*Captain T. L. Cheek Collision Reduction Award*

**Troop A, District 2**

Troop A, District 2, which is composed of Bertie, Hertford and Gates Counties, had the largest reduction in collisions for the calendar year of 2014. They went from 1339 collisions in 2013 down to 1142 collisions in 2014. The 197 fewer collisions represent a 14.71% decrease. First Sergeant Michael Warren and the members of A2 are to be commended for their countless sacrifices and efforts to reduce the chance of property damage, injury and fatal collisions, thereby remaining consistent with the mission of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

*Meritorious Service Award*

**Processing Assistant-V, Diane L. Bumgardner**

Diane Bumgardner was transferred to the Logistics Unit in April of 2014 and was assigned duties as a Processing Assistant. The position that Ms. Bumgardner assumed had been a vacant position for several months. Ms. Bumgardner embraced the new duties and began the process of updating and bringing this important SHP position into a new more modern process.

One of the duties she tackled first was the filing and reconciling of HP721a (Report of Investigation) forms and cases. Ms. Bumgardner was able to scan all the physical documents that consumed two (2) complete file cabinets and created and electronic filing system. Throughout her consolidation process she was able to recognize that multiple insurance claims had not been completely closed. Ms. Bumgardner was able to contact several insurance companies and obtain over $250,000 owed to the State Highway Patrol for damages to vehicles and equipment. Ms. Bumgardner was also able to design the HP721a filing system to be operated more efficiently with search features.

The next project in Ms. Bumgardner’s sights was the thousands of hard copy files that included memos and other correspondence that spanned the last ten years. Ms. Bumgardner was able to scan a lot of the files and set up electronic files, thus preserving a history of vehicle transfers and titling information. This purging of files created a less cluttered atmosphere in office and created a much more efficient system for filing these types of correspondence.

She also volunteered to assist with the vehicle transfer process that includes, updating the SAP fleet vehicle management system, updating the CAD with vehicle information, updating the DMV spreadsheet file for assignment of seniority plates, and completing a memorandum to DMV Fleet to make the changes in their state vehicle records.

Ms. Bumgardner continues to be an invaluable asset to the Logistics Unit and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. On a daily basis she has an impact on our operations at Logistics, the Mission of the Highway Patrol and the community’s impression of the Highway Patrol to the citizens of North Carolina.

 Diane Bumgardner

*Meritorious Service Award*

**Radio Engineer II, Anthony C. Yaczko**

In 2006, the Highway Patrol initiated its transition into the Dodge Charger Police vehicle. Mr. Yaczko developed an innovative technique that facilitated the adaptation and installation of the “Transmission Lock-Out” switch on the newer model Chargers that, up to that time, was being used on all Ford Crown Victoria models.

In the average, every “Transmission Lock-out” switch device has a cost of about $100.00 per unit. Mr. Yaczko’s innovation saved the Highway Patrol approximately $30,000.00 during the first acquisition period of Dodge Chargers and, up-to-date, has rendered a savings of approximately $210,000.00.

Mr. Yaczko’ innovative insight has been instrumental in alleviating the Highway Patrol’s day-to-day cost of operations and helping the agency meet its budget goals.

 Anthony C. Yaczko

*Meritorious Service Award*

**Trooper Bryan J. Baker**

**On November 6, 2014 Trooper Bryan Baker responded to a vehicle collision at the intersection of CC Camp Road and the 1-77 exit ramp near Elkin, NC. One of the vehicles was operated by three elderly females ranging in age from 84 to 86 years old. The ladies were from South Carolina with a vehicle that was not drivable and they did not have any family members that could come to their aid.**

**Trooper Baker attempted to help the trio find a rental car to get back home but there were no cars available at that time Trooper Baker made arrangements for Enterprise Rental Car to save the ladies the first vehicle that was due to be returned early the next morning Trooper Baker then transported the group to a hotel and assisted them with getting a room and gathering all their luggage from the wrecked vehicle and getting it to their room Trooper Baker left the ladies with his cell number in case they needed anything before he returned the** next day.

