
the Safety Signal

June 2009

Trooper receives award for capture of murderer

On June 18, a luncheon was held in Tulsa sponsored by the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The organization presented an award to Trp. Johnny Christian. He was honored for the successful capture of a brutal murderer in Bryan County.

It was January 10 when a man bludgeoned his girlfriend and her mother with a baseball bat, then almost completely beheaded them with the use of a knife. After assisting with the all-night manhunt, in the early morning hours of January 11, Christian went 10-7. Just into a couple of hours of sleep, he was awakened by a phone call from an informant. Christian, also a member of the eastern district of Oklahoma US Marshals Task Force, contacted Don Hyde, Calera chief of police, and then quickly went 10-8. While en route to conduct investigative work as a result of the phone call, Christian spotted the subject running down the highway. He caught and detained the man to be handed over to the Calera Police Department.

At the Tulsa luncheon, Hyde described Christian as someone he could count on and

tore me down except for my faith in God that pulled me through.”

Hyde knew both victims well and expressed his gratitude in Christian’s capture of the murderer.

“I was telling Chief Guillotte and the crowd of 200-plus in Tulsa that around Bryan County, it is not just known to only me that when there are escapees or someone is being sought-after, that it is common knowledge ... everyone knows to call on Trooper Christian. I don’t know what the boy does, and I don’t care how he does it, but I do know that in the 20-plus years I’ve known him - and as a friend - he has the education and he has the sources provided by the highway patrol and years of classes and training. He has built his skills and has made himself someone that we in Bryan County are so proud to



Col. Van M. Guillotte attends the ceremony honoring Trp. Johnny Christian with an award for his capture of a man who brutally murdered his girlfriend and her mother in Bryan County in January 2009.

lavished him with high praise, describing him as a “go-to” trooper.

“That particular night (in January) - after 21 years of law enforcement experience - was the hardest night for me,” said Hyde. “Emotionally it just

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Christian award *(Con'd.)*

have. We are truly blessed to have him and the energy he has focused on.

“Back in the day, there was a myth that troopers only patrolled the road. But over time it has built itself into search and investigation. It seems like the patrol has been getting back into these basics, and small towns are seeing the benefit of this. Troopers like Johnny Christian just continue to excel. He has worked and earned his way to get in the field he is in, and we are so blessed and fortunate to have him down here.”

Sunshine Gross, domestic violence and stalking specialist with the OCADVSA, expressed her appreciation for Christian and his efforts.

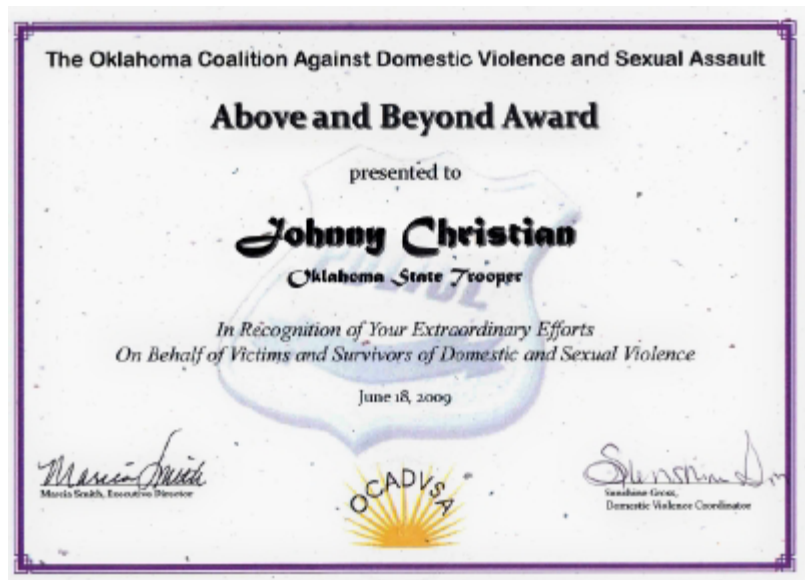
“Trooper Christian is the epitome of what all Oklahoma law enforcement officers should strive to be. His willingness to help, consideration of others, and his undying determination to apprehend the bad guys keeps our Oklahoma communities safer. On January 10, 2009, Trooper Christian went above and beyond the call of duty. He has forever left his mark on those of us who work with victims of domestic violence. We will not soon forget his amazing efforts and ultimate apprehension of a domestic violence murder

suspect of the worse kind. To say thank you is simply not enough,” said Gross.

