



ARKANSAS STATE POLICE  
**FOUNDATION**

# Current Affairs

*"The troopers have the public's back; we have the trooper's backs."*

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## Message from the Chairman

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. I know everyone is looking forward to school coming to a close and summer vacations. We have been so happy to bring back the Newsletter, and we couldn't be more pleased with the outcome. I want to say a special thank you to ASPF Spouses' Auxiliary for doing a phenomenal job on the newsletter. This is turning out to be an exciting year for the ASPF and with our upcoming projects. We have many new members on the Board of Directors and will spotlight them in the upcoming newsletter editions.

I attended the ASP Retirees Luncheon at the Precision Driving Training Complex Education Building on April 18th. ASPF sponsored the event and Randy Lann cooked some of the best pork chops that you ever put in your mouth. I was so honored to get to speak to the retirees and see so many familiar faces in attendance. Many of the retirees had never been to the Driving Track and I was so pleased they were able to see and tour it. ASPF will be proud to sponsor this event every year because our ASP retirees are so important and deserve to be celebrated.

We have been in the planning phases of the ASP Annual Awards Luncheon that will be June 21, 2023, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Camp Robinson Education Center. We are selling sponsor tables. Please contact Emily if you wish to sponsor a table. We are excited about hosting this event for ASP. We know the awards given honor so many ASP personnel and civilians for their acts of heroism and we are honored to get to be a part of it.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Farmers Bank Foundation/ASPF Golf tournament on June 30, 2023, at Mystic Creek Golf Club in El Dorado. We are hoping for good weather! Last year, this tournament raised \$105,000 for the Randy and Betty Hedge Spouses' Auxiliary Scholarship. The scholarship is so near and dear to my heart and I am so thankful to the Farmers Bank Foundation for their support. Moving forward in the year, most of our fundraising dollars will go to support this great scholarship that we know is a blessing to our Troopers and Auxiliary members.

ASPF recently hired a grant writer, and she is working on helping us obtain grant funds for our upcoming project. ASPF plans to start construction soon at the Precision Driving Training Complex on a new building that will house a barracks and cafeteria. There will be more information to come as we begin the planning phase.

As you can see, there are many exciting things going on with ASPF and we can't wait to see what the future holds in our efforts to support ASP.



Sincerely,  
*Frank Guinn*

*Chairman of the Board  
Arkansas State Police Foundation*

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9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
*In-person meetings by  
appointment only.*
-  <https://www.facebook.com/aspfoundation/>



## Board Member Spotlight

### ELIZABETH BURNS ANDERSON

A fifth-generation banker and native of Magnolia, Elizabeth Burns Anderson is Senior Vice President of Farmers Bank and Trust and Executive Director of the Farmers Bank Foundation. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and in 2020, Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed Elizabeth to the Arkansas State Medical Board where she will serve until 2027. As Secretary of the Lonoke School Board, Elizabeth chaired a successful mileage tax campaign and capital campaign to raise over \$16 million to bring agriculture and rural healthcare education to Lonoke Public Schools through workforce education. In 2022, she was awarded the vision and leadership award by Lonoke Public Schools.



Elizabeth comes from a family where giving back is your greatest responsibility. She has been on many boards across Central Arkansas and chairman of almost all of them. Lonoke Community Fund, an affiliate of the Arkansas Community Foundation, Lonoke Century League, Youth Home, and Arkansas State Police Foundation Board, and many more. In 2021, Elizabeth joined the statewide board of THE CALL, which supports foster families in Arkansas, she serves as their board Vice Chair. Elizabeth is a recipient of the Lonoke Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2023. Elizabeth is also a graduate of the Arkansas Chamber Leadership Class and the F.B.I citizen's academy.

Elizabeth and her husband Jamie, who is Vice President of Anderson Fish Farms, the world's largest bait industry farm, were named the 2019 Arkansas Farm Family of the year. Elizabeth was the keynote speaker at the 2022-A Arkansas State Police Trooper graduation. She continues to support the Arkansas State Police and a collaboration of community and law enforcement for a safer Arkansas. Elizabeth and Jamie have 2 boys and live in Scott, Arkansas.

#### Executive Committee

- Frank Guinn, *Chairman*
- Cleveland Wilson, *Vice-Chair*
- Will Brewer, *Treasurer*
- Neely Camp, *Secretary*
- Trav Baxter
- Daniel "Woody" Futrell
- Chris Gosnell
- Jerry L. Halsey, Jr.
- Don Houseworth
- Greg Sanson

#### Board of Directors \*Advisors

- Elizabeth Anderson
- Murray Benton
- Patti Cannon
- Benson Cashion
- Joe Chacko
- Hon. Marvin Childers
- Derek Cisne
- Steve Cook
- Billy Curl
- Chris Dickinson
- Joe Donaldson
- Blake Eddins
- Dennis Ferra\*
- Alex Flemister
- Butch Heath\*
- Randy Hedge\*
- Bill Humble
- Brooks Jackson
- Dennis Jungmeyer
- Henry Kelley
- Eric King
- Robert Klein
- Randy Lann\*
- Blaine Nunn
- Ray Osment
- Dave Parker
- Hon. Harold Perrin
- Josh Rogers
- Mike Shepard
- Payton Smith
- Todd Smith
- Steven Son
- Ed Staley
- John Stuckey\*
- Joe Thielke
- Doug Wasson
- Bill Weeks
- Hon. Damon Young\*

