

# Winter Wonderland?

Snow totals around the State of Illinois this past Saturday, November 29, 2025, were nothing short of record-breaking! Multiple new November snow records were set. This record-breaking November storm produced new records in:

- Chicago (O'Hare Airport): 8.4 inches, topping the previous record of 8 inches on November 6, 1951
- Springfield: 8.9 inches, matching the same snow total from November 17, 1926 (a record that stood for over 99 years)
- Lincoln: 7.8 inches, breaking the prior record of 7 inches, also 99 years ago (November 17, 1926)
- Rockford: 8.8 inches, making it the second snowiest November day on record there.

Additionally, some locations (Marengo, Freeport, and Cary) saw totals ranging from 11-12 inches.

Our Troopers responded to 1,659 calls for motorist assistance, fielded reports of 980 property damage only crashes, and 145 reports of injury.



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**ILLINOIS  
STATE POLICE**

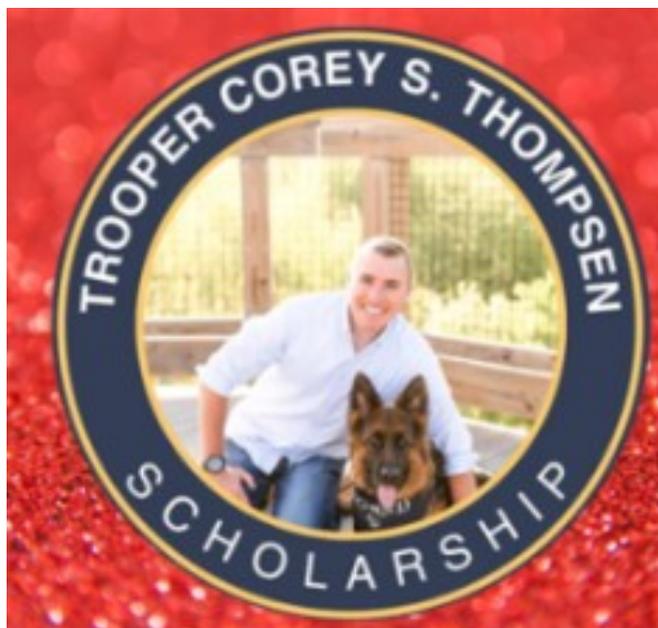
*Brendan F. Kelly—Director*

## ISP Special Operations Group and Got Your 6 Foundation Raise \$5,000 for Corey S. Thompsen Scholarship Fund

The Illinois State Police Special Operations Group (SOG), in partnership with the Got Your 6 Foundation (GY6), proudly hosted the “**Christmas for Corey**” auction event, successfully raising **\$5,000** for the **Corey S. Thompsen Scholarship Fund**. The event brought together supporters, families, and community partners to honor Corey’s legacy and help provide educational opportunities for future recipients.

The Illinois State Police and GY6 Foundation extend their heartfelt appreciation to the generous donors whose contributions made this event possible:

- A & R Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
- Chick-fil-A
- Destihl Brewery
- Dunkin’ Donuts
- Edgewood Golf Course
- FOP Troopers Lodge 41
- Got Your 6 Foundation (GY6)
- Hurricane Creek Metal Works
- Ironwood Golf Course
- KAM Shooting Sports
- Lowe’s
- Mel-O-Cream Donuts
- Mission BBQ
- Ray O’Herron
- Red Tail Run Golf Course
- Recon Techs
- Runnings
- Sam’s Best Brands
- Scheels
- State Farm
- Texas Roadhouse



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## Team Illinois Youth Police Camp Cadets Enjoy SIUE Basketball



Cadets and counselors from Team Illinois Metro East Youth Police Camp 2025 gathered for a reunion of sorts on Saturday, December 6, 2025. Thirteen cadets, along with a few ISP personnel/camp counselors, attended the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville men's basketball game against Western Michigan University.

The game was nationally televised on ESPN+, and officials from SIUE recognized the cadets on the court at halftime. The University also provided the cadets with a VIP area featuring Chick Fil A sandwiches, chips, and drinks.

Unfortunately, the SIUE Cougars didn't win the game, but the TIYPC cadets still had a blast!

## Macomb Area Families Shop with a Cop

On Friday, December 5, 2025, ISP Troop 4, in conjunction with Macomb Police, WIU Office of Public Safety, McDonough County Sheriff's Office, and Macomb Fire participated in the annual Shop with a Cop event in Macomb. The program was able to assist over 100 families in the area.

