

An Uncommon Man: Remembering Captain Herman W. Nofs

By Mark Piercy, Retired M/Sgt. #2556

Two dates in the life of Herman William Nofs and the history of the Illinois State Police and Arizona Law Enforcement intersect: September 15, 1954, and August 4, 1965. The first shall be remembered for the right reasons but perhaps its significance will be lost over time. The latter shall be forever infamous, and we should not forget it. Born June 12, 1894, in Elgin, Illinois, Herman William Nofs paved the way for the rest of us when he became the very first Illinois State Trooper to officially retire September 15, 1954, as the result of his law enforcement service to the citizens of the State of Illinois.

Herman was the son of German immigrant William Nofs, an employee of the Aurora Elgin and Chicago Railway, and his wife, Anna. Herman once worked in a watch factory in Elgin, a city known for that industry. He joined the Army, serving under General John Pershing along the U.S. Mexico border about the time Pershing was ordered to capture the Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa, and as a Lieutenant in WWI France. Safely home from the war, he married Louise Busch and began his career with the Illinois State Police on December 27, 1923. During its infancy the Department, which was established only one year before, was known as the Illinois Highway Maintenance Police.



Born from the need to protect its burgeoning miles of improving roadways from truck traffic, Illinois’s early State Police evolved quickly in its first few decades undergoing many iterations before settling into a semblance of its present form. Nofs was among the Department’s first 75 Patrolman in an era which lacked a merit system. Until a

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Retiree Edition

articles posted August 10-23, 2024

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ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

Brendan F. Kelly—Director

Nofs, continued

merit system was instituted in 1949, changes in Governors' administrations almost certainly brought wholesale turnover of the men in the Department based upon political affiliation. Promoted to Sergeant January 1, 1930, Herman Nofs bucked this trend in 1933 as a holdover into Governor Henry Horner's administration. Then Acting Superintendent Lawrence Taylor selected Sergeant Nofs as his Inspecting Sergeant. Steadily becoming a fixture in the Department, he was elevated to an Assistant Superintendent under Superintendent Walter Williams. Achieving his greatest rank of Captain March 1, 1937, he witnessed the arrival and departure of many officers during his 31-year tenure. Most were the victims of being on the wrong side of the political fence, some victims of WWII, others succumbing to Great Depression economics.



First retirement star was given to Herman Nofs, center, with Harry Trautsch, left, and Superintendent Phil M. Brown.

Upon retirement in 1954, he and Louise's journey continued onto California where Herman parlayed his law enforcement experience into an industrial security position. About 1959 he and Louise moved to the retirement community of Sun City, AZ, an immediate neighbor of Youngtown which in 1954 was established as the first active retirement community in the United States. Following incorporation in 1960 the fledgling city of Youngtown needed its first Marshall, an occupation harkening back to Arizona's Wild West roots. Herman Nofs, with his wealth of experience, fit that bill perfectly but, a falling out with city leaders brought about his resignation as Marshall in 1962, only to stay on as a Deputy.



The two cities prospered. Growth was accompanied by crime. August 4, 1965, a black day in Arizona Law Enforcement history, finds 71-year-old Deputy Marshall Herman Nofs on patrol around midnight when he encounters two suspects burglarizing a gas station at 111th and Grand Ave. Nofs, overpowered by his adversaries, was murdered with his own sidearm. A few hours later the two killers, ages 17 and 19, were captured. Both were convicted, the younger retried and convicted again. "1965 Herman W Nofs Youngtown MO" is etched into the granite base of the Arizona Peace Officers Memorial, in Phoenix. Herman William Nofs, an uncommon man, rests in peace in Sunland Memorial Park, Sun City, AZ, where he and Louise, surviving until 1985, lay together.



This Retiree Edition of 10-43 is produced by the Public Information Office of the Illinois State Police.

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ISP Division of Criminal Investigation Makes Multiple Arrests for Child Sexual Abuse Offenses

CHAMPAIGN – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 5 arrested 28-year-old Dante J. Scott of Champaign, IL on September 9, 2024, for multiple Child Pornography charges. ISP conducted a



residential search warrant in Champaign with assistance from the Champaign Police Department and Champaign County Sheriff's Office in reference to multiple Cyber Tips received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) regarding child pornography. Prior to the search warrant, Officers took Dante J. Scott into custody and transported him to the Champaign County Jail.

