

## K9 DuQ to Get Donation of Body Armor

**DUQUOIN** – Illinois State Police K9 DuQ will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 DuQ’s vest was sponsored by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and will be embroidered with the sentiment “Born to Love-Trained to Serve-Loyal Always”. Delivery is expected within ten weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially life-saving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,878 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

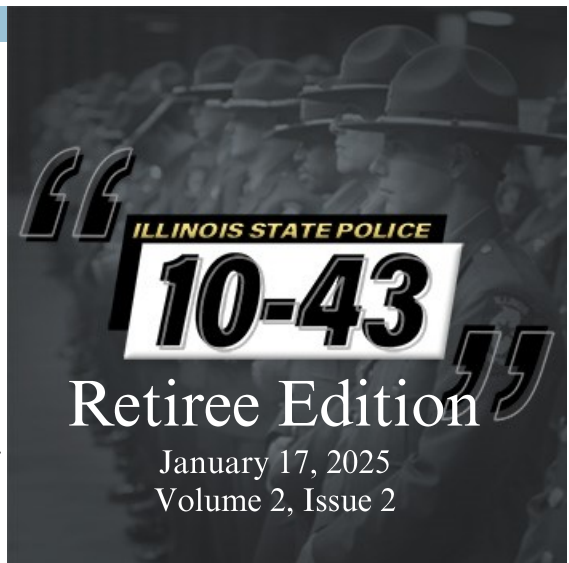
The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$1,050 will sponsor



one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org), or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.



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**ILLINOIS  
STATE POLICE**

*Brendan F. Kelly—Director*

# Five ISP Squad Cars Struck in Scott’s Law Crashes

## *ISP Experiences 27<sup>th</sup> Move Over Law-Related Crash of 2024 and 1<sup>st</sup> of 2025*

**CHICAGO** – Illinois State Police (ISP) officials investigated two separate traffic crashes that occurred in DuPage and Cook counties involving ISP troopers who were handling separate vehicle crashes when their squad cars were struck by drivers who failed to move over.

On December 31, 2024, at approximately 1:57 p.m., an ISP trooper was outside of their squad car handling a crash with their emergency lights activated on Interstate 55 northbound near Woodward Avenue. A Hyundai sedan failed to move over and rear-ended the parked squad car. The parked squad car blocked three troopers on scene from being hit. No injuries were reported. The ISP squad car was towed from the scene due to damage sustained during the crash. The driver of the Hyundai, 23-year-old Alyssa M. Ceballos of Lockport, Illinois, was charged with driving Too Fast for Conditions and a Scott’s Law violation.

On January 1, 2025, at approximately 3:09 a.m., two ISP troopers were enroute to assist with a previous personal injury crash on I-57 when they came upon a separate crash on I-57 northbound at 107<sup>th</sup> Street. Both ISP troopers stopped on the left shoulder and partially in the left lane with their emergency lights activated. A Hyundai Sonata approaching the crash scene, struck a black passenger car, then struck both ISP squad cars. One ISP trooper was inside their squad car and one ISP trooper was outside their squad car at the time of the crash. No injuries were sustained by the ISP troopers. The driver of the Hyundai, Kashawn M. Walker, 34, of Matteson, Illinois was transported to an area hospital with injuries. Walker was charged with a Scott’s Law Violation.

## *ISP Experiences 2nd Move Over Law-Related Crash of 2025*

**CHICAGO** – Illinois State Police (ISP) officials investigated a traffic crash that occurred on Interstate 55 involving two ISP troopers who were handling a crash when their squad cars were struck by a driver who failed to move over.

On January 14, 2025, at approximately 7:48 a.m., two ISP troopers were inside of their squad cars, on the left shoulder, handling a crash with their emergency lights activated on Interstate 55 northbound just south of Harlem Avenue. A Honda Accord failed to move over and struck the rear of one parked squad and then sideswiped the second squad. One trooper and their canine partner reported minor injuries. The driver of the Honda, 20-year-old Gabriel S. Owens of Sauk Village, Illinois, was charged with driving Too Fast for Conditions and a Scott’s Law violation.

In 2025, ISP has already suffered two Move Over Law-related crashes. In 2024, ISP suffered 27 Move Over Law-related crashes with 12 troopers injured and one death. In 2023, ISP had 21 Move Over Law-related crashes with seven 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.



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## ISP Arrests Kankakee Man for Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Materials

**KANKAKEE**— Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 arrested 35-year-old Joseph L. Lookingbill of Kankakee, IL for three counts of Possession of Child Pornography (Class 3 Felony).

On January 7, 2025, after a brief investigation ISP agent arrested Lookingbill at his residence in the 2100 block of Schuyler Avenue in Kankakee. A search warrant executed on electronics owned by Lookingbill revealed child exploitation material. Lookingbill was transported to the Kankakee County Jail for a detention hearing.



## ISP Arrests Belvidere Man for Criminal Sexual Assault

**BELVIDERE** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 2 arrested 52-year-old Robert E. Kozlowski of Belvidere, IL for one count of Criminal Sexual Assault (Class 1 Felony) and two counts of Criminal Sexual Abuse (Class 4 Felony).

On March 20, 2024, ISP was requested by the Belvidere Police Department (BPD) to investigate a report of a criminal sexual assault involving an off-duty BPD officer, Robert. E. Kozlowski. During the investigation Kozlowski was placed on administrative leave from BPD.

On January 9, 2025, after a thorough investigation, Kozlowski was indicted by a Boone County Grand Jury on the above charges. A warrant was issued for Kozlowski's arrest and he turned himself in on January 10, 2024.



## ISP Arrests Morgan Man for Producing Child Sexual Abuse Material

**SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 4 arrested 41-year-old Corey J. Lucas of Murrayville, IL for three counts of Production of Child Pornography (Class X Felony) and three counts of Possession of Child Pornography (Class X Felony).