**The next morning Trooper Baker returned to the hotel to take one of the ladies to obtain a rental car. Trooper Baker then had the elderly lady to follow him back to the hotel where he assisted the trio with all the luggage and loading the car for them Trooper Baker then led them back to the interstate to ensure they were traveling in the correct direction to get back to South Carolina.**

**Later that evening Trooper Baker received a phone from the driver letting him know that they had finally made 1t home and praised him for his dedication and service to motoring public that he serves**

Trooper Baker went well beyond the call of duty with his devotion to these elderly females and demonstrated great compassion for their well-being.

 Trooper Bryan J. Baker

*Meritorious Service Award*

**Trooper Evan C. Underwood**

On Tuesday, December 30, 2014 - Trooper Evan C. Underwood, was on routine patrol in Montgomery County when he overheard a radio message from the Salisbury Communications Center, requesting all law enforcement to be on the look out for a missing woman last seen on Christmas Day, traveling on Highway US 220. A cell phone number was provided for the missing woman. For several days, law enforcement officials were unsuccessfully to locate and make contact via the missing women's cell phone.

Trooper Underwood decided to attempt one last time to called this cell phone… and to his amazement, the missing woman answered. Trooper Underwood calmly talked to the woman in an attempt to obtain her location. The woman was confused and disoriented and he was concerned for her safety. The woman could not tell him where she was but did remember seeing a highway sign displaying the number "1" .

Trooper Underwood believed that the woman was on US 1 in Richmond County, and further conversation with her revealed that the woman had just entered South Carolina, but was quickly convinced by Trooper Underwood to turn around and enter back into North Carolina. He continued to talk with her and convinced her to pull into a local Waffle House in Rockingham, were he instructed her to hand the cell phone over to a restaurant employee.

Trooper Underwood ask the employees to offer the missing woman drink and food in an effort to keep her there until he arrived. He also offered to personally pay for the food, as he rushed to her location.

When Trooper Underwood arrived at the Waffle House, he was greeted by the tired woman that had been missing for days. Without hesitation, Trooper Underwood safely transported the woman back to Randolph County where her family eagerly awaiting her return at a nearby rest area.

 Trooper Evan C. Underwood

*Meritorious Service Award*

**Trooper Michael J. Miles**

On December 2nd, 2014, at approximately 10:47 pm, Elizabethtown Highway Patrol Communication Center notified Robeson County Troopers of an active Amber Alert involving the abduction of a three year old child from Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. The suspect was operating a red Ford Focus traveling I-95 towards North Carolina.

Trooper Jeremy Miles, responded to I-95 to intercept the vehicle. He positioned himself at the 17 mile marker and waited for the vehicle identified in the Amber Alert. Near the 4 mile marker, local law enforcement officers positively identified the vehicle and executed a traffic stop. As the officers approached the vehicle, the driver fled from the scene at a high rate of speed. The officers chased the vehicle to the 7 mile marker where the abductor’s vehicle crashed into a wood line while attempting to negotiate an exit ramp.

The abductor fled from the vehicle into the woods carrying the child. Trooper Miles, being familiar with the area, arrived on the scene and he began to search for the abductor on foot. In a nearby field, Trooper Miles encountered the abductor holding the child tightly against his chest, as if the child was being used a shield. Fearing for the well-being of child, Trooper Miles tried to persuade the suspect to release to the child but he refused and a struggle ensued.

During the struggle, the violator released the child and Trooper Miles told the child to run away as he attempted to gain custody and control of the suspect. Trooper Miles affected the arrest of the suspect and took him into custody and then stayed with and comforted the child until a fellow Trooper arrived to take custody of the child.

On this day, Trooper Miles’ actions prevented tragedy by locating the suspect and the child. The child was saved due to Trooper Miles’ good judgment and quick actions.

 Trooper Michael J. Miles

*Samaritan Service Award*

**Weigh Station Operator, Charles S. Lewis**

On Monday, March 30, 2015, at approximately 2:55 pm, WSO Charles Lewis was on duty at the I-95 South Bound Weigh Station in Robeson County. A passenger van that was traveling south on I-95 entered the Weigh Station and a teenaged male passenger exited the van, approached WSO Lewis and pleaded for help. A passenger in the van was apparently having a medical emergency. WSO Lewis immediately went to the van and observed a Hispanic male, who appeared to be in his mid to late 60's, unresponsive. The male subject was not breathing and had a faint pulse. WSO Lewis immediately called for EMS and then began CPR and continued the procedure until EMS arrived on scene. The male subject was transported to Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton and, unfortunately, was pronounced deceased shortly after arriving.