Sergeant Michael Mueller, Trooper Steven Huffman, and Trooper Bryce Hadix all helped with the event.



## DII Wished Matteson Students Hap-Pie Thanksgiving

On November 19, 2025, the Illinois State Police Division of Investigation donated 50 pies to the 2025 Thanksgiving Community Outreach Program. The program provided food to parents who had children enrolled at the Matteson Elementary School District 159.



## Ringin' for a Reason

DCI Lt. Colonel Kevin Garcia and his spouse Officer Nicole Garcia rang the Salvation Army bell at Jewel Osco in St. Charles, Illinois on 12/09/25. The couple used the opportunity for community outreach and supporting a worthy charity for the holidays.

Retired Lt. Colonel Dan Likens who is now the Chief of Police for St. Charles Police Department made sure to stop by and support the ISP and St. Charles P.D.



## Tunnel to Towers Foundation Honors the Family of Tpr. Clay Carns



On December 8, 2025, The Tunnel to Towers Foundation announced that the family of Trooper Clay Carns would be one of 50 recipients of a mortgage-free home during the 2025 "Season of Hope" campaign.

In all, Tunnel to Towers will provide more than 200 mortgage-free homes to families through their Fallen First Responder Home, Smart Home, and Gold Star Family Home programs this year.

Read more about the Season of Hope recipients at the [Tunnel to Towers website](#).

## ISP Teddy Bears - Just in Time for Gift Giving!

The new ISP Teddy Bears are here! These cuddly bears make the perfect gift for your future little State Trooper, or anyone who loves the Illinois State Police. Soft, charming, and full of pride, they're ready to bring smiles this holiday season.

Get yours today and support the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation, every purchase helps preserve our history and honor our heroes.

The Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation Gift Shop is located at 1306 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL. Hours of operation are 11am-2pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays.



## Keltner Graduates FBI Training

Congratulations to Major Dave Keltner on his graduation from the FBI National Academy Class 295 in September 2025

## Leathers Awarded by Homicide Investigators Association

*S/A Mike Leathers #6528 received the Illinois Homicide Investigators Association's ILHIA "Award for Excellence" at their 2025 conference.*

The ILHIA acknowledges the importance of recognizing investigators who demonstrate excellence while conducting homicide and death investigations. The ILHIA Award for Excellence is presented to an investigator or a team of investigators who exhibited the highest level of professional dedication and diligence during a violent crime or homicide investigation. Up to five awards in this category are awarded each year in conjunction with work done leading to the closure of a specific homicide case within the past year.



## ISP Shines a Light on Thanksgiving

ISP had a wonderful Thanksgiving morning joining Bishop Henry Williams and the New Shining Light Ministry for their annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and Hat & Glove Drive! It was great connecting with the community and supporting these fantastic holiday initiatives in the City of Venice.



# Shawnee Community College Hosts Mock Crash

On Friday, November 21, 2025, ISP held a mock car crash at Shawnee Community College in Ullin, Illinois, for the benefit of students enrolled in their EMS program. The scenario involved a school bus colliding with a passenger car, resulting in two fatalities.

Units participating included Troop 10, Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit (TCRU) South, and the Public Information Office (PIO).



# American Legion Post 1922 Invites New Members

## History of the American Legion and Post 1922

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization. The American Legion Illinois State Police Post 1922 began in 2010, as the first State Police American Legion Post. Post 1922 started with 14 members and now has 121 Legion members, with 50 plus Sons of American Legion. Members of Post 1922 provide assistance to local veterans, assist Sangamon County Honor Flights and the Springfield Vietnam Memorial Vigil as well as supporting other veteran organizations. Post 1922 has monthly meetings which are held on the third Monday of each month. Usually, the meetings are conducted at the ISP FOP Lodge 41, in Springfield. If a member chooses, they can attend the meetings via a Zoom link provided to members.

## Why Should You Join?

Membership is open to all Illinois State Police military veterans and their family members. If you not a veteran but are a son or stepson of a veteran you can join the Sons of American Legion.

We have yearly dues, or you may choose to join through a five-year program at a savings. We encourage Veterans to join the Legion and their families to join the Sons of American Legion. The Illinois State Police Post 1922 of the American Legion passionately backs its community through a myriad of avenues, whether by directly engaging with local veteran transition homes or forging connections with nearby National Guard and reserve units, or extending a helping hand to other American Legion Posts. Additionally, the Legion dedicates itself to nurturing youth

through American Legion Baseball, and Boys and Girls State.

## Sign Me Up!

### To join Post-1922 as a Legion member:

\$45.00 annually, or you can get a five-year membership for only \$180.00 (1 year free).