In March 2024, ISP special agents initiated an investigation after learning Lucas possessed child sexual abuse material. During the investigation, ISP special agents assigned to the Office of the Illinois Attorney General Internet Crimes against Children Task Force gathered digital evidence indicating Lucas possessed and produced child por-

nography at his residence in Morgan County. On January 10, 2025, Lucas became aware of the charges and made suicidal statements. Officers with the Morgan County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to check his wellbeing and found Lucas armed with a handgun. Lucas barricaded himself inside his residence and the Morgan County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from ISP. ISP SWAT officers and Crisis Negotiation Team members responded and at approximately 7:25 pm on January 11, 2025, Lucas was taken into custody and transported to the Morgan County Jail.

## ISP Leads Human Trafficking Demand Suppression Operation in Bloomington

**BLOOMINGTON** – The Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Trafficking Enforcement Bureau arrested six individuals during a two-day human trafficking demand suppression operation in the Bloomington area of McLean County on January 8 - 9, 2025. The operation focused on identifying individuals seeking to engage in commercial sex acts.

As a result of the operation, the following individuals were arrested and charged:

- Nathan J. Hansen (45) of Bloomington, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3 Felony), Indecent Solicitation a Child/Internet (Class 4 Felony), Indecent Solicitation/Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse (Class 3 Felony), Solicitation to Meet a Child 5 Years + Older (Class 4 Felony), Grooming (Class 4 Felony), and Possession of a Controlled Substance (Class 4 Felony)
- David B. Teran (25) of Bloomington, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3 Felony), Indecent Solicitation a Child/Internet (Class 4 Felony), Indecent Solicitation/Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse (Class 3 Felony), Solicitation to Meet a Child 5 Years + Older (Class 4 Felony), and Grooming (Class 4 Felony)
- Steve Adma (21) of Galesburg, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3 Felony), Indecent Solicitation a Child/Internet (Class 4 Felony), Indecent Solicitation/Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse (Class 3 Felony), Solicitation to Meet a Child 5 Years + Older (Class 4 Felony), and Grooming (Class 4 Felony)
- Khalid M. Farah (21) of Arlington Heights, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3 Felony), Indecent Solicitation a Child/Internet (Class 4 Felony), Indecent Solicitation/Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse (Class 3 Felony), Solicitation to Meet a Child 5 Years + Older (Class 4 Felony), and Grooming (Class 4 Felony)
- Larry M. Miller (60) of Tolono, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3 Felony), Indecent Solicitation a Child/Internet (Class 4 Felony), Indecent Solicitation/Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse (Class 3 Felony), Solicitation to Meet a Child 5 Years + Older (Class 4 Felony), and Grooming (Class 4 Felony)
- Michael A. Morris (33) of Forest City, IL – 2 counts of Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3 Felony), 2 counts of Indecent Solicitation a Child/Internet (Class 4 Felony), 2 counts of Indecent Solicitation/Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse (Class 3 Felony), 2 counts of Solicitation to Meet a Child 5 years + Older (Class 4 Felony), and 2 counts of Grooming (Class 4 Felony).

This operation was part of a multifaceted approach by ISP aimed at stopping human trafficking in Illinois. ISP special agents, officers from Troops 3 and 5, ISP SWAT, Task Force 6, ISP Analysts, Vermillion Metropolitan Enforcement Group, East Central Illinois Drug Task Force, North Central Narcotics Task Force, and Intelligence Support Unit, partnered with the Bloomington Police Department, and Department of Child and Family Services for the operation. The McLean County State's Attorney's Office also provided support for the operation.

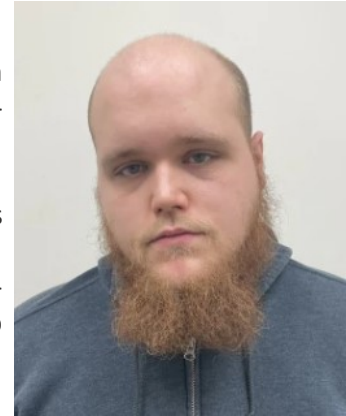
[Human trafficking](#) is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts, labor, or services against their will. ISP continues its multifaceted approach toward protecting those most vulnerable with its ongoing statewide human trafficking enforcement operations. The signs of human trafficking can be subtle; to learn more, please visit [Recognizing the Signs | National Human Trafficking Hotline](#).



## ISP Arrests Winnebago County Man for Dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Material

**LOVES PARK** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 2 arrested 22-year-old Trent E. Albright of Loves Park, IL for Dissemination of Child Pornography (Class X Felony).

On January 14, 2025, ISP agents executed a search warrant at Albright’s residence in the 200 block of Grand Boulevard in Loves Park and collected electronic evidence. The evidence was analyzed and revealed child exploitation materials. ISP agents arrested Albright, and he was transported to the Winnebago County Jail.



## ISP Combats Vehicle Hijacking and Theft

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois State Police (ISP) continues to target vehicle theft, hijacking, and related violent crimes using grant funding from the Illinois Secretary of State Illinois Vehicle Hijacking and Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Council. ISP was awarded a \$10 million grant for the first fiscal year, and another \$677,000 grant announced in June 2024.

From October through December 2024, ISP missions resulted in the following:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Vehicles recovered – stolen and/or hijacked   | 245   |
| Stolen vehicle arrests  | 24    |
| Hijacked vehicle arrests  | 1     |
| Firearms seized as a result of stolen/hijacked vehicle recovery                     | 8     |
| Missions targeting stolen/hijacked vehicle recovery and related violent crime       | 31    |
| K9 used for stolen/hijacked vehicle recovery and related violence crime             | 10    |
| Air Operations targeting stolen/hijacked vehicle recovery and related violent crime | 31    |
| Forensic laboratory assignments related to stolen/hijacked vehicle                  | 1,136 |

Highlights of ISP vehicle recovery efforts:

- October 4, 2024, ISP located a stolen Lexus and attempted a traffic stop on 94<sup>th</sup> and Rhodes in Chicago, but the Lexus fled. The Lexus parked at 79<sup>th</sup> and Wabash and the driver ran from the vehicle. ISP took the driver into custody.
- November 26, 2024, ISP located a stolen Dodge and attempted a traffic stop on Garfield at I-94 in Chicago, but the Dodge fled. The Dodge slowed and the passenger exited and ran from the vehicle. ISP took the passenger into custody and recovered two firearms.
- December 20, 2024, ISP located a stolen Jeep and attempted a traffic stop on I-94 at 79<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, but the Jeep fled. The Jeep parked at a State Park near US 6 in LaSalle and two suspects ran from the vehicle. ISP took the both suspects into custody.

