

# Another ISP Squad Car Hit While Trooper Worked a Crash

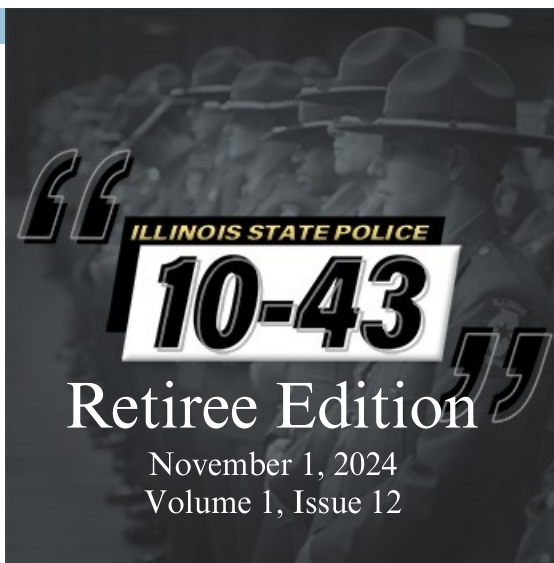
20<sup>th</sup> Move Over Law related crash of 2024

**CHICAGO** – Illinois State Police (ISP) officials investigated a traffic crash in Chicago involving an ISP squad car hit by a driver who failed to move over. The driver was subsequently arrested for driving under the influence.

On October 29, 2024, at approximately 11:39 p.m., an ISP trooper's marked squad car was parked with its emergency lights activated, blocking the left lane on Interstate 55 northbound at Joliet Road, providing traffic control for a previous crash. A maroon Jeep traveling northbound failed to yield and struck the rear passenger side of the squad car. The trooper was not inside of the squad car when it was struck. The driver of the Jeep, 53-year-old Charles C. Rucinski of Chicago, was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. ISP issued Rucinski citations for the Move Over Law – Failure to Yield to Stationary Emergency Vehicle, Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, and Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident.

Already in 2024, ISP has suffered 20 Move Over Law-related crashes with nine troopers injured. In 2023, ISP had 21 Move Over Law-related crashes with seven troopers injured, and suffered 25 crashes in 2022 leaving 13 troopers injured. ISP reminds the public the Move Over Law, also known as "Scott's Law" in Illinois, requires all drivers to move over when approaching an emergency vehicle or any vehicle with its emergency or hazard lights activated.

A person who violates the Move Over Law faces a fine of no less than \$250 and no more than \$10,000 for a first offense. If the violation results in injury to another person, the violator's driver's license will be suspended for a mandatory period of anywhere between six months and two years. Additional information can be found at the following link: <https://isp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/340d57cd956c453da2de25af804c268d>



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**ILLINOIS  
STATE POLICE**

*Brendan F. Kelly—Director*

## ISP Arrests Suspect for Attempted Murder After East St. Louis Shooting

**EAST ST. LOUIS** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 6 Public Enforcement Safety Group (PSEG) arrested 41-year-old Dwight N. O’Neal of East St. Louis, IL for Attempted First Degree Murder (Class M Felony), Aggravated Battery Discharge of a Firearm (Class X Felony), and Unlawful Possession of Firearm Revoked FOID (Class 3 Felony) stemming from a shooting that occurred in East St. Louis earlier this week.

On October 20, 2024, East St. Louis Police Department (ESLPD) received the report of a shooting near the intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Missouri Avenue in East St. Louis. The description of the suspect was broadcasted to local officers. PSEG, ESLPD, and the East St. Louis Housing Authority Police Department responded to the scene. Offic-

ers observed the alleged suspect, later identified as O’Neal, fleeing on foot from the area. O’Neal was apprehended and a weapon was recovered. The victim self-transported to an area hospital with gunshot wounds.

On October 22, 2024, the State’s Attorney’s Office approved the above-mentioned charges. O’Neal is being held at the St. Clair County Jail.



