

Remembering & Honoring Our Heroes

Who gave the Ultimate Sacrifice in November

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 five 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 November 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 Rannie DeWitt
Kennedy (EOW
11/05/1973)



Trooper Garland West
Fisher, Jr. (EOW
11/15/1976)



Trooper
Past Present and Future



Trooper Warren Yokely Harless (EOW 11/18/1968)



Trooper Robert Wright Smith (EOW 11/21/1951)



Trooper Robert A. Hill, Jr. (EOW 11/24/2006)



Trooper Past, Present & Future

We will never forget...

Trooper Rannie DeWitt Kennedy - EOW November 5, 1973

Trooper Rannie Kennedy who was killed in an automobile crash during a vehicle pursuit on Route 208 in Spotsylvania County. Trooper Kennedy's patrol car skidded into the path of an oncoming truck. To avoid colliding with the truck Trooper Kennedy steered his vehicle into a wooded area. Trooper Kennedy had served with the Virginia State Police for five years and was the 29th Virginia State Police Trooper to give the Ultimate Sacrifice in the performance of their duties.

We will never forget...

Trooper Garland West Fisher - EOW November 15, 1976

Trooper Garland West Fisher stopped a car going the wrong way on Interstate 85. During the stop, Trooper Fisher was shot, abducted at gunpoint and forced to drive his patrol car towards Atlanta, Georgia. The North Carolina Highway Patrol set up a roadblock approximately 10 miles north of Durham. As Trooper Fisher's car approached the roadblock, several shots were reported to have been heard coming from inside the car. The individual that shot and abducted Trooper Fisher was taken into custody. Trooper Garland Fisher had served with the Virginia State Police for 12 years and was the 32nd Virginia State Police Trooper to give the Ultimate Sacrifice in the performance of their duties.

We will never forget...

Trooper Warren Yokely Harless - EOW November 18, 1968

Trooper Warren Harless was shot and killed in the Big Hill area of Lee County. It was during the November 1968 deer hunting season and Trooper Harless was assisting Deputies from the Lee County Sheriff's Office in arresting a mentally ill man who had occupied an abandoned house on a property that was popular with hunters. The man, who was armed, had confronted several hunters at gunpoint and stole their rifles after they came onto the property he claimed as his own.

When deputies and troopers arrived at the house the suspect fled into the nearby hills and beginning firing on the police. He fired shots at the Deputies and Troopers for almost 12 hours.

The State Police Armored Vehicle could not get to the scene because the roads had been washed out by a storm. Trooper Harless volunteered to approach the house with a spotlight in his hand so other officers could shoot tear gas inside. The suspect opened fire, probably shooting at the light, hitting Trooper Harless. Trooper Harless died on the way to Holston Medical Center in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Trooper Harless was the 26th Virginia State Police Trooper to give the Ultimate Sacrifice in the performance of their duties.

We will never forget...

Trooper Robert Wright Smith - EOW November 21, 1951

Trooper Robert Wright Smith 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. His goal was to make his State and Country a safer place in which to live. Trooper Smith waged an unceasing war against crime as he lived and worked in an exemplary manner in accordance with the Trooper's Pledge. On November 21, 1951 Trooper Smith was patrolling Appomattox County protecting the Citizens of Appomattox County, Virginia and the Country when he was involved in a motor vehicle accident near Pamplin, Virginia. Trooper Smith succumbed to his injuries caused by the crash becoming the 19th Virginia State Police Trooper to give the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties.

We will never forget...

Trooper Robert A. Hill, Jr. - EOW November 24, 2006

Senior Trooper Robert A. Hill, Sr. 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 Hill was in the process of issuing a summons to a stopped motorist on the afternoon of November 24, 2006, in Southampton County, when he was struck and killed by a passing vehicle.

The caring manner in which Trooper Hill served the citizens of his community combined with his dedication and professionalism earned him the utmost respect and admiration. Trooper Hill worked continually to make his community a safer and better place in which to live. He waged continual war against crime as a Trooper and Crime Prevention Specialist and to improve the lives of children he conducted an annual campaign to collect, buy and to present toys to underprivileged children throughout his area.

Trooper Hill had served with the Virginia State Police for nearly 20 years and was the 54th Virginia State Police Trooper to give the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties.

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."