## Thank A Trooper! Tpr. Peter Skiba



We recently received this note from a stranded driver:

*Good Afternoon,*

*On December 8th, I had a blowout on the expressway while driving with my son. I called for assistance and Trooper Skiba was there in less than 30 minutes. He waited for my husband to come and change my tire and also assisted him with changing the tire.*

*I just want to say THANK YOU to Trooper Skiba for his assistance and acknowledge his professionalism.*

*Thank you, T.B.*

## Thank A Trooper! Tpr. Stanislaw Smalec



*An I-294 driver offers her thanks to Trooper Smalec:*

*On August 9, 2024, my Corvette was struck and side swiped by a large semi tractor trailer on I294 southbound. My vehicle sustained heavy damage to the front driver side door and both front and rear quarter panels. I felt inclined to share how professional and courteous Trooper Smalec was upon his arrival to the scene of the accident. Trooper Smalec asked all the right questions, showed empathy and exhibited great strength with ISP's accident protocols. Although, my vehicle sustained extensive damage I am grateful there were no fatalities. Special thanks and accolades to Trooper Smalec and Illinois State Police for their dedication and professionalism protecting our citizens throughout the State of Illinois. ISP is blessed to have Trooper Smalec and many other dedicated officers on their team. Keep up the good work ISP.*

## ISP Seeks Public's Assistance in Fatal Crash on Edens Expressway

**WILMETTE** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 is requesting the public's assistance in the investigation surrounding the death of a 35-year-old male.

On January 7, 2025, at approximately 7 a.m., ISP responded to a fatal traffic crash on Interstate 94 westbound near Lake Avenue. The vehicle crashed and the 35-year-old male driver later succumbed to his injuries.

Anyone driving in the area at the time of the crash, anyone who observed the crash, or anyone who has dash camera footage, please submit a tip online at <http://isptips.illinois.gov/> or contact ISP Troop 3 at 847-294-4400.

## New Deputy Director of ISP Statewide Division of 9-1-1



The role our telecommunicators play on a daily basis fulfilling the various missions and duties of the Illinois State Police cannot be underestimated. They are a critical part of the agency and as such should be at the highest levels of ISP leadership. The Division of Forensic Services is appropriately led by a forensic scientist, and it has been a goal for some time to have the Division of Statewide 911 led by a telecommunicator.

I am therefore pleased to announce the appointment of Cheryl Clodfelter to serve as the Deputy Director of the Division of Statewide 9-1-1 effective January 2, 2025. Ms. Clodfelter is a former ISP Telecommunicator who assisted in the transition to the STARCOM radio network for the telecommunication centers statewide. Ms. Clodfelter brings her experiences within DoIT to the technology enhancements being implemented within Statewide 9-1-1 with officer-worn body cameras, the Statewide 9-1-1 Next Generation network and the statewide STARCOM radio network, as well as other responsibilities of the division. Please join me in welcoming her back and congratulating Deputy Director Clodfelter on her appointment.

Brendan F. Kelly  
Director

## Rock Island County Integrity Task Force Investigates Officer Involved Shooting

**ROCK ISLAND** – On Sunday, January 5, 2025, the Rock Island Police Department (RIPD) requested the Rock Island County Integrity Task Force (RICITF) investigate an officer involved shooting that occurred near 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Rock Island.

At approximately 3:20 p.m. on January 5, 2025, a RIPD officer attempted to stop a vehicle, which made several attempts to elude the officer. The driver, later identified as 22-year-old Jakarta A. Jackson of East Moline, IL, who had an active warrant for his arrest, eventually stopped his vehicle and ran from the officer. Jackson circled back, got into the vehicle, and attempted to drive away. The RIPD officer opened the driver's door to detain Jackson, but was subsequently dragged. As the suspect continued to try to flee, the officer fired his gun, striking Jackson. Officers immediately called for emergency medical services and rendered aid until they arrived. Jackson was taken

to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The RIPD officer was transported to a local hospital and was treated and released.

RICITF continues to investigate the incident, including reviewing video from in-car and body worn cameras. Once the investigation is complete, the case will be turned over to the Rock Island County State's Attorney's Office, which will make a final determination. A thorough investigation can take time and premature release of the video or other information without consultation with and authorization from the State's Attorney's Office could compromise the case.

If anyone has information about this incident and has not yet spoken with RICITF investigators, please call RICITF at 309-752-4915, extension 4935.

# ISP Remembers Trooper Clay Matthew Carns #6512

*January 3, 2025, was a difficult and sad day for the Illinois State Police as we laid to rest*

## **Trooper Clay Matthew Carns #6512**

*Following are eulogies from Director Brendan F. Kelly,  
Lieutenant Colonel Jason Bradley, and Captain Patrick Manno.*



### **Words from Director Brendan F. Kelly**

Meghan, Gray and Ally, Patti and Danny, Erica and Tony, Chad and Becca, Elyssa, Rosalie, Neal and Debbie, family and friends, men and women of the Illinois State Police:

"I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming..."

Those are the words of Abraham Lincoln, whose name is on every Illinois state police license plate, from a letter he wrote to a Mrs. Bixby, who had lost all her sons in the Civil War.

I can tell you the three of us that have the honor of speaking here today, know what Lincoln meant, and that any words of ours are certainly not enough, facing the grief of a loss so overwhelming.