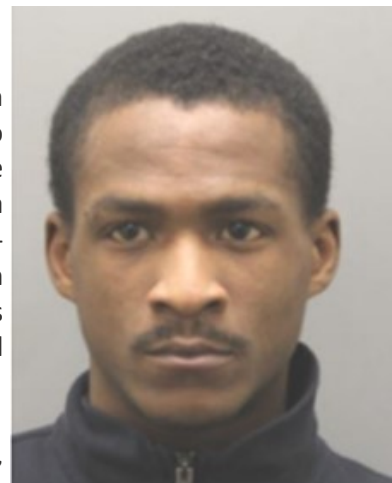
## ISP Arrests Suspect for East St. Louis Shooting

**EAST ST. LOUIS** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 6 Public Safety Enforcement Group (PSEG) arrested 29-year-old Eddie T. Johnson of Cahokia Heights, IL, for Aggravated Battery/Discharge of a Firearm (Class X Felony), Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm/Occupied Vehicle (Class 1 Felony), Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon (Class 2 Felony), and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon (Class 3 Felony) stemming from a shooting last month.

On September 22, 2024, at approximately 2:00 a.m., East St. Louis Police Department (ESLPD) responded to a shooting in the 1500 block of Gaty Avenue. The male victim was driving in the area when he was struck by gunfire from outside his vehicle. The victim was transported to a regional hospital with serious injuries. ESLPD requested

assistance from PSEG agents to further the case. After a thorough investigation, Johnson was identified as the alleged shooter.

On October 22, 2024, the St. Clair County State’s Attorney’s Office issued an arrest warrant for Johnson. On October 28, 2024, PSEG agents, ISP Statewide Anti-Violence Enforcement Team South, ISP Firearms Investigation Unit, and the United States Marshals Service located and arrested Johnson in East St. Louis.



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

Submit articles to:  
**Kimberly Runkle**  
[ISP.PIO.1043@illinois.gov](mailto:ISP.PIO.1043@illinois.gov)

Questions? Send those to:  
**Lt. Mike Link**  
[mike.link@illinois.gov](mailto:mike.link@illinois.gov)



## Major Milestone Achieved in Public Safety Communications with AT&T

On October 22, 2024, the DuPage County Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) was successfully migrated to the AT&T i3 ESInet. DuPage County is the 108<sup>th</sup> PSAP to go live on the AT&T i3 ESInet in the State of Illinois.

This marks a significant milestone for the State of Illinois and AT&T by enhancing public safety communications across the nation. With the DuPage County ESInet migration there are now over 70 million people supported by 1,773 PSAPs nationwide!

Additionally, AT&T has over 82 million people contracted for AT&T ESInet services, spanning

19 states for both live and contracted PSAPs. The AT&T ESInet solution provides emergency services with a robust, reliable, and secure network designed to improve response times and save lives.

This cutting-edge technology supports advanced capabilities such as text, video, and data sharing, enabling first responders to receive critical information in real-time. AT&T and the Illinois State Police remain committed to adopting the latest NG911 (Next Generation 911) standards, including i3 ESInet to PSAPs throughout Illinois.

## Teens Learn Driver Safety at House of Hope Arena

In honor of the 17-Year Anniversary of National Teen Driver Safety Week, ISP partnered with [State Farm](#) on a FREE Teen Driver Safety Fair at [House of Hope](#) Arena in Chicago for more than 500 students.

The educational and interactive traffic safety presentations and activities included:

- Driving Simulators
- Golf Cart/Trike Driving Ranges (uses impaired vision goggles and cell phone in simulation)
- Bag Boards (uses impaired vision goggles)
- Roll Over Simulator
- Safe Mobility (bike, pedestrian, scooter, vehicle, ...)
- Seat Belt Convincers
- Rules of the Road Jeopardy
- What to do in case of a traffic stop?
- FREE giveaways (e.g. – T-shirts, sling bags, water bottles, lip balm, ...)

Traffic crashes are the #1 killer of teens and are more common among young drivers than any other age group. Until young drivers turn 25, their crash risk remains two to three times higher than adults age 26 and older.