Col. Van M. Guillotte attended the luncheon on behalf of the patrol and in support of Christian.

“I was honored and very proud to participate in a standing ovation for Christian that day,” said Guillotte. “He was the first trooper ever to be honored by the organization, and he has been a great asset to the highway patrol.”

Christian is also the 1992 recipient of the Trooper of the Year Award for saving the life of a five-day-old infant through the use of CPR.



Williams receives honorary trooper award

By Alice Collinsworth
OHSO media assistant

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol recently extended an Honorary Oklahoma Highway Patrolman Award, one of the department's most rare honors, to Carol Williams of the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office. She is one of only three women to receive the award in recent OHP history.

Williams was selected because of her work as chairperson for the Traffic and Criminal Software Project which was initiated by Commissioner Kevin Ward. The award was presented at the 2009 "Click It or Ticket" luncheon May 13 in Norman.

In his letter of nomination, Cpt. Don Stockton said, "Mrs. Williams directed the formation of a highly skilled and knowledgeable team from the University of Oklahoma, Department of Public Safety and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol to guide the effort and produce the Oklahoma version of the software. Mrs. Williams' efforts and those of the team she oversees has created a paradigm shift in the manner in which the patrol conducts its business."

Stockton said traffic collision reports submitted via TraCS are now recorded 300

percent more quickly than at the time of its inception in December 2008.

Williams has worked for DPS for 25 years, serving first in the Financial Responsibility

been given the opportunity to participate in the TraCS project has meant the world to me."

Williams said she logs into the TraCS system every day to see how many new reports have come in.

"Have you any idea how much time and effort has already been saved?" she asked. "And we've hardly begun. Every time I hear an officer or supervisor say they use TraCS and they love it, I can't even tell you how much that means to me."

Stockton agrees.

"Because of this accomplishment, Carol Williams vicariously contributes to every lifesaving event to which troopers now respond," he said in his letter of nomination.

Williams said the award presentation was a complete surprise.

"I didn't even know there was an 'Honorary Oklahoma Highway Patrolman Award,' but to have received this distinction is more than anything I could possibly have imagined," she said.



OHSO employee Carol Williams receives Honorary Oklahoma Highway Patrolman Award from Commissioner Kevin Ward for her work with the TraCS program.

division and later in the Records Management division (then known as Services and Records). She became a program manager at OHSO in 1997 and says she is quite honored to receive the award.

"In my nearly 26 years at DPS, I have worked with some of the finest people in the world; many of them were and are OHP personnel," she said. "To have

Click it or Ticket campaign kickoff events

By Alice Collinsworth
OHSO media assistant

Law enforcement officers across the state of Oklahoma took part in two May kickoff events for the 2009 “Click It or Ticket” mobilization.

The Oklahoma City CIOT event included a May 13 luncheon at the Hall at Old Town Plaza in Norman. Speakers Rosemary Hayes and Wes Young shared stories of being involved in serious crashes where seat belt use likely saved their lives. The event was sponsored by the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office.

Commissioner Kevin Ward was a featured speaker at the luncheon and presented the 2009 OHSO excellence awards to individuals and groups involved in highway safety issues.

Afterward, members of the media were provided an opportunity to take part in a traffic safety checkpoint for seat belt and child restraint enforcement in Norman with officers from the Norman Police Department and the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office.

The Tulsa area Safe

Communities Group hosted a press event May 14 at Tulsa Raceway Park. Members of the OHP took three of their “Beat the Heat” vehicles to the event,

enforcement agencies signed up through OHSO to take part in checkpoint activities, saturation patrols, intersection patrols, media outreach projects and press events.