But as you know, we are an agency filled with people of duty, people of action. So on behalf of everyone in the Illinois State Police, and the people of Illinois we say with the deepest gratitude, to the Carns family: thank you.

Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for allowing us to be here to grieve with you. Thank you for sharing Trooper Carns with us for the time that we had him and thank you for giving so much to the Illinois State Police, not just a husband, son, father, and brother, but other members of your family, who continue to serve within the ranks of the ISP.

There are very few families who can say they have given and continue to give so much to the mission of the Illinois State Police. We will honor your husband and son-and father- and brother today, and stand by you for as long as there is an Illinois State Police on this Earth. That's our mission now. That's our duty. And these men and women of action will ensure it will not go unfulfilled.

In the moments of inaction, in the moments of silence, it is hard to understand this loss, it is hard to understand why we are here, again. People have asked me if it gets easier each time losing a trooper, and the simple answer is "No."

On the one hand, it shouldn't, because we should never be okay with this, we should never get used to this.

On the other hand, each loss involves unique circumstances, that strikes each family and those who served alongside, differently.

I have tried to make sense of it. But it is hard to understand.

Whitney Hopkins, whose husband Trooper Nick Hopkins was killed in the line duty, a case investigated and justice pursued by none other than Trooper Carns' sister, Special Agent Erica Raciak- she has gained wisdom over the years and she texted me a few days ago and said life really is determined by the inches and seconds.

Everywhere you look, in the daily life of the ISP, it's inches and seconds, all around us, determining the outcomes.

People speeding, pursuits, motorist assists, shots fired, forensics, ballistics, crime scene, traffic crash reconstruction, barricade situations, delivering babies, administering Narcan...

Inches and seconds make the difference.

And there are few places more dangerous than the shoulder of an interstate, few places where inches and seconds can matter more.

It's the laws of physics, space and time, forces of the universe that seem unfair, cold, indifferent.

It is hard to understand.

But then I look into the eyes of Clay's mom and dad,



into the eyes of Clay's sisters and brother, at Meghan and Gray and Ally, and at these men and women in uniform out here, I know there is a more powerful force in the universe, and that's love.

Danny and Patti- what a powerful love for each other and love for your children that produced an inspiring, rare breed of person who would choose without hesitation to navigate danger and risk his life so others don't have to. And what a powerful love so obviously runs through his siblings and family.

Trooper Pagliaro, Trooper Kenny, Trooper Grasso, Sgt. Ehlers, classmates of cc 123 and so many others within the ranks of the ISP, when you talk about Trooper Clay Carns, his trustworthiness, his commitment to the team, how he was a guy everyone wanted to work with, there is so obviously this powerful love connecting a very special band of brothers and sisters.

Clay's own love for life could apparently be heard loud and clear, especially after he'd had a few Busch lights and would sing at the top of lungs, or at least so I'm told by some of his fellow troopers. I'll let them tell his kids someday more about that.

And Megan, every single person I've spoken to in ISP said how much Clay loved his wife and his children, and that all things were secondary to you, that he loved nothing more in heaven and earth than he loved you.

More than inches and seconds, more than space or time, that love is the most powerful force in the universe.

Finally, Gray and Ally, maybe you don't understand right now, I know you will have questions some day and your mom will be there for you and you will be there for each other but I want you to know and maybe understand someday that there are nearly three thousand people in the Illinois State Police right now here for you, but also the Illinois State Police is over one hundred years old so there are thousands and thousands of people who have been and will always be a part of the Illinois State Police family.

Some of those people might wear a hat like your dad, 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 a white coat or a headset, and

some of those people are already in heaven, but they are all part of a mighty army your dad left for you, and from now on, that army is all yours and it is yours forever.

That's how much your daddy loves you.

And for those of you that are not part of the Carns family, or part of the ISP family, we just simply ask that you show some love to the brave men and women who serve.

Show some love and respect to them because love is the reason they serve all of you.

Trooper Carns took the simple step that troopers all over this state do all the time to remove debris from a road, so no one else would get hurt or killed, a simple act of selflessness, of decency, of love for his fellow human being, even though they might be complete strangers.

ISP values integrity, service and pride, but that all comes from love, a selfless love, a humble love, a greater love commanded by our creator, loving thy neighbor as thyself.

There's a thirty something year old man who died on a cross because of a greater love.

There's an incredible thirty something year old man lying here on this altar, because of a greater love.

Abraham Lincoln finished his letter to Mrs. Bixby saying:

"I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

That is our prayer for this family, that in your bereavement and solemn pride, you will see and feel the love that flows from God, through Clay, and through the hearts of his family and friends, and beats in the heart of every Trooper.

May God bless this family, may God bless the soul of Trooper Clay Carns, and may God bless the Illinois State Police.

# ISP Remembers Trooper Clay Matthew Carns #6512, cont'd

## Words from Lieutenant Colonel Jason Bradley

Good morning,

My name is Jason Bradley, and it is with great honor and a heavy heart, I stand before you today to celebrate the life and legacy of Illinois State Trooper Clay Matthew Carns—a man of courage, selflessness, dedication, and immense love. I had the privilege of knowing and working with Clay throughout his 11 years of service with the Illinois State Police. My biggest regret is I didn't get to spend more personal time with Clay and create memories with him the way many of you were so fortunate to have done. The time I did spend with Clay, however, told me everything essential about the man he was.

Clay was a dedicated police officer who gave abundantly to his State and community. More importantly, he was a beloved and irreplaceable husband, father, son, brother, and friend.

His passing leaves a profound void in all our lives. It is my hope that his selfless devotion to others will serve as his enduring legacy and provide inspiration to all who seek to live lives of meaning and connection to something greater than oneself.

Clay's commitment to his State and community was unwavering. Each day, he wore his badge and the Illinois State Trooper uniform with pride and honor, not for recognition, but because he believed so strongly in the oath he took. He believed in protecting and serving others, which is exactly what he was doing on the fateful night of December 23rd.