**BLUE  
BREW  
3**

Click here  
for FB  
event site



**NOV. 16  
6PM**

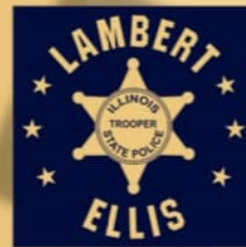
**Raise a glass in remembrance of Troopers Lambert and Ellis while raising funds to assist the recovery of Trooper Brian Frank.**



**\$40 EVENT TICKET INCLUDES**

- 3 BEER TICKETS
- SOUVENIR CUP
- DOOR PRIZE RAFFLE ENTRY\*

\*winner must be present



**TICKETED RAFFLE PRIZES FROM**

- HALF-FACE BLADES
- RESCO WATCHES
- BLANTON'S
- EH TAYLOR...AND MORE



**ORDER  
TICKETS**

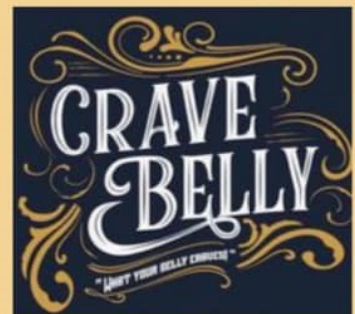


**EAGLE RARE TOAST TO TPR.  
LAMBART  
\$100  
INCLUDES ETCHED HONOR  
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**FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
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## ***Congratulations to ISP's August and September Retirees!***

**Susan K. Evans**  
Fingerprint Technician  
31 years, 1+ month

**Michael Harmony**  
Building and Grounds  
Laborer  
5 years, 5+ months

**Kirsti Todd**  
Administrative  
Assistant 2  
6 years, 2+ months

**Brian Bottcher**  
Senior Master Trooper  
#5596  
20 years, 2+ months

**Christopher "Joey"  
Watson**  
Master Sergeant #5075  
25 years, 5 months

**Gregory M Cowell**  
Senior Inspector #4976  
25 years, 6 months

**Charles Dixon**  
Senior Master Trooper  
#4982  
25 years, 6 months

**Eric Helton**  
Master Sergeant #5215  
24 years, 4 months

**Christopher Hoffstot**  
Master Sergeant #5577  
20 years, 3+ months

**Kevin Johnson**  
Senior Master Trooper  
#4923  
25 years, 11 months

## **Statewide 9-1-1 Director Receives Prestigious Award**

Statewide 9-1-1 Director Cindy Barbara-Brelle was honored by the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA) with the Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award at their conference this week.

The Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award is presented for extraordinary service to the GIS community. The Honors committee may select a recipient for the Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award, as and when they deem appropriate. The recipient of the Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award also becomes a Distinguished Member of ILGISA. This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development and advancement of geographic information systems.



Congratulations, Director Barbara-Brelle, on this well-deserved honor!

## ISP Honors Trooper Corey S. Thompsen

ST JOSEPH – Sunday, October 27, the Illinois State Police (ISP) joined Trooper Corey S. Thompsen’s family and friends, along with officers from law enforcement agencies across the country, to honor and pay their respects to Trooper Thompsen, who was killed in the line of duty on October 18, 2024, as the result of a traffic crash in Champaign County.

“Our hearts are broken today, but our spirit is not,” said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. “To allow our spirit to be broken would dishonor what Trooper Thompsen, his family, and ISP stand for. This week and then forever, we will honor him. We will honor his life of service, and the service and sacrifice of his family and friends.”



Trooper Thompsen began his career in law enforcement in 2018, serving as a member of the Vermilion Metropolitan Enforcement Group. On this exact day, five years ago, Trooper Thompsen entered the ISP Academy in Springfield as a cadet in Cadet Class 130, committing himself to serve the community with integrity and pride. Upon graduation, Trooper Thompsen was assigned to patrol duties in District 10, which is now Troop 7. In 2022, Trooper Thompsen successfully completed ISP’s motorcycle certification course as part of Motor Class 17, and he began his next step as a motorcycle officer in Troop 7. In 2023, Trooper Thompsen was selected to join ISP’s Special Operations Group as a member of a Fatal Four Unit, focusing his efforts on traffic enforcement and keeping Illinois roadways safe.

On October 18, 2024, at approximately 3:42 p.m., Trooper Thompsen had just completed a traffic safety detail on Interstate 57, along with his other Fatal Four Unit teammates. Trooper Thompsen was traveling east on East Leverett Road approaching County Road 1300E in Champaign County. A pick-up truck traveling south on 1300 E. Road initially came to a stop at the stop sign, but then pulled into the intersection, striking Trooper Thompsen’s motorcycle. A witness provided aid to Trooper Thompson until first responders arrived and he was taken by ambulance to an area hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 4:32 p.m. Trooper Corey Thompsen was 28 years old. He is survived by his wife Chelsea, his parents Susan and Steve, and his brothers Mitchell and Ryan.