#### Advisory Council

- Mayor Josh Agee
- Mayor Bart Castleberry
- Dr. Charisse Childers
- Mayor Harold Copenhaver
- Hon. Marvin Day
- Capt. Rick Dickinson, Retired
- Hon. Sonia Fonticiella
- Steven King
- Maj Gen Jonathan Stubb

# Trooper Retiree Spotlight

## BEN D. CROSS

Benjamin David Cross was born on August 20, 1969, and he currently resides with his wife, Tammy Leann Cross, in Dover, Arkansas. Cross graduated from Dover High School and attended Arkansas Tech University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Later he attended the School of Law Enforcement Supervision at UALR. Cross is a veteran of the US Army, served with Russellville Police Department from 1990-1995, became an Arkansas State Trooper in 1995, and proudly retired in 2019 as Assistant Troop Commander of Troop H.

After a 30-year law enforcement career and prior and concurrent military service, including a combat deployment to the Middle East. Cross sought out and was elected in May 2018 as the County Judge in Pope County. Previously, Cross was elected to the Pope County Quorum Court in 2011 and finished his third term of service in that capacity in 2018. Upon his retirement from active law enforcement, he had amassed a career that positioned Cross as one of the most decorated troopers in the history of Arkansas State Police.



Some of the awards achieved by Cross include the following: 1997 – ASP Lifesaving Award, 2004 – Arkansas Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, 2005 – ASP Medal of Valor, 2005 – ASP – Trooper of the Year, 2011 – “Best of the Best” Police Officer Award, Arkansas River Valley, and 2014 – ASP Medal of Valor.

He maintains an active law enforcement certification in a reserve capacity with the Pope County Sheriff’s Office. As the past Vice-Chairmen of the Board of Trustees for the Arkansas State Police Retirement System, he managed over \$300 million in assets. As the Pope County Judge, Cross manages around 300 employees and serves as chief executive officer for the county while actively advancing infrastructure in Pope County.



## New ASP Major Spotlight

### PLEASE WELCOME MAJOR RON CASEY

Major Casey was born and raised in Mena, AR where he attended and graduated from Acorn High School in Polk County in 1984. Major Casey started his law enforcement career in May of 1989 in the City of Grannis and he worked there until September of 1990 when he went to work for the Mena Police Department. Major Casey states, “I began my dream job as an Arkansas State Trooper in September of 1992. My first assignment was as a highway patrol trooper in Grant County, Sheridan, where I still live. I have been in the Highway Patrol Division all my career except for 13 months

when I was the ASP Fleet Manager. I have been very fortunate and blessed to move up to my present position of Major, Commander of the Highway Patrol Division.” Major Casey attended Arkansas Leader, a supervision school at CJI in 2016 and graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in September of 2019. He has been married to his wife Amy for almost 28 years and they have two children who are both in college. Major Casey shares the following, “I have wholeheartedly supported the Foundation Auxiliary since its inception. They are truly exceptional and have a very strong voice for our troopers. They get done what we can’t. I am very excited to work for the current administration and believe the state police have a bright future. The troopers and their families need to know that this administration is going to work hard for them.”



## ASP Retiree Luncheon

**APRIL 18, 2023**

ASPF had a great time celebrating the ASP Retirees! Randy Lann outdid himself with his signature grilling. The event was held in the new classroom at the Precision Driving Training Complex, ASP retirees were given a tour of the new facility. ASPF wants to express our sincere gratitude to the ASP retirees for their years of service to the citizens of Arkansas.





ARKANSAS STATE POLICE  
**FOUNDATION**

# Fundraising Opportunities



Presented by:  
**FARMERS BANK**  
FOUNDATION

## ARKANSAS STATE POLICE FOUNDATION **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Friday, June 30, 2023  
Tee-Off: 8:00 AM & 1:00 PM

**MYSTIC CREEK GOLF CLUB**  
191 Club House Dr, El Dorado, AR 71730

**A NEW WAY  
TO DONATE!**



**TEXT "ASPF"  
TO 243725 TO GIVE**



### **ASPF COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER**

Cookbook is  
completed and in  
the printing stage!