WSO Lewis' unselfish and compassionate actions during this event serve as an example of the work our members do each day to help keep North Carolinian’s safe.

 WSO Charles S. Lewis

*Samaritan Service Award*

**Trooper Charles V. Barrett**

On Thursday, February 5, 2015, at approximately 2:30 P.M., Trooper Charles Barrett was working at the I-85 Weigh Station when he observed a pickup truck stop in the travel lane of I-85 south. Trooper Barrett went to check on the driver thinking he may have had some mechanical problem. When Trooper Barrett arrived at the truck, he realized the driver was unconscious and not breathing. Another motorist had also had stopped to assist Trooper Barrett with removing the victim from the pickup. Trooper Barrett notified Troop H Communications he needed EMS regarding an unconscious male driver and began CPR. Trooper Barrett continued CPR until EMS and the Fire Department arrived. EMS took over the CPR and also inserted a breathing tube. They also used an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) to shock the victim twice while on the scene. EMS loaded the victim in the ambulance and transported him to Caromount Hospital in Gastonia, North Carolina. EMS personnel relayed to the family and doctors the victim would not have survived without Trooper Barrett beginning CPR when he responded. The victim underwent emergency heart surgery and at last check, was stable, but still considered in critical condition.

 Trooper C. V. Barrett

*Samaritan Service Award*

**Trooper Richard B. Kirk**

On Monday, March 23, 2015, at approximately 7:15 a.m. while on routine patrol on NC 58 in Jones County, Trooper Kirk heard Jones County EMS dispatch a call regarding a person in cardiac arrest near Trenton. He arrived on scene approximately 30 seconds after the notification and found an elderly male, lying on his back in his bedroom. Trooper Kirk observed no obvious signs of trauma and the patient was warm to the touch, consistent with room temperature. He felt for a pulse and found none. He then checked for breathing and airway obstructions and found the patient's airway open. He began chest compressions and instructed a bystander to perform respirations. Trooper Kirk performed CPR for approximately 10 to 12 minutes before Jones County EMS arrived. Trooper Kirk assisted them with placing a cardiac monitor and airway suction on the patient, as well as assisting with bag valve mouth respirations. The patient was subsequently pronounced deceased by Lenoir County Paramedics.

On the above mentioned date, Trooper Kirk went well above and beyond what was required of him. Trooper Kirk is an asset to the residents of Jones County and to the Highway Patrol.

 Trooper Richard B. Kirk

*Samaritan Service Award*

**Trooper Travis C. Washburn**

On February 26, 2015, at approximately 8:30 p.m., Trooper Travis C. Washburn, G-256 was on routine patrol in McDowell County. He received a routine radio call from Newton Communications to assist a pedestrian on I-40 westbound at the 75 mile marker. While he was enroute to the location, he heard on his issued McDowell County Sheriff's Radio that the pedestrian was actually a gunshot victim. Upon hearing this information, he immediately responded toward the scene while activating his emergency equipment for an emergency call for service. He was further notified by Newton Communications that a passing motorist had picked up the pedestrian and transported him to the BP gas station in Old Fort. He responded to that location and was joined by Old Fort Police Officer Paul Evington and DMV Inspector Moore. When he exited his patrol car, he immediately noticed that the gunshot victim was losing a large amount of blood from his right leg. Trooper Washburn quickly assessed the scene and immediately fell back upon his training. He ran to his driver's door of his patrol car and retrieved his issued medical blow out kit. He went to the gunshot victim and had him lay on the ground and instructed the Old Fort Police Officer to hold up his leg as he quickly applied a tourniquet above the wound. Upon applying the tourniquet, the bleeding immediately stopped. He and the other two Law Enforcement Officers kept the victim calm and held the tourniquet in place for over ten minutes until the Paramedic Unit arrived to take over his the medical care. The responding Paramedics stated that due to the location of the wound, the victim most likely would have died prior to their arrival without the expeditious actions of Trooper Washburn.

 Trooper Travis C. Washburn

*Samaritan Service Award*

**Trooper Kevin D. Britt**

**Trooper Daniel C. Cagle**

On February 22, 2015 at 9:43 a.m., Trooper Daniel C. Cagle stopped a female motorist on US301 for a registration violation. When he made contact with driver, she informed Trooper Cagle that she was looking for a place to commit suicide due to several issues in her life. Trooper Cagle did not dismiss her claim and called Trooper Kevin D. Britt to meet him on the traffic stop.