For those wishing to make a donation in Trooper Thompsen’s honor, a memorial fund has been set up in his name at the University of Illinois Credit Union. The fund will provide scholarships to Trooper Thompsen’s alma mater, St. Joseph-Ogden High School, focusing on seniors who wish to follow in Trooper Thompsen’s path and study Criminal Justice.



## Statement from the Thompsen family

The Family of Trooper Corey S. Thompsen mourns the loss of their husband, son, brother and friend. We could never begin to thank law enforcement or the thousands from our community who have reached out to us to express their love and support.

To the public, he became a hero on October 18<sup>th</sup>, when he was killed in the line of duty. To his family, he has always been a hero.

Our world has been shattered, and we will never be the same. But we take comfort in knowing that he lived life to the fullest, he loved his family and friends deeply, and he died doing what he loved. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." -Matthew 5:9

Visitation will be Saturday, October 26, from 1 to 5 pm, at St. Joseph-Ogden High School with a first responder walk through at 5 pm. The funeral will be held Sunday, October 27 at 1 pm at Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect in Champaign. Burial will be in Patterson Cemetery, St. Joseph.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the *Trooper Corey S. Thompsen Scholarship* fund at any University of Illinois Credit Union branch. This will provide a scholarship to St. Joseph-Ogden High School students entering the field of Criminal Justice.



On October 27, 2024, the Illinois State Police joined family and friends as Trooper Corey S. Thompsen #7081 was laid to rest in St. Joseph, Illinois, five years to the day after he reported to the ISP Academy. Trooper Thompsen was killed in the line of duty when a pick-up truck pulled in front of Trooper Thompsen's motorcycle on October 18, 2024, as he was finishing a traffic enforcement detail. Below is the eulogy Director Kelly delivered during Trooper Thompsen's funeral to honor his life and his work with ISP.

*Chelsea, Susan, Steve, Ryan, Mitchell, friends, and family of Trooper Thompsen, Illinois State Police Special Operations Group, Motorcycle Enforcement Bureau, Troop 7, Cadet Class 130, Vermilion Metropolitan Enforcement Group, all those who serve the Illinois State Police, Lt. Governor, People of Illinois:*

*On the sunny afternoon of May 1, 2020, in the shadow of the Illinois State Police Central Headquarters, Corey S. Thompsen, along with other members of his cadet class, raised his right hand, and, as I spoke them, repeated the sacred words of the oath of an Illinois State Police Officer, and when called to attention, he said loud and clear, the motto of the Illinois State Police: integrity, service, and pride.*



*And that's why we are here.*

*And that's why there has been such an outpouring of love and support from so many. And as director, it is my privilege to receive the words of solidarity from other public safety leaders, from sheriffs, from police and fire chiefs, from first responders, from state and federal prosecutors, from countless public officials and citizens alike, around Champaign County, around the state, around the country, and around the world.*

*And we are here because while most people safely lay themselves down in their bed every night, there are brave souls like Trooper Thompsen raising their hands up, to take an oath, to pursue justice, and to protect us all.*

*Unfortunately, I have stood here before, beside one of my troopers, as we render the honors he so*



*rightly deserves, at the end of his watch. But this is the first time doing so for a Trooper to whom I administered the oath myself at the beginning of his watch.*

*So, that oath, and that ISP tradition of calling a class of new troopers to attention and their answer of “integrity, service, and pride,” came to mind this week for many reasons.*

*We all have different things that can come to mind in these difficult moments. I thought of course of Trooper Thompsen where I first saw him, in criminal law class, at the Academy. His brothers and sisters in VMEG thought about the shy, young intern that grew into a full-fledged under-cover narcotics agent before heading off to the Illinois State Police Academy. His brothers and sisters in Cadet Class 130, District 10 and Troop 7 thought of the good times with Trooper Thompsen, or “Baby Corey” as they called him, which I will leave to Trooper Weaver to tell. Everyone thought of course of Trooper Thompsen, in his sharp looking uniform, on his beautiful ISP motorcycle, riding in the sun and wind, which everyone says he just loved to do.*

*Like a knight in shining armor protecting pilgrims on ancient roads, like the lawman on his horse protecting the pioneers of the wild west, that lone Illinois State Police Officer, on his motorcycle, seeking out crime and assisting the motoring public on the highways of this state, is an iconic image of the ISP, and Trooper Thompsen embodied that, and all that is good and true and right about the ISP.*