*All proceeds will go to the  
ASPF Scholarship Fund.*

**More details about the fundraiser to  
come in the future.**

**Show your support  
with ASPF Decals!**



**\$100 each (tax write off)**

*Contest deadline is May 31st.  
Contact Emily Hamilton at the ASPF  
Office to order decals.*

## **Bad Boy Mower Raffle**

**\$20.00 PER TICKET**

- Must be 18 years or older to claim prize
- Proceeds go toward ASPF scholarship
- Drawing May 18, 2023 after the ASPF Board Meeting

**Donated by:**





## New Auxiliary Member Spotlight

### MICHAEL SMITH

Born and raised in Northwest Arkansas, Michael has been a plumber for 20 years. He started Hawg Country Plumbing in 2012 and still leads the company today. Michael met his wife in February of 2021 and moved to Russellville where they now live and raise their blended family of 4 girls and a boy that is due in August. Brenda has been a State Trooper since 2006. She has been in Troop J her entire career and is currently a Sergeant. Michael says, "I joined the Auxiliary to become a part of the team behind the troopers. The State Police are a giant family and the Spouses' Auxiliary give us the opportunity to help in ways that can make an impact for the families of State Police employees. From fundraisers to Troop party's, I have enjoyed the short time in the Auxiliary and know there are many more memories to be made. I m honored to serve as Secretary of the Troop J Spouses' Auxiliary."



## Auxiliary Member Spotlight

### LAKEN BURRIS

Meet Laken Burris, Troop B's Auxiliary Vice President. Laken is married to Jess Burris, and they reside in Cleburne County in Troop B with their schnauzer rescue pup, Joker. Laken also serves as the Office Manager for Heber Springs Eye Care. Her husband, Jess, started with Arkansas State Police in 2019 in Troop D.

Laken says, "With our volunteer work with the Bee Branch fire department back home, the Auxiliary was my safe space. The fundraising, the community, the meetings, I love it all! When we moved to Cleburne County, I couldn't wait to be an active auxiliary member and meet all the ASP spouses. When you move somewhere new, you need to find your people; I did that. The auxiliary is a wonderful part of the Arkansas State Police Foundation that I'm so grateful to be a part of." Laken wants you to join your Troop's Auxiliary and don't forget to get your eyes checked at Heber Springs Eye Care!



## National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

**APRIL 9 - 15, 2023**

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) is held annually during the second week of April to honor public safety telecommunicators for their commitment, service, and sacrifice. Many Spouses Auxiliary's participated in celebrating dispatchers around the state in various ways. Thank your local dispatchers because they are the unseen heroes of public safety.

*The picture to the left is of a goody basket delivered to Troop K Dispatchers.*





## Auxiliary Planned Family Days

### TROOP F & COMPANY B

Troop F & Company B had the first Family Day in many years. They had 93 attend their event. Activities included enjoying boiled crawfish or hot dogs, a bounce house, a blow up obstacle course and outdoor games. Smiles were seen everywhere you looked. Bubbles danced through the air and the laughed of children and adults was long lost music to our ears. It was a great day and a much needed event. We were excited to have our commission member Mike Akin and his family join us on this special day. Our Auxiliary has grown from 5 members to 19 members since the beginning of this year. We greatly appreciate the support of the ASP Foundation.





## Auxiliary Planned Family Days

### TROOP B

Troop B got together for a fun filled day at the Future Fuel park in Batesville on April 1st. Even though the wind was too much for the bounce houses we were still able to enjoy the day playing volley ball, fishing and the kids were able to play on the playground all day. There was a very competitive tournament of baggo for the adults. With the winner getting a custom wood baggo set. It was a great day spent with great people! And we can't wait for next year's get together.





# End of Watch

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST ROBERT "BOB" ESSLEY

Robert Wayne Essley, 64, of Hot Springs, Arkansas passed away April 24, 2023. He was born December 13, 1958, in Wichita, Kansas. Robert was preceded in death by his mother, Donna Essley; and grandparents, Bill and Mary Jane Essley who raised him; and brother, Billy Essley. Survivors include his loving wife of 40 years, Catherine A. Essley; son, Robert C. Essley; and sister-in-law, Cheryl Essley

Bob started dispatching with the Garland County Sheriff's Office and came to work for Arkansas State Police - Troop K in 2014. He will truly be missed.



## Upcoming Events

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### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 - DEADLINE FOR DECAL CONTEST**

There are plenty of decals to sell for this year! Turn in your money and forms to ASPF, P.O. Box 64, Kirby, AR 71950. Auxiliary members who have sold ASPF Decals are eligible for prizes! The prizes are as follows: 1st Place - HOBO Wallet and 2nd Place - a Kendra Scott Necklace.

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 15 - ASPF BOARD MEETING**

Executive Board meets at 9:30 AM and Directors meet at 11:00 AM at the Arkansas State Police Association Meeting Room.

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 - ASP ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON**

The luncheon will begin at 10:30 am and be held at the Camp Robinson Professional Education Center.

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 30 - ASPF GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Rescheduled ASPF Golf Tournament at Mystic Creek Club in El Dorado, AR. Tee off times are at 8:00 AM & 1:00 PM. Volunteers needed! All proceeds go to the Randy and Betty Hedge Spouses' Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 - ASPF GOLF TOURNAMENT**

First National Bank Paragould Golf Tournament. More information to come.

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 2 - ASPF GOLF OUTING**

ASPF Golf Outing at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock, AR. More information to come.