“This campaign is vitally important because it encourages Oklahomans to fasten their seat belts every time they are in a vehicle,” said Scott Watkins, OHSO director. “We want to be sure that Oklahomans buckle up and make sure children in the vehicle are appropriately restrained as well. Wearing a seat belt significantly increases a person’s chances of surviving a crash.”



Lt. George Brown addresses the media at the Click It or Ticket luncheon in Tulsa as troopers join law enforcement officers from all over the state in supporting the mobilization.

and representatives from several local media outlets were on hand for photo opportunities. Lt. George Brown spoke at the event along with other local law enforcement officers.

The statewide CIOT mobilization took place May 18

- 31. About 240 law

(Continued)

CIOT kickoff (Con'd.)



Photos: Sherry Brown
OHSO PR manager



Members of the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office include Rex Ice (top left and clockwise), Sherry Brown, Sabrina Mackey, Samantha Harcrow, Trp. Scott Hulsey, Lt. George Brown, Public Affairs Intern Matt Bishop, Trp. Shawn Cummings and Trp. Antonio Porter. Trp. Scott Hulsey's Beat the Heat car prepares to race as Trp. Shawn Cummings was interviewed by media. A reporter from TELETUL51 Spanish television



announced the kickoff for the CIOT campaign as troopers, officers from northeast Oklahoma and members of the Safety Communities Alliance stood together behind a Beat the Heat dragster in the background.

Porter was also interviewed at the event.

Troopers volunteer time and assist with dedication

In 1917, two men sitting in a barber shop in Davis, Oklahoma viewed a photograph of a 160-acre parcel of land not far from that location. Immediately attracted to it, they both agreed it would be the perfect summer meeting place for the “Baptist Young People’s Union.” Oklahomans J.B. Rounds and W.D. Moorer knew the state convention was looking for a permanent encampment, and these two men pursued that desire.

Creeping up on nearly a century later, over 1.8 million people have walked the grounds of the Falls Creek Baptist Assembly since its 1917 inception, and members of the highway patrol have volunteered and participated in several camps over the years, not to exclude the 2009 summer sessions. Trp.

Chris Arnall and wife Judith volunteered, donating a week’s vacation to cook for one of the church groups.

“While I was at Falls Creek, they hosted a memorial dedication on a Wednesday night for the fallen troopers prior to the evening tabernacle service and in front of about 4,000 kids,” said Arnall. “Several troopers representing various youth groups were brought on stage at the camp along with

troopers who work that particular county. Trooper Roy Rogers spoke on behalf of the troopers during the service.”

During the seven-week camp season, members of the highway patrol will continue to participate in a memorial dedication service on each Wednesday night. Arnall reported that while he was at the church camp, Courtney Green, daughter of Trp. Nikki Green

Fredrickson who were volunteer sponsors for the two groups.

“Courtney was there with her mom and her youth group from Jacksboro, Texas,” said Arnall. “After the dedication was over they gave us a standing ovation which was very inspiring with 4,000-plus people, mostly youth, on their feet.”

Col. Van M. Guillotte, chief of the highway patrol, said the program was one for which the OHP should be proud.

“I am always in awe of the public and the organizations to which they belong when they take the initiative, time and even expense to honor those who have served in the highway patrol,” said Guillotte. “We are proud to participate in this program, and we join the public in honoring those who

have given their lives in the name of public safety.”



The OHP memorial at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly is in honor, and names, every trooper killed in the line of duty.

who was killed in the line of duty, assisted troopers at the start of the ceremony by leading a special prayer.

“Courtney is Trooper Nikki Green’s daughter, and she lead a prayer before the service, standing close to the memorial located in front of the camp tabernacle,” said Arnall.