His bravery on the front lines was matched only by the kindness and compassion he extended to those around him. And, while his professional life spoke volumes about his character, it was his love for family and friends that truly defined him.

To his wife Meghan, you were his greatest partner, his rock, his anchor, his best friend, and the love of his life. The strength and courage you have shown in these harrowing days is remarkable and truly reflects the devotion and bond you and Clay shared. Your Illinois State Police family will be with you and your family always.

To Gray and Ally, you were his world, his pride and joy, and his proudest achievements. His love for you was

infinite. Everything he did was to ensure your safety, your happiness, and your futures. He spoke so often of you with pure joy, his love for you shining through every word. His courage, his kindness, and unwavering dedication are traits you will carry forward, traits that will make a difference in this world.

To Clay's parents, Patti and Danny, you raised an exceptional man—one who embodied strength, kindness, and integrity, which is no small feat. This is a true testament to the Carns family's virtues and beliefs. Danny, you made one request of me—"never forget him." I promise you we will never forget Clay, his family, or his sacrifice. Not only will Clay's memory live on through all of us; His name will be etched in stone for all eternity alongside his brothers and sisters who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

To his brother Chad and sisters Ericka and Elyssa, Clay cherished the bond you shared and the memories you created together. I cannot imagine how much you miss him. I pray that the laughter, smiles, and memories you shared will live with you forever. May these memories bring you comfort and sustain you, especially in the darkest of times.

To his close friends and co-workers, those who stood with him on the front lines, laughed with him, and supported him you were a vital part of his life. Clay deeply valued what he shared with you. Your shared moments were treasures that brought him joy and comfort. As you mourn his loss, know that your love and connection meant the world to him. I know how hard this loss is to all of you and I am humbled to be here today to speak on your behalf.

Clay's presence brightened the lives of those around him. Whether he was standing strong on the front lines, training, teaching, or laughing with his family at home, his strength and kindness were unwavering. He taught us all what it means to truly give of oneself—to live with purpose, to protect with bravery, and to love with all your heart.

Ever the hero, Clay's donorship through the Gift of Hope Network will continue his legacy of helping others in need. Countless lives have been saved and forever changed thanks to Clay. His legacy of compassion will endure despite his transition from this physical plane of existence.

While our grief today is complete and all-consuming, we must also celebrate the amazing man he was and thank God we knew him, that he occupied precious space in our lives. We honor his commitment to his duty, his love for his family and friends, and the courage he displayed in all aspects of his life. He was a guardian of our community, a beacon of hope, and a sterling example of faithful service in action.

To Meghan, Gray, Ally, Patti, Danny, Chad, Ericka, Elyssa, Rosalie and all of Clay's friends, co-workers, and extended family—please know that you are not alone

### Words from Captain Patrick Manno

Good morning, my name is Patrick Manno, the Operations Captain for ISP Troop 3.

Today, we gather with heavy hearts to honor the life and legacy of Trooper Clay Carns, a trooper who gave everything in the line of duty. To say Clay Carns was a dedicated public servant doesn't begin to capture the spirit of who he was.

To Clay's wife Meghan, children, Gray, Ally, Parents Danny and Pattie, siblings Erica, Elyssa, and Chad we extend our deepest condolences. Please know that you are not alone in your grief. Today, and always, we stand beside you as your extended family in blue.

To the colleagues, friends, and community members gathered here today, thank you for coming to honor a man whose commitment to service was unwavering.

There are no words in the English dictionary to describe the hurt and grief we are experiencing today, but, what we do have is faith, family and Clay's legacy to get us through the most difficult moments. Clay was the ultimate teammate, guided and instructed others and an incredible human being.

Over the last ten days, while speaking with his close friends and family, some of the words that were used to describe him were simple yet powerful; Husband, Father, Friend, Humble, Hilarious, Goofball with mastered the "Irish Exit", Ultimate Teammate, genuine, reliable, a damn good partner, all of these describe someone who is amazing with or without the uniform, but especially someone I would want to work alongside with on the front lines and someone I am proud to say was a part of Troop 3.

in this. We grieve with you, we stand with you in solidarity, and we will carry his memory forward with you.

In closing, I want to share these words: Heroes like Clay Carns may leave us, but their legacy endures. His memory will forever serve as a guiding light for his family, friends, community, and all of law enforcement.

Clay, we thank you for your service, your sacrifice, your friendship, and your love. Rest easy now, brother.... We'll take it from here.

Clay embodied what it means to be the ultimate teammate. Whether working the South tri-state with his District 15 Zone 2 midnight shift or in the quiet moments behind the scenes, Clay was someone you could always count on. He led by example, inspiring his fellow troopers to give their best, not through words alone, but through his actions. Early on in his career, Clay worked with arguably the most tight-knit platoon I have ever seen in this agency in my nearly 20 years. Led by M/Sgt. Jim Knipper, this team worked midnights by **choice**, to remain together for an extended period of time, and did something that is rarely seen in our line of work, they hung out off duty, as a team, consistently coordinating monthly and quarterly get togethers. This helped strengthen their bond becoming more than co-workers, they were family.

I had the opportunity to speak with Clay's parents this week and Danny said to me, "I always asked Clay when he was going to come home, when he was going to work back down South, but he never gave me a straight answer". Then Danny said, "I see it now, it was the people up here, his team on South midnights, his family that he began to build. This wasn't just a team, it was special". This group had an unbreakable bond, that will remain forever, and Clay was a pivotal part of that group.

His passion for excellence shined brightest in his commitment to instructing rapid deployment and threat assessment in-service training. Clay understood that preparation could be the difference between life and death. He poured his energy into teaching rapid deployment techniques, ensuring that his teammates were equipped with the skills and confidence needed to face any situation. He didn't just care about the job; he

## ISP Remembers Trooper Clay Matthew Carns #6512, cont'd

cared deeply about the mission, and preparing his fellow troopers for that mission.