*But as I thought further about how, day or night, rain or shine, the men and women of the ISP, like Trooper Thompsen, on patrol, or investigations, or in SWAT, or Air Ops, or crime scene, or internal investigations, answer call after call after call after call, there were obvious words that came my mind, words from the*

*Bible, words the Thompsen family, a family of faith, undoubtedly know.*

*Despite myself, something of the Good Book got through my thick skull over the years. And when I thought about Trooper Thompsen’s willingness to serve all of us, I heard the words of Isaiah, when God asks, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And Isaiah answers, “Here I am; send me!”*

*The “call” and the “answer” is part of the Judeo-Christian tradition. The rabbi or minister speaks, and the congregation answers. The pastor speaks the Word of the Lord and all God’s people say “amen.”*

*Well, there’s a call and answer for the ISP, too.*

*Who will patrol the darkest, most dangerous streets of our state? Here I am.*

*Who will stop the flow of deadly drugs to save another wayward soul? Here I am.*

*Who will help those in danger by going toward the danger? Send me.*

*Who will risk life and limb to keep safe the highways and byways of our state? Send me.*

*Who will choose a tough, selfless life of integrity, and service, and risk for the benefit of others?*

*The answer was and is from all Illinois State Police Officers: Here I am. Send me.*

*Chelsea, I know you will always have questions and your family will be there for you and you will be there for each other, but I want you to know there are nearly three thousand people in the ISP right now here for you, but also know that the ISP is over a hundred years old so there are thousands and thousands of peo-*

*ple who have been and will always be a part of the ISP family. Some of those people might wear a motorcycle helmet like Corey, some of those people might wear a suit and tie, some of those people might have on crazy pants with all kinds of pockets, and some of those people might be wearing rubber gloves or white coat or a headset, and some of those people are already in heaven, but they are all part of a great big family, and from now on that family is all yours and it is yours forever.*

*And for the rest of us, we may have questions too, but the only question we really need to worry about is have we earned Trooper Thompsen? Have we earned it by being decent, kind, and compassionate? Have we earned it by loving, building, and doing God's work here on earth?*

*To those closest to Trooper Thompsen and to all his fellow troopers, I implore you to earn it in the way you care for one another and care for yourselves in the days, and weeks and months and years ahead, because to honor him you must know that the most important equipment you have for your mission is not your firearm, or badge, or uniform, but your hearts, your minds, and your souls.*

*Have all of us here on earth earned it, not just on this day, but every day? Because the greatest way to honor Trooper Thompsen is for all of us to live our lives in a way that is worthy of his life.*

*On the sunny afternoon of May 1, 2020, in the shadow of the Illinois State Police Central Headquarters, Corey S. Thompsen, raised his right hand, and, when he was called, he said loud and clear:*

*Here I am. Send me.*

Brendan F. Kelly, Director



## In Memoriam: Kathleen Swanson



It is with profound sadness that the Protective Services Unit announces the passing of Mrs. Kathleen “Yaya” Swanson, of Orland Park, Illinois. Mrs. Swanson passed away on October 27, 2024, and is the mother Lieutenant Matt Swanson. Please keep Lieutenant Swanson and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Kathleen M. Swanson (nee Boutet) of Orland Park. Beloved wife of Edward. Loving mother of Matt (Barb) and Kurt (Beth). Devoted grandmother of Kyle. Cherished daughter of the late Joseph and Ann Boutet. Dear sister of Joanne, Tom, Marilyn and the late Bonnie.

Kathleen, known as YaYa, never missed Kyle's baseball games and was his biggest fan.

**Memorial Mass:** Thursday, November 7, 2024, 10:30AM at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 15050 Wolf Road, Orland Park, Illinois 60467

**Memorial Visitation:** Thursday, November 7, 2024, 12:00PM – 2:30PM at Richard J. Modell Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 12641 W. 143<sup>rd</sup> Street, Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

<https://www.rjmodellfh.com/obituary/kathleen-swanson>

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital (<https://www.stjude.org/>) in Mrs. Swanson’s name are greatly appreciated.