Green posed in photos with youth groups from both Wagoner and Ponca City, along with Arnall and Trp. Clay

(Continued)

Church camp memorial *(Con'd.)*



Photos: Rick Morre, counselor
First Baptist Church Wagoner

A patrol car (top left, clockwise) is static near the OHP memorial site at the Falls Creek Baptist Assembly campgrounds as two youth groups representing First Baptist Church in Wagoner and Northeast Baptist Church in Ponca City are in the background. Trp. Roy Rogers addressed the nearly 4,000-member audience during service at the tabernacle to dedicate the OHP memorial. He was joined by Trp. Jay Clary (third from left), Trp. Clay Frederickson, Trp. Robert Benedict, Lt. Chris Arnall and Lt. Danny Morris. Arnall was joined by family members daughter Kelsey, wife Judith and daughter Hannah at the camp where he volunteered as cook and as seen grilling hot dogs one day outdoors.

eViews



Trp. Brett Bennett



Trp. James Potter

Name: Ernest Knak

Title: Thanks for the help

On 6/01/09 I had a tire blow out, on I-44 going west about 3:30 p.m. A very helpful trooper stopped and helped change the tire. The patrolman's name is Bennett.

Name: James Simberg

Title: Trooper Attitude

On the night of 06-08-09, I was pulled over by Trooper Potter, badge #357, and given a warning about an improper lane change.

For not having been ticketed since the early 1980s, it's just an uncomfortable feeling to go through.

I can only guess that most comments sent in about interaction with the highway patrol are negative and would like to send in a positive one.

Trooper Potter not only handled the situation in a professional manner, but was very understanding about the situation.

I hope that all of your state troopers conduct stops in this

manner. Not that I want to find out, but I hope that he sets the standard that all work for.

Thank you for your time,
James Simberg

(Continued)

eViews *(Con'd.)*



Trp. Brad Babb

Name: R D Armstrong

Title: Atta boy

On June 19 at about 2145 hours I was north bound on I-35 between Edmond and Guthrie. I observed a State Trooper making contact on the shoulder of the northbound lane with a shall we say very interesting person. I assumed this person would be spending a night in some county lock up for some infraction. Well as I was filling up with gas at a Shell station an OHP unit pulled and let the before-mentioned individual out and the trooper removed the person's belongings from his trunk loaded in plastic bags. The Trooper told the individual in a cordial manner to have a good evening and be careful walking in the dark. The individual thanked the Trooper and hit him up for some change for a phone call. The Trooper reluctantly complied out of his own pocket with I would assume some reluctance for fear of the ultimate use of the change. As the contact individual walked off

I approached the Trooper and let him know in the face of recent bad relations for DPS. that this Trooper was a credit to the organization. As a former law enforcement professional for an organization that requires higher education and demands a high level of standards when dealing with the public, it was so refreshing to see the Trooper's empathy and obvious concern for the public he was sworn to serve.

Thanks So Much

RD Armstrong
Tahlequah, OK



Trp. Mark Walters

Name: Jay Young

Title: Thanks for the help

Thanks to trooper Mark Walters #714 of Troop YE. My two sons and were headed to Colorado for vacation and ran out of gas 5 miles out of OKC. Mark was courteous and helpful, and got us some gas!

Thanks so much,
Jay, Caleb and Ethan

Troop J news



Lt. Robert Forman reports that Troop J welcomes two new employees.

“We would like to welcome Jenni Forman (above left) as the new troop secretary of Troop J Enid,” said Forman. “She started with us May 1. She comes to us from the Department of Human Services in Garfield County where she worked for 10 years and finished as administrative assistant. She is a welcome asset, and we look forward to many years working with her. Oh, and she is my wife also!”

Forman said they welcomed a new communications officer as well.

“Also, we would like to welcome new CO Jack Duncan who just started with us June 1, coming to us from OBN,” said Forman. “We look forward to a long future working with Jack, also.”

At large ...



Brenda Pape, administrative assistant for Troop T, recently enjoyed a special trip to Las Vegas to celebrate two occasions. Her younger son Chad turned 21, and she and husband Dennis celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary. Both events were on the same day. The Pape clan and friends who took the trip included Emanuel Rodriguez (above, left), Rebecca Rodriguez, Mary Hudak, Chad, Cesiley Redeau, Dennis Pape, Brenda and her oldest son Chris.