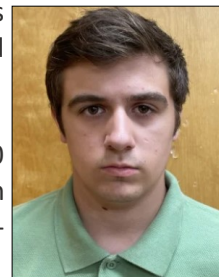
On September 10, 2024, Scott was arraigned on eight Class X Child Pornography charges. His detention hearing is scheduled for September 12, 2024.

This investigation was a collaborative effort between the Illinois Attorney General's Office Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Champaign Police Department, Champaign County Sheriff's Office, the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office, and the ISP.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Champaign County Crimestoppers.

JOLIET – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 announces the arrest of 18-year-old Courtright C. Gleason of Joliet, IL for Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material (Class 3 Felony).

On June 27, 2024, ISP agents executed a search warrant at a residence in the 2300 block of Taylor Street in Joliet, IL. Evidence was collected for forensic analysis. With assistance from the Illinois Attorney General's Office's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force's forensic team, results revealed child exploitation materials.



On September 12, 2024, Gleason surrendered himself to ISP agents and was processed on the above-mentioned charge. There is no additional information.

DECATUR – Illinois State Police (ISP) announces the arrest of 28-year-old Dustin M. Blankenship of Decatur, IL for Dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Material.



On September 11, 2024, ISP, with assistance from the Macon County Sheriff's Office, executed a residential search warrant in Decatur. The search was related to multiple cyber tips received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) regarding possession and dissemination of child sexual abuse material.

On September 12, 2024, ISP Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 5 agents presented the evidence to the Macon County State's Attorney's Office and Blankenship was charged with six counts of Child Pornography (Class X felonies).

This investigation was a collaborative effort between the Illinois Attorney General's Office Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Macon County Sheriff's Office, the Macon County State's Attorney's Office, and ISP.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Macon County Crimestoppers.

Child Sexual Abuse Offenses, continued



PAXTON – Illinois State Police (ISP) announces the arrest of 37-year-old Brett M. Sorensen of Paxton, Illinois for Dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Material.

After the receipt of a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the ISP began an investigation regarding the dissemination of child sexual abuse material. Preliminary facts gathered through the course of the initial investigation led to the issuance of an arrest warrant for Sorensen.

On September 17, 2024, ISP Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 5 agents arrested Sorensen and executed a residential search warrant in Paxton, Illinois. Sorensen is being held pending an arraignment hearing in Ford County, Illinois.

This ongoing investigation is a collaborative effort between the Illinois Attorney General's Office Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Ford County Sheriff's Office, the Paxton Police Department, the Ford County State's Attorney's Office, and ISP.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ford County Crime Stoppers at (217) 379-2109.



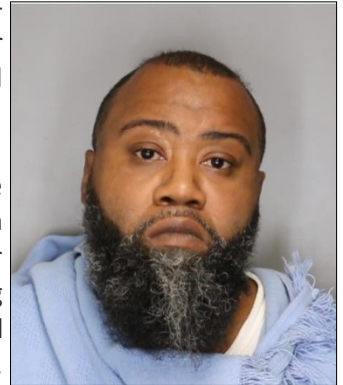
SCHAUMBURG – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 announces the arrest of 30-year-old Chenna R. Borra of Aurora, IL for Aggravated Battery on a Public Way (Class 3 Felony), Criminal Sexual Abuse (Class 4 Felony), and Simple Battery (Class A Misdemeanor).

On September 18, 2024, ISP Troop 3 was contacted by a female rideshare driver who was transporting a male customer, identified as Borra, on Interstate 88 eastbound near Interstate 355, when he began to make sexual advances towards the driver. Borra was dropped off in the village of Schaumburg and the victim immediately went to the Schaumburg Police Department (SPD) to report the allegations. SPD located Borra and detained him until ISP agents arrived to conduct their investigation.

The DuPage County State's Attorney approved felony charges and Borra was transported to the DuPage County Jail to await a pretrial detention hearing. There is no additional information.

ISP Finds Suspect Within Minutes After I-57 Shooting, Attempted Murder Charge Filed

PESOTUM – Illinois State Police (ISP) Divisions of Patrol and Criminal Investigation announce the arrest of 40-year-old LeJoshua C. Smith of East St. Louis, IL for Attempted Murder and multiple other criminal charges, stemming from a road rage shooting on Interstate 57 in Champaign County.