Trooper Cagle explained the situation to Trooper Britt and Trooper Britt asked the driver if he could speak with her about wanting to end her life. She agreed and Trooper Britt listened to her issues and spent time counseling with her. Through his patience and understanding, Trooper Britt was able to convince the driver to seek assistance through the Fayetteville Veteran's Administration Hospital. The driver had herself checked in that day and has since been released after getting the appropriate care.

The actions of Troopers Cagle and Britt were commended by a friend of the driver through Comment on a Trooper later that day. In the comment, the friend credits the Troopers with saving the driver’s life.

On March 6, 2015, the Fayetteville Observer featured a story on the actions of Troopers Cagle and Britt. The driver is named in the article and she stated that the Troopers saved her life.

 Trooper Kevin D. Britt  Trooper Daniel C. Cagle

*Samaritan Service Award*

**Trooper Jeffrey S. Swagger**

On February 20, 2015 at approximately 12:20 p.m., Trooper J. S. Swagger, along with Trooper K. E. Travis and Trooper B. L. Buchanan, were on a break at Diane's Dairy Center, located in Newton. An elderly gentleman was seated beside them and fell out of his chair, hitting his head on the floor. The elderly gentleman, Max, was knocked unconscious for approximately 30 seconds before waking up.

Trooper Swagger a Certified EMT immediately called Troop F Communications Center and reported the situation. Trooper Swagger then asked Trooper Travis to retrieve his EMT bag from his Patrol vehicle, and rushed to aid the gentleman. Trooper Swagger took quick and decisive action, and remained by Max's side as he regained consciousness. Trooper Swagger took Max's vitals and assessed his condition while Trooper Buchanan and Trooper Travis secured the scene until Catawba County EMS arrived. Trooper Swagger gave EMS proper evaluation of the Max's condition and turned his care over to EMS.

 Trooper Jeffrey S. Swagger

*Samaritan Service Award*

**Trooper Thomas C. Hayes**

**Trooper Samuel L. Staley**

On Friday, April 3rd, 2015 at 10:24 pm, Alexander County Communications dispatched a request to assist sheriff deputies at an address in Taylorsville. The call was in reference to a domestic situation in which two male subjects were holding another male subject down on the ground. Troopers Thomas C. Hayes and S. Luke Staley arrived within seconds after the call and observed a man lying on the ground, unresponsive. A deputy checked the man for a pulse and advised there was none. Troopers Hayes and Staley began CPR and continued until Alexander County Fire and EMS arrived on scene. At this time the troopers relinquished care of the subject to the paramedics. The paramedics were able to confirm a pulse and blood pressure on the subject and transported him to Frye Regional Medical Center. The subject was alive but on life support at the time of this report.

 Trooper Thomas C. Hayes  Trooper Samuel L. Staley

*Samaritan Service Award*

**Sergeant Timothy C. Askew**

On Friday, December 26, 2014 at approximately 10:10 am, Sergeant Askew was traveling US 64 Eastbound headed to Nash County. While on patrol, he observed a Wake County Sheriffs Deputy Tahoe on the bridge in the westbound lane. As he got closer, he observed a black male on the Eastbound bridge sitting on the bridge straddling the wall as if he were going to jump. Sergeant Askew observed the deputy talking to him trying to hand him his phone as if he was trying to get him to call someone or lure him from the bridge wall. Sergeant Askew advised Raleigh Communications Center of the situation and that he would be out with the Wake County Deputy. By the time Sergeant Askew advised Raleigh what he had and was exiting his vehicle, the deputy dropped the phone and took hold of the subject and attempted to pull him off the bridge wall. The subject was not compliant and started pulling the deputy back to him as if he was going to try to go over the bridge. Sergeant Askew sprinted from his patrol vehicle and made it to the deputy and grabbing the male subject and the deputy, pulling them back away from the bridge wall and to the ground. Once on the ground, Sergeant Askew and the deputy struggled for a short time and got the male subject to comply with verbal commands. At that time they handcuffed the subject withour further incident. It was learned later the make subject was attempting suicide because his wife had left him.