### To join Post-1922 as a Sons of American Legion member:

\$30.00 annually for an adult and \$12.00 for juveniles, or you can get an adult 5-year membership for only \$120.00 (one year free) or a juvenile 5-year membership for \$48 (one year free).

Call Adjutant Ken Carter at (217) 381-3867 or email at [kcarter@casscomm.com](mailto:kcarter@casscomm.com)



# ISP Honors Those Dedicated to Protecting the Public

## ***2024 ISP Officer, Special Agent, Telecommunicator, Forensic Scientist, and Public Safety Staff Member of the Year Announced***

Friday, December 5, 2025, Illinois State Police (ISP) Director Brendan F. Kelly gathered with ISP staff and their families, local law enforcement officers, and distinguished members of the public for the annual ISP Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was held to recognize individuals for their significant contributions and dedication to public safety in 2024.

Director Kelly presented individuals with the following awards: Director's Award of Distinction, Medal of Valor, Medal for Honor, Achievement Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Lifesaving Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal. Each award recipient was recognized for their exemplary service to ISP and the residents of Illinois.

"ISP's greatest strength is our people – Troopers, Specials Agents, Telecommunicators, Analysts, Forensic Scientists" said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. "The people we recognize this year embody ISP's core values of Integrity, Service, and Pride. Thank you to those who have bravely and selflessly answered the call to pursue justice, protect the public, and serve your community."

In addition to the Director's Awards, eight ISP employees received special recognition for exemplary service during 2024. Special recognition was given to the ISP Officer of the Year, Special Agent of the Year, Telecommunicator of the Year, Forensic Scientist of the Year, and Public Safety Support Staff Member of the Year.

### **OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

In 2024, Trooper Kyle DePriest served with distinction as a member of the Statewide Anti-Violence South Team. Trooper DePriest's strong work ethic, advanced skills, and team-focused approach led to the arrest of 70 individuals on 203 criminal charges, the seizure of 45 illegal firearms, nearly two kilograms of a controlled substance, and the recovery of four stolen vehicles. In January of 2024, Trooper DePriest showed exceptional bravery when a suspect fired a weapon at and struck his squad car during a pursuit. Trooper DePriest's outstanding performance sets a high standard for all ISP officers.

### **SPECIAL AGENT OF THE YEAR**

Special Agent Michael A. Leathers, assigned to Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1, has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership, particularly amid the surge in expressway violence. As a member of the Lake County Major Crimes Taskforce, Special Agent Leathers responded to multiple homicide investigations and was the primary case agent on seven significant cases involving homicide, domestic battery, threats to officials, and more. Special Agent Leathers thorough investigative work led to four suspects being charged and more than 100 investigative leads completed. His professionalism, intelligence, and unwavering work ethic exemplify the highest standards of ISP.

# ISP Honors Those Dedicated to Protecting the Public, *continued*

## TELECOMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

Telecommunicator Specialist (TCS) Melissa K. Dearworth started her career in 2017. She has since demonstrated exceptional knowledge and dedication. Drawing on her law enforcement background, TCS Dearworth has become a valued resource to sworn personnel and new trainees alike. TCS Dearworth's positive and supportive approach has strengthened the communication center's morale. Her dependability and team spirit were highlighted on multiple occasions, including Metro East Special Operation Group details. Her steadfast commitment and professionalism set an outstanding example for all ISP employees.

## FORENSIC SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

Aimee Stevens serves as a Forensic Scientist III in the Firearms/Toolmarks section at the Forensic Science Laboratory in Chicago. Throughout her career, Ms. Stevens has been a model of professionalism, knowledge, and service. Ms. Stevens is a highly skilled analyst and her commitment to providing quality forensic science services is exceptional. Ms. Stevens maintains this level of productivity while participating in leadership roles for multiple forensic science sections at both state and national levels. Ms. Stevens is an example of ISP's values of Integrity, Service, and Pride. She truly embraces the department's mission as demonstrated by her work ethic and leadership to the state and forensic science community.

## PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Throughout Chris D. Miller's 27 years of dedicated service, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment, technical expertise, and exemplary leadership. Mr. Miller's time as Bureau Chief of the Radio Network Services Bureau was marked by exceptional service and professionalism. Even after retirement he continued to selflessly support ISP during a critical transition period, showcasing Mr. Miller's dedication to the agency and its mission. Mr. Miller played a pivotal role in coordinating radio communications for the Democratic National Convention, which was crucial to the success of the large-scale event, ensuring seamless and secure communication across multiple agencies. Mr. Miller's continuous efforts to advance ISP's communications infrastructure, mentor colleagues, and foster cooperative relationships across divisions have left a lasting impact on the department.

