



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 President

February is the month of Love and a reminder to celebrate those we love. I want to start with a beautiful story. My love for the Arkansas State Police all began with a simple traffic stop over 50 years ago. Trooper JR Howard, later known as Colonel JR Howard, came upon a 1972 cream-colored Monte Carlo flying past Didier Lumber Co on Hwy 71 South in Fort Smith. As he approached the vehicle, he realized he had a beautiful blonde. He took a copy of the ticket home to his roommate and said, "Find this one; she could be a keeper." That's how my parents met. Just so you know, my mother did not have to pay for her ticket.

With this story, my deep appreciation and respect for Arkansas Troopers were formed, even before I existed. As every trooper knows a simple act like a traffic stop can have such a significant impact of love on a person's life.

Arkansas Troopers often demonstrate deep dedication to serving and protecting their communities with love. Their commitment to ensuring safety, upholding the law, and building positive relationships with the people they serve is commendable. It's essential to recognize and appreciate their efforts in fostering trust, cooperation, and love within communities.

In January, I met several of our auxiliary and ASP retirees. The auxiliary retreat was an unforgettable weekend of love and bonding between the spouses of ASP. ASP Troopers, I encourage you to get your spouses involved with our auxiliary, not just for them but for the support it provides your entire family. The ASP retirees are an amazing group of leaders who continue to love and support ASP even after their years of service. It was an honor to meet each of you and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Our executive director Emily will be "around the state in 30 days" this month. Please make all efforts to attend and/or ask what was discussed. She is sharing what the foundation does for ASP and how you and your family will benefit from our work. Thank you for your continued love for the Arkansas State Police.



Sincerely,

Elizabeth Anderson

Elizabeth Anderson, *President of the Board*
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9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

In-person meetings by appointment only.

<https://www.facebook.com/aspfoundation/>



Trooper Retiree Spotlight

MACK THOMPSON



Some people join the State Police, others like Robert Speer, Mike Davidson, myself and others are born into it. I was born in Little Rock in January 1957. My father was Captain of the Highway Patrol Division at the time and I literally grew up on the Hill. When Dad retired in 1967 we moved to his ancestral home in Paragould where I attended high school and worked and hunted on our family farm. After high school, I moved to Jonesboro in 1975 and attended Arkansas State University. In March of 1976 I went to work as a Telecom Operator for Captain Wayland Speer at Troop C. In 1979 after reaching the minimum age of 22, I was accepted to attend Troop School in East Camden. I made many friends while at Troop C and Troop School. You never forget your Troop School Buddies.

On the wall in my man cave are many commendations, trophies and medals including 3 first place wins from the Arkansas Press Association for columns I wrote. One day they will probably all be discarded when I'm gone. But I'm reminded of something a Vietnam veteran Marine Medevac pilot told me. The greatest medal is a live man's smile. Guess I'll leave a few of those too.

On December 3, 1979 I showed for assignment in Troop B, Post Three in Sharp County. The "hill" counties were mostly two man counties then and Cpl. Joe Martz was assigned to be my FTO. I ate many meals with Joe and his wife, Earline and two daughters back then and he remained a good friend up onto his death. I worked Highway Patrol there for twenty years and had several partners, one became Director, Stan Witt and another Major Lindsey Williams, I was their FTO's. I guess they turned out ok. In 1999 I felt the need for a change and then Lt. Mike Davidson gave me a chance and took me on as a "new" CID Special Agent in Company F. I stayed five years and worked with great people and received fabulous training. I am proud to say that of all the cases I closed by arrest, every one of them pled guilty. In 1999 Colonel Steve Dozier promoted me to Post Sergeant back into my original Highway Patrol Post in Troop B. Of all the jobs I had with the Department this is the one I loved the best. I had great Troopers who made me look good by doing great jobs for which I am forever grateful. Troopers often times wear many hats and I was no different. I was a firearms instructor, armoror, FTO, Haz Mat Officer, SRT and later SWAT Team member, background investigator and many other jobs. The things that I remember the most about my 37 years with the Department were the operations I was involved in and the friends I made. I was at Ft. Chaffee for the Cuban situation and back again for Hurricane Katrina evacuation. I was the Swat Team Asst. Commanding Officer during Operation Delta Blues in East Arkansas and over 300 SWAT activations in addition. If you've noticed a common theme in this biography it is the people I met and who helped me along the way. I could've never achieved anything without them. I'm semi-retired now working for a medium sized weekly newspaper, the Spring River Chronicle. Again I wear several hats. I am the copy editor, columnist, distribution director and occasional clean up the place. My wife, Ella Van, and I live in Ash Flat still and have three children Amy Kris and John, two grand daughters and a great grand son on the way.



ASP Command Spotlight

LIEUTENANT AARON EASLEY

Lt. Aaron Easley currently serves as the Assistant Troop Commander for Highway Patrol Troop B. Troop B is located in Newport, Arkansas, and covers six counties: White, Cleburne, Independence, Jackson, Sharp and Lawrence. Troop B currently has 44 personnel, both civilian and commissioned. Along with serving as the operations and dispatch center for the commissioned officers, Troop B Headquarters houses non-commercial driver's testing and one of six commercial driver's license testing facilities in the State. Prior to his current assignment, Lt. Easley served as Post

Sergeant in Troop B for 1 year and Post Sergeant in Troop C for 3 years. His mission is to serve God by serving others.