## In Memoriam: Debra Boggs



It is with great sadness that the Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 4 announces the passing of Debra S. Boggs, 62, of Springfield, IL. Mrs. Boggs passed away on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at her home. She worked for the Illinois State Police, Division of Criminal Investigations Zone 4 Springfield office. Debra was also a member of Springfield’s First United Methodist Church. She enjoyed having lunch with friends, playing cards, watching her favorite TV shows, playing with her dogs, gardening and loved to cook for her family and friends. Debra was also an avid Illini fan.

**Memorial Gathering and Memorial Ceremony:** Family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the Memorial Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 8, 2024, at Springfield First United Methodist Church, 2941 S. Koke Mill Road, Springfield, IL, with Rev. Justin Snider officiating. Interment will follow shortly after at Calvary Cemetery.

**Memorial contributions may be made to:** First United Methodist Church.

**Obituary Link:** [Debra Boggs Obituary - Springfield, IL](#)



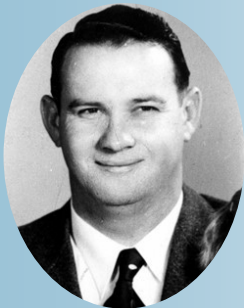
## Trooper Joseph Elliott

**End of Watch: October 20, 1933**

Trooper Joseph Elliott was killed in an automobile accident while he and another officer returned to the district headquarters in Peoria, Illinois.

The officers were attempting to pass another car when the patrol car went out of control on the wet road surface. Trooper Elliott was pinned underneath the car and succumbed to his injuries several hours later.

Trooper Elliott had served with the Illinois State Police for seven months and was assigned to District 8. Trooper Elliott was survived by his wife.



## Trooper Harry Bradley

**End of Watch: October 24, 1957**

Trooper Harry Bradley was killed in an automobile accident while on patrol in Lawrenceville. A taxicab backed in front of him, causing him to swerve to avoid a collision. His patrol car went down an embankment and turned on its side, ejecting him. He was transported to

Lake County Memorial Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries seven hours later.

Trooper Bradley served with the Illinois State Police for 11 years and was a WWII veteran. He was survived by his wife and four children.



## Trooper Ben Seaton

**End of Watch: October 24, 1949**

Trooper Ben Seaton was killed in an automobile accident at a gravel intersection when another car entered the intersection at the same time as his patrol car. He was ejected from the patrol car which then landed on top of him. He succumbed to his injuries en route to the hospital.

Trooper Seaton had served with the Illinois State Police for seven years and was assigned to District 7. Trooper Seaton was survived by his wife and two children.



## Sergeant Anthony Millison

**End of Watch: October 27, 1997**

Sergeant Anthony Millison was killed when he fell from the Thornton-Blue Island Overpass on Interstate 57, in Dixmoor, while assisting at the scene of an accident.

The overpass was extremely icy due to inclement weather. He was responding to another accident on the overpass when his vehicle slid on the ice and crashed into a barrier. Despite being injured, he began tending to other motorists who had also crashed. As he was assisting other motorists, he noticed another vehicle sliding towards him. He attempted to jump out of the vehicle's path by holding onto the overpass rail but fell to the concrete 47-feet below.

He was transported to St. Francis Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Sergeant Millison was assigned to District Chicago and had served with the Illinois State Police for 10 years. He had previously served with the Illinois Department of Corrections for eight years and was a U.S. Air Force veteran.

He is survived by his wife and son.



## Trooper Forrest Spencer

**End of Watch: October 27, 1946**

Trooper Forrest Spencer was struck and killed by a vehicle while investigating an accident near Olmstead, Illinois.

Trooper Spencer was standing on the side of the road when a vehicle smashed into a crowd, killing him and three bystanders.

The driver was arrested and charged with manslaughter.

Trooper Spencer was an 18-month veteran of the Illinois State Police; He was survived by his wife and two children.



## Trooper Brian McMillen

**End of Watch: October 28, 2007**

Trooper Brian McMillen was killed when his patrol car was involved in an accident with two cars operated by intoxicated drivers on Dye Road, south of I-72 near Illiopolis.

Trooper McMillen was en route to a tavern, just outside of Illiopolis, to assist two deputy sheriffs with a disturbance when his patrol car was involved in the collision. Both drivers were intoxicated and had just left the tavern Trooper McMillen was responding to.