Other award recipients included:

### Director's Award of Distinction

Officer Alex Barnes  
Officer Robert McNeely  
Officer Austin Priest  
Skylar Lambeth  
Steve Newcomb  
James R. Page

### Medal For Valor

Trooper Kyle E. DePriest  
Trooper Adam D. Fitts  
Trooper Blake D. Thompson

### Medal For Honor

Master Sergeant Ross A. Green  
Sergeant Kyle T. Blakemore  
Trooper Derek W. Beckman  
Trooper Clay M. Carns  
Trooper Corey S. Thompsen

### Achievement Medal

Colonel Margaret M. McGreal  
Colonel Christopher E. Owen  
Lieutenant Jacqueline Cepeda

Lieutenant Jeff L. Schisler  
Lieutenant Jacob A. Tresenriter  
Lieutenant Colonel The V. Tran  
Master Sergeant Stephen N. Jurevis  
Master Sergeant Andrew W. Kazenski  
Sergeant Jose L. Vallejo  
Chief Jeffrey M. Hoecker  
Chief of Staff Nathan J. Leitner  
Vickie A. Anger  
Jill D. Collum  
Cheryl A. McNelly  
Chris D. Miller  
John J. Neuman

### Purple Heart Medal

Trooper Clay M. Carns  
Trooper Dakotah J. Chapman-Green  
Trooper Corey S. Thompsen

### Lifesaving Medal

Master Sergeant Nicholas A. Colon  
Master Sergeant Kevin P. Kelliher  
Sergeant Brandon M. Douglas  
Sergeant Joseph C. Dunn  
Sergeant Cynthia Pfau-Wilsdorf

Trooper Tarek P. Aldroubi  
Trooper Tyler J. Dively  
Trooper Rodger D. Goines  
Trooper Christopher R. Greene  
Trooper Colin Ingalls  
Trooper Jacob W. Keeney  
Trooper Grace M. Ketchum  
Trooper Matthew N. Kostkiewicz  
Trooper Amanda M. Laughlin  
Trooper Matthew A. Price  
Trooper Giuseppe P. Rallo  
Trooper Micah Ransom  
Trooper Corey D. Sims

### Meritorious Service Medal

Master Sergeant Christopher C. Burke  
Master Sergeant Andrew W. Kazenski  
Sergeant Jose L. Vallejo  
Taruna Ganne  
Harish Kumar Gouni  
Pooja Guddeti  
Christopher Kennett  
Jeremy W. Thomas  
Chandrika Thumu

# ISP Arrests Marion Man for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm

**MARION** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Zone 7 Division of Criminal Investigation Special Agents arrested 18-year-old Keivaun Mann of Marion, IL after a fire-arms investigation in Williamson County.

On December 4, 2025, ISP Special Agents executed two residential search warrants in the 15000 block of Mollers Road in Marion and the 700 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Herrin. During the searches, a rifle was recovered. ISP took Mann into custody without incident.

ISP was assisted by the Carbondale Police Department, Herrin Police Department, ILEAS SRT, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, and the Williamson County State’s Attorney’s Office.

# ISP Seeks Assistance with Fatal Crash on Route 53

**ELWOOD** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 is requesting the public’s assistance with a fatal crash investigation.

On November 25, 2025, at approximately 8:29 a.m., ISP responded to Route 53 southbound at Thele Road in Elwood for a report of a person on the ground. Upon arrival, Troopers located a male bicyclist that was struck by a vehicle. The bicyclist was transported to an area hospital and later pronounced deceased. The crash occurred on November 24, 2025, sometime between 6-6:30 p.m. The offending vehicle is possibly a black 2007-2013 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck. The vehicle’s front headlight and part of the bumper were found at the scene. The vehicle was traveling southbound on Route 53.

Anyone driving in the area at the time of the crash, anyone who witnessed the crash, or anyone who may have dash camera video of the incident or video of the location near the time of the crash, are asked to please contact ISP Special Agents at 815-221-2709 or submit a tip on ISP’s Crime Tip [website](#).

**Happy Anniversary, Cadet Class 134!  
December 12, 2021**



**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE ACADEMY  
Cadet Class 134 - "Integrity Service Pride"**



**IN MEMORY OF OUR  
FALLEN TROOPER**

**Trooper  
Kenneth Church**

**End of Watch  
December 5, 1931**