In January of 2024 Troop 3 and Troop 15 merged into the largest Troop within the Illinois State Police. This was a massive undertaking with many moving parts and logistically challenging. However, the bright spot in all of this, for me personally, was getting to know more than 150 additional ISP personnel, and Trooper Clay Carns was one of them.

An example of that dedication came on September 18th, a date that I will never forget, for the rest of my life.

This was a day, that I was a student. A student in a rapid deployment training in which Trooper Clay Carns was the instructor along with Trooper Brian Stack. Clay and his counterpart took control of being lead instructors with the assistance of a few others, that were present that day, but it was obvious, that Clay was part of the future of our rapid deployment and threat assessment training.

Instructing in service training as many of you know, is not an easy task. However, when you lead a class with structure, knowledge, confidence and the ability to relate these scenarios to real life, people listen. People wanted to learn these important skills because their knowledge and confidence shined through their instruction.

It was one of the best trainings I had been through in a very long time and that is not a shot at any other instructor, it's a compliment, a compliment to Clay's disposition, instruction and the way he carried himself. He was passionate about making everyone around him better, and that's exactly what happened that day, he made all of us better, more prepared, he made Troop 3 better.

Today, as we honor Clay's ultimate sacrifice, we must also commit to carrying forward his legacy.

Though Clay is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in the lives he touched and the lessons he shared. He was more than a trooper; he was a friend, a mentor, and a hero.

May we strive to honor him every day by embodying the values he stood for and by standing together, as he always did, as one team.

But how do we do that? The answer is simple: We Live Like Clay.

We prepare like Clay did.

We seek our additional training to make us more skilled like Clay did.

We prepare our teammates and fellow troopers with the skills necessary to make everyone around us better, like Clay did.

We foster a team mentality, build strong bonds with your platoon, just like Clay did.

Be a great person, husband, father, son, brother, nephew like Clay Carns was.

That's how we carry on his legacy folks. We live like Clay. Our agency, Troop and community are much better off because Clay Carns was in it.

**Trooper Clay Carns Star number #6512, you will never be forgotten, rest in peace brother, we'll take it from here.**



# Interstate Shootings Decrease for Third Straight Year

## *Interstate shootings down 31% statewide in 2024*

**SPRINGFIELD** – For the third year in a row, the number of shootings on Illinois interstates has dropped. The Illinois State Police (ISP) is reporting interstate shootings statewide decreased 31% in 2024, compared to 2023. Since a record high in 2021, there has been a decrease in interstate shootings every year:

- 31% decrease from 2023 to 2024
- 53% decrease from 2022 to 2024
- 71% decrease from 2021 to 2024

|                                 | <b>2024</b> | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Shootings</b>                | 89          | 129         | 189         | 310         |
| <b>Injury-related Shootings</b> | 17          | 37          | 75          | 133         |

“The continued dedication of resources, including personnel, license plate readers, Air Ops, K9 units, and investigations, has allowed ISP to reduce crime on interstates and make roads safer,” said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. “Although our strategies for crime reduction continue to evolve, ISP’s commitment to protecting the public remains unwavering.”

In 2024, through patrol enforcement and special violent crime reduction missions, we saw a 7% decrease in fatal crashes, a 3% increase in illegal firearms seized, and a 24% increase in vehicles recovered.

The use of ISP Air Ops and Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) has been a game changer in identifying and tracking those committing crime, as well as reducing crashes. ISP uses its Air Ops to help track vehicles and individuals fleeing from officers, reducing the risk of a high speed pursuit that can result in a fatal crash. ISP also uses ALPRs, not only to assist in apprehending individuals in real time as the crime occurs, like a vehicle hijacking, but also during investigations. Special agents can use ALPRs to identify vehicles that may have been involved in or witnessed an interstate shooting and follow up with those individuals.

ISP’s crime fighting strategies will continue to evolve as crime evolves and we are committed to reducing shootings and fatalities, getting illegal guns and drugs off the streets, and preventing fatal crashes.



## In Memoriam: Nick Madden, Jr.

***It is with deep sadness to inform you of the passing of Mr. Nick Madden Jr., age 81, father of Trooper James Madden, Division of Criminal Investigation, Statewide Gaming Command. Mr. Madden passed away on Thursday, January 9th. Please keep Trooper Madden and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.***

Nick Madden Jr., age 81, of Chicago, Illinois passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Nick Madden Jr. was born on February 19, 1943 in Grayson Louisiana to the union of Nick Madden Sr. and Tanaia Wells-Madden. Both his mother and father preceded him in death.

At the age of six, Nick's mother passed away and he and his siblings were sent to live with various family members. Nick learned at an early age the importance of the family unit. Because the family unit, was so important to him during his formative years. At 18, Nick seized the opportunity to better his life and moved to Chicago. Upon arrival, Nick worked in various occupations.... With stops at Lake City Laundry, the United States Postal Service and finally United Parcel Service. While at Lake City Laundry, a young lady caught his eye (Erma J. Golden) and the two were married in 1966. Once the two discovered they shared the same birthdate/year, they knew they were destined for each other. Nick and Erma enjoyed 53 years of marriage until Erma's death in 2019.

Nick served in the United States Army and completed tours in Vietnam. Upon returning to the States, he remained active in the National Guard until 1982. He would later become known affectionately as "Sarge".

Nick began his career with the United Parcel Service delivering packages and then worked his way to become a Feeder Driver and assumed the C.B. radio handle, Louisiana Swampman. He then shortened it to just, Swampman. He was affectionately known as, "Swampman" or "Swampie". He retired after 34 years of service.

Nick had a passion for the bible and history which lead to him becoming an adult Sunday School teacher at Hartzell Memorial United Methodist Church. His passionate discussions about the Bible, lead those who participated wanting more of his insights. He

was also a Scoutmaster and enjoyed the camping trips. Nick was a music aficionado. He enjoyed all types of music. From Cannonball Adderley....The Rolling Stones..... George Benson.....Jimmy Reed.... Buck Owens....to Beethoven.... He listened to it all.

