Remembering & Honoring Our Heroes

Who gave the Ultimate Sacrifice in October

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 seven 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 October 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 William H. Andrews (EOW 10/03/1946)
Trooper Walter Sinton Parrish (EOW 10/04/1953)
Trooper Andrew D. Fox (EOW 10/05/2012)
Special Agent in Charge Rodney Dean Grimes (EOW 10/09/1983)
We will never forget…

**Trooper William H. Andrews - EOW October 3, 1946**

Trooper Andrews succumbed October 3, 1946, to injuries he received in an automobile accident four days earlier while responding to an assist another trooper in Crewe, Virginia. Trooper Andrews was a U.S. Navy veteran of WWII.

We will never forget…

**Trooper Walter Sinton Parrish - EOW October 4, 1953**

Trooper Walter Parrish was killed in an automobile crash while on patrol on Shirley Highway (modern-day I-95), near the Lorton overpass, in Fairfax County. It is believed that he was attempting to catch up with a violator when his patrol car went out of control and careened down a 35-foot embankment at 1:20 am. Trooper Parrish was assigned to the Ingleside Barracks.
We will never forget…

Trooper Andrew D. Fox - EOW October 4, 2012

On the evening of October 5, 2012, Trooper Fox was working a special assignment in Hanover County. At approximately 9:53 p.m., Fox and other troopers were directing traffic through the intersection of Route 30 and Theme Park Way when an SUV traveling through the intersection struck Trooper Fox. He was transported to VCU Medical Center, where he succumbed to his injuries.

We will never forget…

Special Agent in Charge Rodney Dean Grimes - EOW October 9, 1983

Rodney Dean Grimes became a trooper with the Virginia State Police in June of 1966. He was an exemplary officer and over 17 years of outstanding service rose to the rank of Special Agent in Charge. He was assigned to the Division Headquarters in Culpeper, Virginia. Special Agent in Charge Rodney Grimes was killed October 9, 1983, in a motor vehicle crash on Route 55 in Shenandoah County.

We will never forget…

Trooper Donald Edward Lovelace - EOW October 18, 1970

Trooper Donald Lovelace was working the midnight shift on October 18, 1970 when he was struck and killed by a passing vehicle during a traffic stop on Route 17, between Dare Road and Oriana Road, in York County. Trooper Lovelace had served with the Virginia State Police for one year. The Route 134 Bridge over U.S. Route 17 in York County is dedicated in Trooper Lovelace's honor as the "Trooper Donald E. Lovelace Memorial Bridge."
We will never forget…

Investigator Wallace Monroe Simpson - EOW October 23, 1951

Investigator Wallace Simpson was shot and killed by an escaped mental patient from the Central State Hospital near Petersburg, Virginia. The suspect had fled while participating in a work crew on the hospital's farm. He barricaded himself in a home adjoining the hospital property and exchanged shots with responding officers for several hours. Investigator Simpson was struck in the face by a shotgun blast as he attempted to get to the door of the home. The suspect was shot and killed by return gunfire. Six other policemen were wounded during the incident.

We will never forget…

Trooper Charles Mark Cosslett - EOW October 23, 2002

Trooper Charles Mark Cosslett was killed in a motorcycle accident on I-95, near Backlick Road south of I-495, in the Springfield area of Fairfax County. Trooper Cosslett was responding to a sniper-related shooting call at 1735 hours and driving on the right shoulder in rush hour traffic when a tow-truck veered onto the shoulder from the right lane striking the motorcycle killing Trooper Cosslett instantly. Trooper Cosslett was scheduled to be off the day he was killed but reported to work to help other officers search for a sniper who had killed ten people and wounded another three in the Washington metro area. The two suspects in the sniper case were arrested at 0300 hours the next morning near Frederick, Maryland. Trooper Cosslett was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and had been served with the Virginia State Police for 16 years.
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."
TROOPERS 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 conscientiously 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, whether foreign, domestic, or peaceably, and whensoever, in case of invasion or domestic violence, I shall always be loyal to and uphold the honor of my organization, my state, and my country.