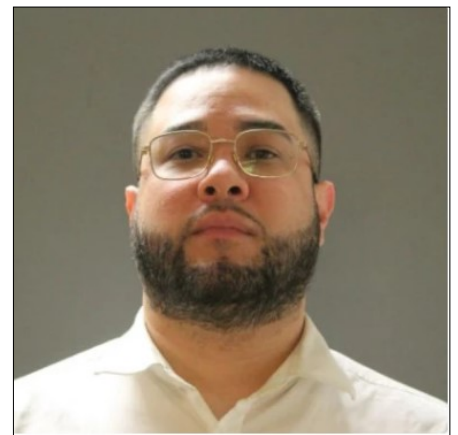


On September 12, 2024, ISP Troop 7 received the report of shots fired in the area of Interstate 57 northbound near milepost 223. A minor crash between two vehicles occurred, resulting in a road rage situation where the suspect, later identified as Smith, reportedly fired a weapon at the victim’s vehicle, causing damage to the vehicle, but the victim was not injured. ISP officers located Smith’s vehicle within minutes and attempted a traffic stop, but Smith fled. Officers engaged him in a pursuit, continuing northbound on I-57 through Ford County, and into Iroquois County. ISP Troop 5 officers deployed stop sticks and Smith’s vehicle eventually came to a stop on I-57 near milepost 285, in Gilman, IL. Smith was taken into custody.

On September 13, 2024, Smith was charged in Champaign County for Attempted Murder (Class X Felony), Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm (Class 1 Felony), and multiple traffic violations. Additional charges in Iroquois County related to this incident are pending consideration. No further information is available.

ISP Arrests Chicago Man for Road Rage Expressway Shooting

CHICAGO – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 arrested 40-year-old Daniel Morales of Chicago, IL, for Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm (Class 1 Felony).



On February 9, 2024, at approximately 6:07 a.m., ISP responded to the report of an expressway shooting on Interstate 90 northbound near Irving Park Road. A suspect, later identified as Morales, and the victim were involved in a road rage incident that resulted in Morales firing a weapon at the victim’s vehicle. The victim’s vehicle was struck but the victim was not injured.

After an extensive investigation, ISP presented the case to the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office and the above-mentioned charge was filed. No further information is available.

Looking Beyond the Belt Honors Troopers Feurer and Saucedo

Trooper Jeovanni Saucedo (second from right) and Trooper Stephen Feurer (second from left) were two of six ISP recipients of the Looking Beyond the Safety Belt award, a program of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

Trooper Saucedo was nominated and selected for this award based on a traffic stop that occurred in August 2023 on Interstate 290.

Trooper Saucedo observed a driver not wearing his seat belt and performed a traffic stop. After detecting a strong odor of cannabis, Trooper Saucedo conducted a search and found almost 500 grams of raw cannabis in Ziploc bags.

The driver was arrested and later charged with Felony Possession of Cannabis.

Trooper Feurer was issued this award for conducting a traffic stop for a seat belt violation which led to the arrest of the driver for Possession of Methamphetamine (Class 3 Felony), Possession of a Weapon by a Felon (Class 3 Felony), Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon (Class 4 Felony), Armed Violence (Class X Felony), and Armed Habitual Criminal (Class X Felony).

All too often we think of traffic stops as being “routine.” Every day, “routine” stops apprehend fugitive, recover evidence, and remove dangerous weapons from those who should not have them.

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police supports the enforcement of the state’s primary safety belt law and vigorous enforcement action for other crimes.



ISP Announces All 102 Counties Now Have 911 Service

TOULON – Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly, joined by Illinois Statewide 911 Administrator Cindy Barbera-Brelle, Stark County Sheriff Steve Sloan, and Peoria-Stark Joint Emergency Telephone System Board Chairman David Tuttle, today announced every county in Illinois now has 911 service.

“This is a significant milestone for ISP’s Division of Statewide 911 and the whole state,” said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. “The agreement between these two counties means residents will see quicker response times as telecommunicators can get the appropriate first responders enroute sooner.”

Stark County entered into an agreement with Peoria County to create a Joint Emergency Telephone System Board so that Stark County residents and those traveling through the area can quickly and efficiently receive emergency services. This marks the successful completion of a monumental mission assigned to the Illinois State Police by the General Assembly in 2015.

Before this partnership, Stark County residents had to call a specific, 10-digit number for emergency services, such as the sheriff’s office or fire department. People traveling through Stark County who didn’t know which number to call had to be routed through other 911 systems, which meant more steps before police, fire, and EMS could be dispatched.