Nick Madden Jr. was a no-nonsense person.... Salt of The Earth type of guy.....who could weed out foolishness a mile away.

Preceding Nick in death were his wife, Erma J. Madden, brothers: Ray and Steve Madden; sisters: Ethel Hall and Bessie L. Petty; brothers in law: Tom Hall and John H. Petty and sister-in-law, Bettye Madden.

Nick departed this life on January 9, 2025. He leaves to cherish his loving memory, his daughter, Leda Roshelle Madden and son James Lamont Madden; grandson: Joshua Jerrell Andrews; great granddaughter: Taulia Andrews: Sister: Katie Wells of Rockford, IL.; special friends: Harry Scott, Larry Newman, Herman Rattler, and Andy Washington. Nick also leaves behind a host of nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

A visitation for Nick will be held Friday, January 17, 2025 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Blake-Lamb Funeral Home, 4727 West 103rd Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

A morning visitation will occur Saturday, January 18, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, 4727 West 103rd Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453. A funeral service will follow promptly that morning at 11:00 AM. An interment will occur after the funeral at Oak Hill Cemetery, 11900 Kedzie Ave, Blue Island, IL 60406.



## In Memoriam: retired Trooper Jackie Bevo Bivens

On Monday, January 6, 2025, at 1:15 pm at Addington Place of Sparta, Jackie Bevo Bivens surrounded by loving family was called to his heavenly home at the age of 93 years.

Jack was born in Fairfield, Illinois, on November 23, 1931, the son of Everett and Lucille (Newton) Bivens. He moved with his family to Chester Illinois in 1941. Jack was best known for serving others from the Marines to a lengthy police career, to his church and the youth of the area. Jack enlisted in the Marine Corp in 1951 and served on the Aircraft Carrier USS LEYTE. He finished his tour of duty after the Peace Treaty was signed in 1954. Following his service to his country, Jack came home and graduated from the Illinois State Police Academy in November of 1955. He was assigned to District 11 in East St. Louis and then transferred to District 13, DuQuoin in 1957.

Jack's greatest earthly joy was his family and his extended family of the community. He met his wife, Kay Siegfried, and they were married in Chester on September 17, 1956. They shared 68 wonderful years together and loved each other more every day. Their marriage was an inspiration to us all. They were blessed with three children: Melissa, Margie, and Jack. They were also blessed with seven grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, and an exceptional member of his community. Jack retired from the Illinois State Police in 1981. Since being a police officer was in his soul, he joined the Sparta Police Department in January, 1983 and was appointed Chief in March of 1984. During this time, he was involved in starting The Quest Drug Prevention Program and DARE program in Randolph County. He believed in prevention programs and assisted with the founding of the Monroe and Randolph Bi-County Substance Abuse Commission in conjunction with the Regional Superintendent of Schools. This Commission served as a model for other agencies in the state. He served as a board member of the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Training Board, Past President of the Southern Illinois Police Chiefs Association, Fraternal Order of Police, Sparta Community Policing Board, charter member of the Sparta Boys and Girls Club, and the Randolph County Police Association. He taught classes at Belleville Area College Police Academy. Jack retired in 1994 after nearly 40 years in law enforcement. Jack was dedicated to not only enforcing the law but to living, teaching, and being a living example of what he believed: that law enforcement is about helping people help themselves. Jack covered many areas in this law enforcement career from regular patrol, crowd control, domestic disputes, riots, fender benders, fatal accidents and murder to working crowd and traffic control for the Hollywood movie, "In the Heat of the Night." If you looked closely, you could

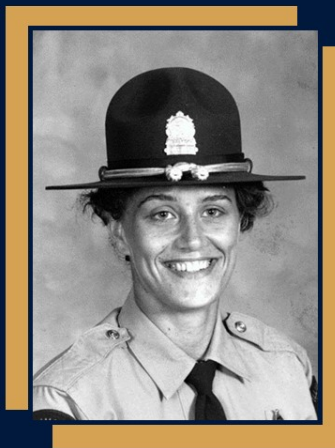
see him running in one of the police scenes. He spent his time as a member and trustee of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Parish Council, setting up and attending TEC retreats, and Knights of Columbus including many fish fries with the "cole slaw recipe."

Jack is survived by his wife, Kay (Siegfried) Bivens of Sparta; 3 children: Melissa (Bill) Gross of Chester, Margie (Fred) Wagner of Steeleville, Jack (Christy) Bivens of Springfield, IL; 2 Siblings: Robert (Martha) Bivens, Elizabethtown, KY, Linda (Don) Stallman, Chester, IL; Sister-in-law Vera Siegfried, Chester, IL, Brother-in-law John Schroeder, Rockwood, IL, 7 grandchildren: Meredith (Bobby) Klausung, Sparta, IL, Morgan (Cody) Bendorf, Chester, IL, Jeff (Leah) Wagner, Pinckneyville, IL, Eric (Adrienne) Caby, Chester, IL, Stephanie (Justin) Box, Vancouver, Washington, Jacob (Kirsten) Bivens, Loveland, Colorado, Jeremy (Mariah) Bivens, Rochester, IL; 13 great grandchildren: Parker Klausung, Anna Bendorf, Mia Bendorf, Stephen (Georgia) Wagner, David (Aubrey) Wagner, Andrew (Madison) Wagner, Blayne Wagner, Maggie Caby, Marlie Caby, Lillian Box, Gunnar Box, Apollo Box, Lennox Bivens; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Preceded in death by: Parents, 3 Brothers – John (Lois), Jim (Jeanine), and Bill Bivens and 1 Sister – Ioan Alms.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 11:00 am, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sparta, with Father Invenis Itheme officiating. Burial to follow at Caledonia Cemetery, Sparta. Visitation will be at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where friends may call from 5:00 until 8:00 pm on Sunday evening, January 12, 2025, and on Monday from 9:00 until 11:00 am. The Rosary will be recited at 7:00 pm on Sunday, January 12, 2025. Memorials may be given to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church or IMPACK of Sparta, Illinois and can be mailed to Wilson's Funeral Home, P.O. Box 217, Steeleville, IL 62288.





