.m. However, Hatcher's condition was so serious that he was transported to the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville for further treatment.

Back at the scene, Culpeper County Sheriff J. J. Nash assembled a posse of over 100 men, and searched for Shepherd in the woods and fields near the crime scene. They found nothing.

Back home, Hatcher's community rallied around his family, and a reward for Shepherd's apprehension quickly reached over \$1,100. Mugshots of Shepherd and a detailed description were published on the front page of The Fauquier Democrat.

The search intensified after Hatcher died on Aug. 28, 1928. A massive manhunt was launched by state and local authorities. Shepherd was reported having been seen being in Arlington and Washington, D.C., and a reported sighting in Front Royal brought out a posse of about 200 men, with bloodhounds. But again, the trail went cold.

Inspector Neville Hatcher's funeral service was conducted in The Plains, with interment in a cemetery in Middleburg. It was noted that Hatcher had only served 62 days as an inspector before he lost his life.

"It took 11 years for Shepherd to be apprehended," according to retired Virginia State Police Sgt. John Rowles, who researched the case with long-time DMV employee G. Watson James Jr. "He was finally captured in New York in 1939 by members of the Virginia State Police's 'Little FBI,' and returned to Virginia."

Shepherd was tried for Hatcher's murder, and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

We will never forget...



Remembering and Honoring
Trooper Johnny Rush Bowman, Badge # 1515
End of Watch: August 19, 1984
Division VII – Manassas, Virginia

The Virginia State Police Family Remembers and Honors Trooper Johnny Rush Bowman, who gave his life in the preservation of law and order, and who in so doing lived and died in the best traditions of law enforcement's duty and service to mankind.

Trooper Bowman served his Country and State as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps and as a Trooper with the Virginia State Police. His goal was to make his State and Country a safer place in which to live. Trooper Bowman waged an unceasing war against crime as he lived and worked in an exemplary manner in accordance with the Trooper's Pledge.

Tragically, on August 19, 1984, Trooper Johnny Bowman was brutally attacked at his home in the 8900 block of Patterson Place in Manassas, Virginia, when he answered the ringing of the doorbell or knocking at his door at 4:18 in the morning. When he opened the door, he was immediately attacked and stabbed 45 times by an unknown male.

Trooper Bowman, age 31, succumbed to his injuries becoming the 37th Virginia State Police Trooper to give the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties. Trooper Bowman had served with the Virginia State Police for 5 years.

He was survived by his wife and daughter.

The murder of Trooper Bowman remains unsolved.

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the violent murder of Trooper Johnny Rush Bowman. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with the Virginia State Police, Manassas City Police Department, and the Prince William County Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the unknown individual(s) responsible for the brutal murder of Virginia State Trooper Johnny Rush Bowman in Manassas, Virginia.

The Bowman Family needs answers and Trooper Johnny Rush Bowman deserves justice. See the "Wanted Information" Poster and Video of Trooper Bowman's daughter asking for answers at <https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/seekinginfo/trooper-johnny-rush-bowman>.

Trooper Bowman is remembered, honored and missed every day.

Rest in Peace Brother

Trooper's Pledge



"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."