“With the intergovernmental agreement between Stark and Peoria counties, each county in Illinois now has a comprehensive and coordinated 911 system,” said ISP Illinois Statewide 911 Administrator Cindy Barbera-Brelle. “Illinois is continuing to migrate 911 systems to the State’s Next Generation 911 network, which will provide increased services and better responses in an emergency.”

In 2015, [Public Act 99-0006](#) established consolidation requirements for public safety answering points (dispatch centers) and mandated the delivery of enhanced 911 to unserved counties. Since 2016, the Illinois Statewide 911 Administrator, with the

advice and recommendation of the Statewide 911 Advisory Board, has awarded approximately \$47.5 million in grants to 911 systems across the state from the 911 Consolidation Award Grant Program to ensure enhanced 911 service throughout Illinois.

“Stark County has finally reached the 21st Century with our 911,” said Stark County Sheriff Steven Sloan. “We will have faster response time to get to a call and we will know where they are calling from. Peoria County has been fantastic to work with, as they have so much knowledge on 911. I believe Stark County residents will be thrilled with the 911.”

“The partnership between Peoria and Stark County has been great,” said Peoria-Stark Joint Emergency Telephone System Board Chairperson David Tuttle. “Peoria County is thrilled to bring the same level of 911 service to the citizens of Stark County.”

Public Act 99-0006 also requires the establishment of a statewide Next Generation 911 network to enhance the delivery of 911 service to residents living in and traveling through the state of Illinois. Next Generation 911 is a system comprised of managed IP-based networks, gateways, functional elements, and databases that provide new methods of communication. It is designed to provide multimedia data capabilities, such as text and video, to first responders so they have more information and a “virtual on-scene” look of the incident to determine what resources are needed before they arrive. The system is also capable of providing more accurate locations to cellular users’ incidents in situations where they may not know where they are or are unable to communicate effectively.

There are 179 public safety answering points (911 centers) in Illinois, 158 of which have already switched over to Next Generation 911, and 21 are moving in that direction.

More information about the Division of Statewide 911 can be found on the [ISP website](#).

Troopers Provide Safety Education and Hands-On Experiences Across Illinois



Troopers Michael Mueller and Brandi Carson-Homer

First Responder Field Day Chandler Park, Macomb



Within the past month, ISP troopers have visited schools and community events to interact with the public, impart safety information, and allow adults and kids alike to check out their squad cars.

Mighty Machines Night St. Dominic School, Quincy



MSgt. Steve Schuwerk and Trooper Craig Bastert

Trucks & Tacos, Unity Elementary School, Mendon



Trooper Craig Bastert
and K9 Remco



Troopers Genelle Jones
and Marcus Nettles

Taste of Chicago, Grant Park



Director Kelly Participates in Panel Discussion at City Club of Chicago

On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, ISP Director Brendan Kelly took part in a panel discussion on the topic “Crime, Guns & Solutions: What Are We Doing to Stop the Flow of Illegal Guns in Illinois?”

A ticketed event held at the City Club of Chicago, this was the second of a three-part series entitled “Ending Gun Violence in Chicago: Connecting Policy, Practice and Community” hosted by [The Joyce Foundation](#) and moderated by WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* host Brandis Friedman.

Director Kelly was joined on the panel by Christopher Amon, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Chicago Field Division, and Kim Smith, Director of Programs for the University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab to discuss the source of illegal guns coming into our region, and what can be done to eliminate them.

At the conclusion of all three forums, key takeaways and recommendations from the discussions will be shared with policy makers and civic leaders in the region.



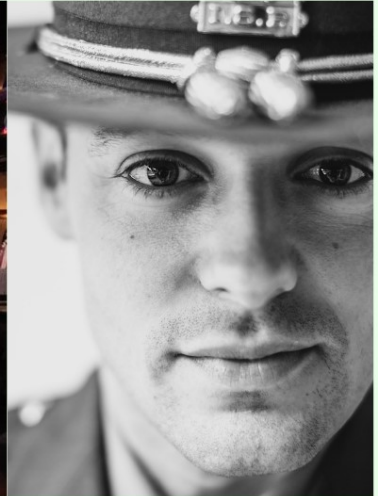
Left to right:
ISP Director Brendan Kelly, ATF SAC Christopher Amon, UChicago's Kim Smith, and WTTW host Brandis Friedman



SADDLE UP

LINE DANCING FUNDRAISER

**FOR INJURED IL STATE
TROOPER BRIAN FRANK**



**SEP
21**

4440 OGDEN AVE, AURORA IL 60504 | 4P - 8P+

4pm: Doors Open

4:30pm - 6pm: Line Dance Instruction

4pm - 8pm: Appetizer Buffet + Raffle Bidding

7pm - 9pm: Line Dancing + Mingling

9pm - 11pm: Whiskey Romance Band



Cash Bar | \$1 from every "Frank Strong" signature cocktail will be donated to the recovery fund | First drink free for guests that arrive before 6pm!