Both drivers were convicted of aggravated DUI. One was sentenced to 14 years and the other driver was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Trooper McMillen was an Illinois Air National Guard veteran and had served with the Illinois State Police for 8 months. He is survived by his wife.



## Trooper Erin Hehl

**End of Watch: October 30, 1997**

Trooper Erin Hehl was killed when the helicopter she was in crashed during a training exercise.

Trooper Hehl was flying with a civilian pilot at suburban Frankfort Airport in the department's helicopter known as AirOne. They were practicing touch-and-go landings when one of the skids of the A-Star Eurocopter got stuck in mud, causing the helicopter to flip over. The civilian pilot was killed as well. Trooper Hehl had 70 hours of flight experience, but it is unknown who was at the controls at the time of the crash.

Trooper Hehl had served with the Illinois State Police for 11 years.

Trooper Hehl is survived by her husband, son and a stepson.

## In Memoriam: retired Master Trooper Lyle Dean “Steve” Lee



**Master Trooper Lyle Dean “Steve” Lee #633**  
**Member of Cadet Class 20 (10/28/1957)**  
**Retired 12/31/1989 from District 18**

Lyle (Steve) Dean Lee, of Wrights, Illinois, passed away peacefully with his family at his side on October 26, 2024, at age 91. He was born to Roy Dean and Regeina Elizabeth (Baldes) Lee on September 2, 1933, in a rural area north of Wrights, Illinois. He attended Jerico Grade School and graduated from Greenfield High School where he played football for the Tiger team and also threw the disc for the track team. Lyle married Rebecca (Becky) Reif on July 19, 1958, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Ill. Together they spent a lot of their 66 years raising their two sons, Stephen and Scot.

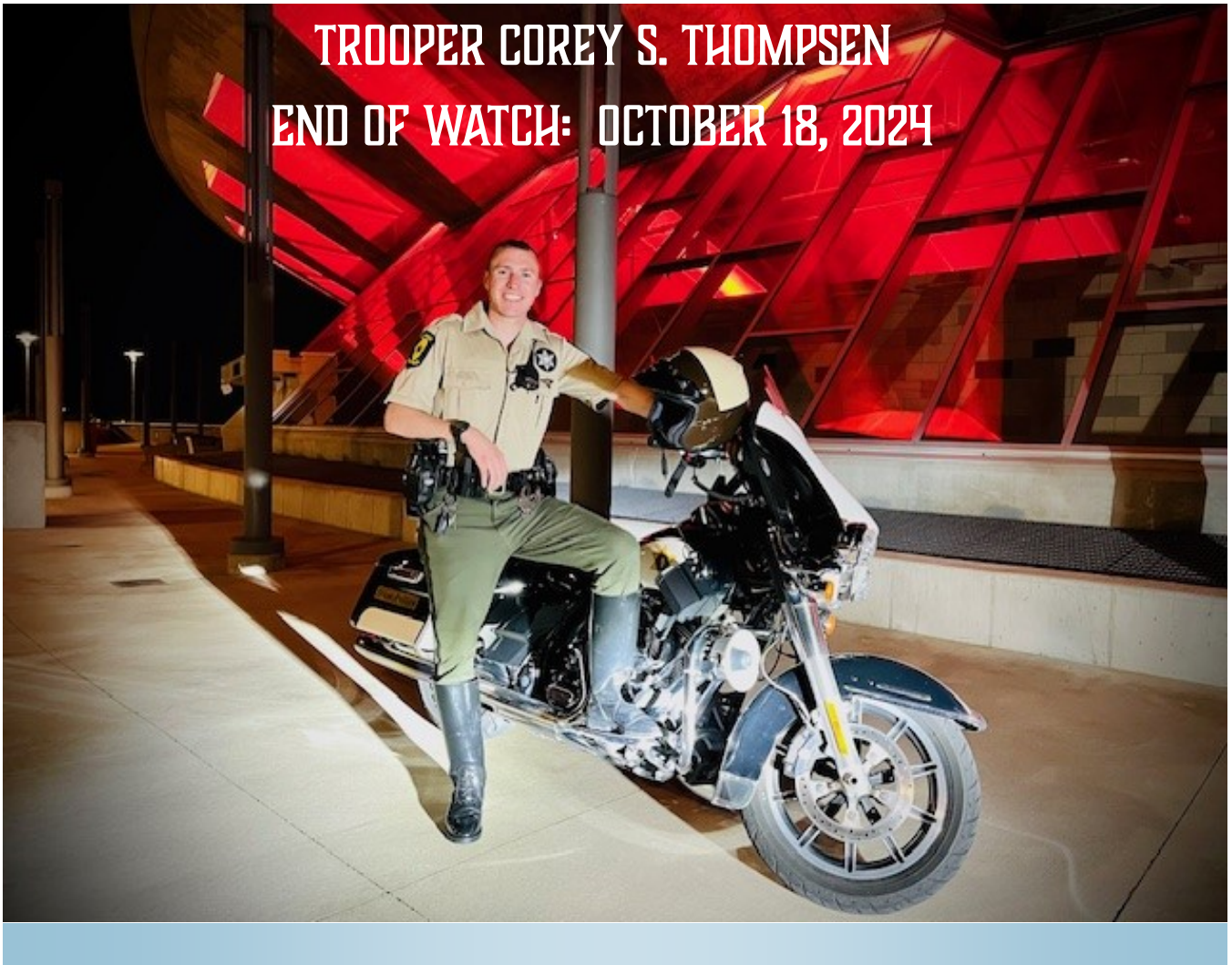
After graduation, Lyle proudly served 2 years in the Army where he was assigned to Company “B” 1903 Engineer Aviation battalion Air Force base in the Korean conflict. After his service, he went to work at the Caterpillar Plant in Peoria Illinois. After a brief career at Caterpillar, he began his 28-year career as an Illinois State Trooper where he served the local area. In addition to his career as a trooper, after his father Roy’s sudden passing at a young age, he assisted his mother to manage and operate the family farm in Wrights. After his mother Regeina passed, he purchased and continued to operate the farm for many years. In addition to farming, Lyle worked as a crop adjuster where he met many new friends. Later in life he and his son Scot renovated the dairy barn into a lodge (Little Creek Outfitters) that housed many hunters from all over the states. Lyle enjoyed company whether it was his family or at the coffee shop. As long as he was able, he made the 8-mile trip to Greenfield, White Hall or Carrollton to catch up on the local news and events in the community. He never knew a stranger and would frequently strike up a conversation with someone that he had never seen before. While living in Brighton in his early years, he managed and help run the local Khoury League baseball teams. He was also active at the Wood River Sportsmen Club.