 Sergeant Timothy C. Askew

*Colonel’s Appreciation Award*

**Mr. Doug Herbert**

Each year over 5000 teenagers lose their lives across the country in traffic accidents. In effort to combat teenage injuries and deaths on North Carolina highways, the Highway Patrol often solicits assistance from the community. Today, the Highway Patrol would like to recognize Mr. Doug Herbert who has significantly contributed to the success and mission of the Patrol.

Founded in 2008, B.R.A.K.E.S., which stands for (Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe), was created when NHRA drag racing star Doug Herbert lost his two young sons in a tragic highway accident. His grief led to his resolve to create a driving program which would help to prevent other families from experiencing similar heartbreak by teaching young drivers more conscientious and confident skills behind the wheel.

While conventional driver’s education is important and valuable, Mr. Herbert's Teen Pro-Active Driving Course goes beyond that level of training by addressing driving situations responsible for many traffic accidents involving teens.To date, over 11,000 teenagers and their parents have attended the B.R.A.K.E.S. program in 10 states. Participants have traveled from 29 states and 2 countries to attend these training events. The driving school was first utilized at the Zmax Dragway and the Charlotte Motor Speedway in Charlotte, NC. Since then the programs has grown to include other locations all over the U.S. including Southern California at Pomona Fairplex and Orange County in Irvine, the BMW Driving Center in Spartanburg, SC., the Manheim Auction Center in Manheim, PA. and Orlando, FL., Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, TN., and Bob Bondurant’s Performance Driving Center in Phoenix AZ. B.R.A.K.E.S. and has even hosted a school in Juneau, Alaska.

In the fall of 2013, Doug Herbert approached the Highway Patrol in hopes of partnering and joining resources with the number one goal of preventing needless loss of teenage lives due to inexperienced drivers. The Highway Patrol was excited and eager to assist in this very important endeavor. Since the partnership in 2013, the B.R.A.K.E.S program, along with the help of the Patrol, has trained well over 700 North Carolina teen drivers at the Highway Patrol's Driver Training Facility located in Raleigh. During the 4-hour block of instruction, teens and parents receive training on Accident Avoidance, Distraction Exercises, Wheel Drop-Off Recovery Exercises, Panic Stop Exercise as well as a Car Control and Recovery Exercise that teaches the skills necessary to maintain or regain control in wet or icy road conditions.

Doug's selfless dedication and his willingness to partner with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol in assisting in saving teenage lives has been appreciated by the citizens of North Carolina and the Patrol throughout the years.

There are several videos on line at [putonthebrakes.org.](http://putonthebrakes.org/)

*Valor Award*

**Trooper Christopher J. Matos**

Choosing to be a law enforcement officer, on occasion, can require those making that choice to place their own life in danger so that others may be saved. On Friday, January 09, 2015, Trooper Christopher J. Matos demonstrated this by placing his own life in harm’s way.

Trooper Matos, while off duty in his personal vehicle, was traveling west on John Green Smith Road in Lenoir County. Trooper Matos observed a passenger vehicle traveling east on John Green Smith Road, start to slide uncontrollably on the icy roadway. The passenger vehicle traveled off the roadway onto the right shoulder, overturned within a creek, and came to rest upright. Trooper Matos turned his vehicle around after observing the vehicle leave the roadway and proceeded to the collision scene. Upon arrival, Trooper Matos observed the passenger vehicle partially submerged within the creek, filling with water.

Without hesitation, Trooper Matos entered the frigid water to render aid. While in the water, Trooper Matos noticed the vehicle’s front passenger window had been partially rolled down. After swimming around to the passenger side of the vehicle, Trooper Matos assisted a 14 year old child out of the vehicle’s front passenger window. Trooper Matos then climbed partially within the vehicle and assisted the female driver in unbuckling her infant child from a child seat. Trooper Matos then removed the infant out of the vehicle and placed the child into the care of another motorist who had stopped to render assistance. The female driver was also removed from the vehicle by Trooper Matos and assisted to the bank.

Trooper Matos accompanied the mother and her two small children to a nearby home where they were treated by emergency medical personnel for mild hypothermia. The selfless actions of Trooper Matos and those who assisted assured the safety of the mother and her small children.

 Trooper Christopher J. Matos