The son of a pastor/coach, Lt. Easley lived in various towns in northeast and southwest Arkansas, but was born in Newport, Arkansas. At the age of 3, he knew he wanted to become an Arkansas State Trooper. He joined the Arkansas National Guard at the age of 17. Lt. Easley served overseas in Bosnia 2001 and Iraq in 2004-2005. Once his military obligations were completed, he went to work as a Nevada County Deputy and then for Prescott Police Department while waiting for the next available State Police Recruit Training class. Lt. Easley graduated as Valedictorian of his recruit class, Arkansas State Police Troop School 2007A. He was originally stationed in Troop G, where he was assigned to Lafayette and then Nevada County. Over the years he has served as a Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor and on the Honor Guard. He has attended several leadership courses over the years including Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

Lt. Easley and wife of 21 years, Tonya, currently reside in Strawberry, Lawrence County, along with their fur baby Tucker (9) and other farm animals. Lt. Easley readily acknowledges how important his wife's support is due to his demanding career choice. When off duty, he enjoys hunting, UTV riding, shooting/building guns, golf and helping family and friends.



Auxiliary Member Spotlight

MEGAN GRIFFITH

Megan Griffith has been married to Cpl Dwight Griffith for 12 years. They have 3 beautiful children, Aubrey, Samuel and Theodore, and a fur baby, Ace. Megan has been in the ASP family since dating Cpl. Griffith, and loves being apart of the Spouses' Auxiliary now. Megan has served as Troop B President for the Spouses' Auxiliary for three years.

"It has been so rewarding getting to know all of these wonderful spouse and create life long relationships."



2024 ASPF Spouses' Auxiliary Retreat

The Arkansas State Police Foundation recently hosted the 2024 Spouses' Auxiliary Retreat in Hot Springs, Arkansas. ASPF is proud to support such a dedicated and driven group of ASP spouses. We can not wait to see what great things 2024 has in store for the Spouses' Auxiliary. Furthermore, we are grateful for those who made this event a success, made donations, and the guest speakers who provided an outstanding weekend.



Q & A with the Colonel

Participating in a question and answer session with Colonel Mike Hagar was very informative. His willingness to be transparent and attentive to our concerns is greatly appreciated.



Wellness Discussion

Sgt Chuck Lewis, Wellness Unit Supervisor, spoke with ASP spouses about the importance of mental health awareness and the resources available to our law enforcement family.

Tumbler Donation

On behalf of the ASPF, we are grateful for the generous donation from Randy and Betty Hedge for the engraved tumblers that were gifted to participants in the retreat.



Retreat Support Staff

Thankful doesn't express the gratitude the foundation feels for these ladies. Pictured L to R: Patti Cannon, Elizabeth Anderson, Dr. Johnnie Roebuck, Kari Sawyer, and Emily Hamilton.



2024 ASPF Spouses' Auxiliary Retreat



New Statewide Officers



President: Vanessa Harris
Vice President: Stephanie Norris
Secretary: Laura Richardson
Treasurer: Teresa Hill

Pictured L to R: Laura Richardson, Vanessa Harris, Teresa Hill

Auxiliary Committees

Committees worked on their strategic plans for 2024 and elected the following chairmen:

Scholarship Committee: Hillary Young
Legislative Committee: Holly Moore
Fundraising Committee: Debbie Irvin
Newsletter Committee: Heather Wingo

Meet & Greet



ASPF President, Elizabeth Anderson, facilitated introduction activities to put a name with a face and to promote team “building.”



Team Building





ARKANSAS STATE POLICE
FOUNDATION

Fundraising Opportunities

TEXT "ASPF"



TO 243725
TO GIVE

Arkansas State Police Foundation Spouses' Auxiliary Troop G presents

DUELING PIANOS

featuring 2Pianos

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
5:30-10:00 PM
TEXARKANA COUNTRY CLUB

\$2,000 Premium Sponsor Tables-Front Row Seating
Includes 10 seats, dinner, 40 drink tickets, and two complimentary song requests from the pianists

\$1,000 Sponsor Tables-Reserved Seating
Includes 10 seats, dinner, and 20 drink tickets

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors:

Livingston Trucking
MHC Kenworth
Lonestar Truck Group
B Truck & Trailer
Red River Wrecker Service

Live Entertainment • Exclusive Auction Items • Draw Down

Cocktail / Wine Recommended



\$100 each (tax write off)

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

Presented by:

FARMERS BANK
FOUNDATION

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, April 26, 2024
6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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

COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER

\$25

PER BOOK

BOOKS CAN BE SHIPPED
FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$5

RECIPES &
ARE TRIED & TRUE
HELP FUND
SCHOLARSHIPS





Upcoming Events

APRIL 16, 2024 - ASP RETIREE MEETING

- 10:00 AM @ Precision Driving Training Complex Classroom
- Hosted by ASPF

APRIL 18, 2024- ASPF BOARD MEETING

- 11:00 AM @ Old Commissioners Board Room, ASP HQ in Little Rock

APRIL 20, 2024 - ASPF SPOUSES' AUX. TROOP G DUELING PIANO FUNDRAISER

- 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM @ Texarkana Country Club

APRIL 26, 2024 - FARMERS BANK FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

- 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM @ Mystic Creek Country Club, El Dorado, AR

JUNE 3, 2024 - CONWAY ASPF GOLF TOURNAMENT

- More information to be announced

Arkansas State Police Foundation

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