**IN MEMORY OF OUR  
FALLEN TROOPER**

**Trooper  
April Styburski**

End of Watch  
January 5, 1990

Trooper Styburski was investigating a property accident near Pingree Grove on U.S. 20, east of Elgin. She heard the sound of another accident nearby. Trooper Styburski turned and ran toward the second accident. She slipped on the icy pavement and landed on her back. She was taken to St. Joseph Hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

Trooper April Styburski was a four-year veteran with the Illinois State Police, and was assigned to District 2, in Elgin. She had previously served in the United States Army as a Specialist 4 with the 822nd Military Police Company. Trooper Styburski was survived by her husband and son.

Trooper April Styburski was a

On March 15, 1991, the District 2 training room was re-dedicated her memory.



**IN MEMORY OF OUR  
FALLEN TROOPER**

**Trooper  
Christopher Lambert**

End of Watch  
January 12, 2019

Trooper Christopher Lambert was struck and killed by a vehicle while investigating the scene of a crash on Interstate 294 near Willow Road in Northbrook.

Trooper Lambert was traveling home when he encountered a three-vehicle crash on the left shoulder and stopped to render aid. Trooper Lambert positioned his vehicle safely to protect the crash victims. Trooper Lambert exited his vehicle and was standing at the crash scene. Trooper

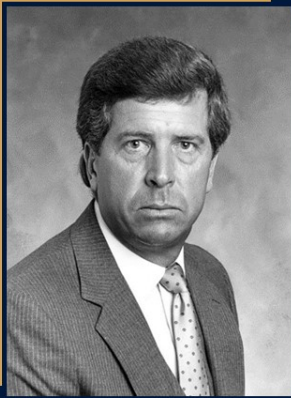
Lambert was struck by an approaching vehicle that failed to slow down and move over.

A nurse who was on the scene performed CPR until rescue personnel arrived. Trooper Lambert was transported to Glenbrook Hospital where he was pronounced deceased a short time later.

The investigation revealed that the driver who struck him was attempting to pass the accident scene by using the left shoulder and admitted to smoking THC oil the previous day. He was charged with reckless homicide.

Trooper Lambert served with the Illinois State Police for five years and was assigned to District 15. Trooper Lambert was also a United States Army veteran. He was survived by his wife, two daughters and parents.

On December 2019, I- 294 in Cook County was renamed Trooper Christopher Lambert Memorial Highway, between mile markers 49.5 and 50.



**IN MEMORY OF OUR  
FALLEN TROOPER**

**Special Agent  
Virgil Bensyl**

End of Watch  
January 15, 1988

Special Agent Virgil Bensyl was shot and killed while he and four other agents attempted to arrest a corrections officer for conspiracy to commit murder.

The agents in charge of the case decided to try to pick up the suspect by staging a motorist assist along the route he would take to work. The warden called the officer at his home and asked if he could help his niece who was stranded near his house.

Special Agent Bensyl walked up to his car, shined his flashlight, and announced himself. The assailant immediately drew a 9mm semi-automatic pistol and fired two or three shots. One shot hit Agent Bensyl in the chest and killed him instantly.

Agent Bensyl joined the Illinois State Police on July 14, 1969. He served in District 10 - Pesotum, until 1984. Agent Bensyl graduated from New Agents Class #4. He was then assigned to Zone 10. Agent Bensyl was a former Marine and a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Agent Bensyl was survived by his wife and son. On April 29, 1988, District 10 Headquarters was re-dedicated in honor of Special Agent Bensyl.



**IN MEMORY OF OUR  
FALLEN TROOPER**

**Trooper  
Lory Price**

End of Watch  
January 17, 1927

Trooper Lory Price and his wife were shot and killed by members of a gang for revenge against his police work.

The two were abducted from their home and taken away in separate cars. Trooper Price's body was found two weeks later with 18 gunshot wounds. His wife's body was found four months later in the bottom of a mine shaft. The leader of the gang was sentenced to death and hung for

another crime before he could be charged with Trooper Price's murder.

Machine guns were mounted on the church during Trooper Price's funeral as a security precaution in case the gangs attempted more harm during his funeral.

Trooper Price was a three-year veteran of the Illinois State Police, assigned to District 13. Officer Price was a veteran of WWI, a former POW, and was a member of the Masons, the Odd Fellows, and the American Legion. He and his wife are buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Marion, Illinois.





***Canine Koda: 2013 Graduate of Canine Class 67 with M/Sgt. Jeff Karcher #5384***

***Retirement Date: December 31, 2024***

Today, we honor and celebrate the outstanding service of Canine Koda. Koda has not only been a loyal partner to Master Sergeant Jeff Karcher, but he has also served the Illinois State Police in both Troop 9, South SAVE, and his community, with unparalleled courage and dedication.

For 11 years Koda has been on the front lines, tirelessly working alongside our Troopers to keep our streets safe. Whether it was sniffing out drugs, searching for missing persons, apprehending suspects, recovering stolen shopping carts in the Metro East, or providing comfort during challenging times, Koda has always answered the call. There was no task too big and no challenge too great for this canine.

Beyond the duties and the badges, Koda has also been a friend and confidant to Master Sergeant Karcher. Their bond, built on trust, respect, and mutual understanding, has been nothing short of extraordinary. Together, they've made a powerful team, while saving lives, solving cases, and making a lasting impact in the communities they serve. Canine Koda's career highlights include assisting in the seizure of approximately 750 pounds of cannabis, 2 kilos of cocaine, 7 kilos of methamphetamine, 14 criminal apprehensions, 40 illegal firearm seizures, and the recovery of over \$350,000 in illicit U.S. Currency.

As we retire Koda from active service, we reflect on the sacrifices made, the challenges faced, and the victories achieved. It's time for Koda to enjoy a well-deserved rest, and the comfort of a life filled with love and belly rubs.