He is survived by his wife, Becky of Wrights, sons, Stephen (Linda) and Scot (Lesa) Lee, brothers and sisters, Mary Williams, Linda Ingold, Maurice (Jill) Lee and Marcia (Kent) Hannant, grandsons: Travis (Ashley) Lee, Brandon (Brittany) Lee and Dorson (Rebekah Van Bebbler) Lee, granddaughters Ashli (Chris) Gapinski and, Crystal Lee (Tony Black), a very special niece who was always there for him, Diane Schirz, and many other nieces and nephews, great grandchildren: Angela Lott, Breanna Lee, Dustin and Mason Cunningham and, Aaron Davis. Step father-in-law and longtime friend, Richard Mehrhoff and Father John Day, Illinois State Police Chaplin who made special time to visit and pray with him and family shortly before his passing. Lyle was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Regeina, sister Joyce Strang, mother and father-in-law, Florence Mehrhoff and Mather “Poncho” Reif. Granddaughters Angela Lee and Bristol Lee, niece, Lori Williams, nephew, Jeff Williams and very special friend and fellow trooper Frank Kozicki.

Arrangements will be provided by Shields- Bishop Funeral Home of Greenfield. A visitation will be held 4 to 7 pm. Thur. Oct 31 at First Baptist Church Home @ 1152 NE 575 St. Greenfield Ill. A funeral service will be held Friday Nov 1 at 10:30 am at First Baptist Church, conducted by Pastor Stephen Jacobson. Burial will be at Wrights cemetery with VFW salute and ceremony. Memorials may be made to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Carrollton or the Tiger Backers booster club in Greenfield. Please leave a memory or condolence at shields-bishopfh.com.

# TROOPER COREY S. THOMPSEN

## END OF WATCH: OCTOBER 18, 2024



Illinois State Police

801 S. 7th Street  
Springfield, IL 62703

E-mail: [ISP.PIO.1043@illinois.gov](mailto:ISP.PIO.1043@illinois.gov)