PRE-ORDER TICKETS

VENMO: @LAURENS_PRETTY_FRANK

Please include "saddle up" in your memo / note

\$40

**** Tickets will be \$50 at the door. All first responders get in for \$40 with ID ****

Email brianfrankstrong@gmail.com for alternative payment methods

www.4thpath.blogspot.com | IG @laurens_pretty_frank



Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation

Car Show - Saturday, September 21, 2024

**ISP Headquarters Parking Lot
801 South 7th Street, Springfield
\$10 entry**

**10:00 am Registration
Judging 12:00-2:00 pm • Awards 2:30 pm**

**Trophy categories, 50/50, Raffle and door prizes
Coolers welcome! Food by Boy Scouts Troop #202**

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates!



@ispheritagefoundation



Questions? Contact James at vintagefleet@isphf.org

In Memoriam: Richard Burke

It is with deep sadness the Division of the Academy and Training (DAT) announces the passing of Mr. Richard "Rick" Burke (66) of Chatham, Illinois, on Sunday, August 25, 2024. Rick retired from the Illinois State Police in 2013 as a Quartermaster Storekeeper II with more than 30 years of dedicated service.



All are invited to attend a memorial service scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 2pm-6pm at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #41, 5880 S. 6th Street Road, Springfield, Illinois 62703. Please keep the Burke family in your thoughts and prayers.

<https://www.lincolnlandcs.com/obituaries/Richard-Rick-Burke?obId=32899063>

In Memoriam: James Beerman

It is with deep sadness the Division of Forensic Services, Forensic Sciences Command announce the unexpected passing of Mr. James "Jim" Beerman (73) of West Chicago, Illinois on September 6, 2024.



Mr. Beerman is the father of Forensic Scientist Daniel Beerman, Forensic Science Center at Chicago. Mr. Beerman was a wonderful man who loved life and time spent with his family, was always there when you needed him, and will be deeply missed by all those who knew him. Please keep the Beerman family in your thoughts and prayers.

A memorial service will take place on September 22, 2024.

Obituary and memorial service information can be found through the following link:

<https://www.dupagecremations.com/obituaries/James-Jim-F-Beerman?obId=33027225>



Trooper Albert Hasson End of Watch: September 7, 1924

Trooper Albert Hasson the first Illinois State Police officer to be killed in the line of duty. Trooper Hasson was struck by a car while patrolling about three miles north of Chenoa. He pulled off the road to stop an oncoming car. Just as he stepped onto the roadway, a car struck him from behind. Trooper Hasson was thrown 10 feet. Fellow officers took him to the hospital in Pontiac where he succumbed to his injuries several hours later.

Trooper Hasson served the Illinois State Police from April 29, 1924, to September 7, 1924, and was assigned to District 6 in Pontiac. He was a veteran of World War I and was survived by his wife.



Trooper Frank Schwartz

End of Watch: September 11, 1930

Trooper Frank M. Schwartz was patrolling Barr Highway to keep the heavy traffic moving while the city of Joliet conducted ceremonies opening its new airport. His motorcycle collided with a car, causing his leg to be crushed. He was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital and succumbed to injuries four days later.

Trooper Schwartz served the Illinois State Police from December 18, 1929, to September 11, 1930, and was assigned to District 2. Trooper Schwartz also was a WWI veteran.

He was survived by his wife.



Trooper Rocco Gragido

End of Watch: September 11, 1940

Trooper Rocco Gragido was killed when his police motorcycle was struck by a vehicle that had run a red light at 63rd Street and Archer Avenue in Chicago.

He was waiting for the light when the incident occurred.

Trooper Gragido was a U.S. Navy veteran of WWI and served with the Illinois State Police from November 11, 1930, to September 11, 1940. He was assigned to Illinois State Police District 4 and was in line for an appointment to Senior Sergeant.

Trooper Gragido was survived by his wife and child.

NATIONAL

*Forensic Science
Week*

**Visit the Illinois State Police
Facebook page to read spotlights of
several ISP forensic scientists!**

Illinois State Police

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