

Informer

NSP Informer Staff

- Editor:
Mikayla Hall
- Contributors:
Lt. Thorson
Lt. Brakenhoff
Lt. Korte
Lt. Stahl
Capt. Schmidt
Capt. Frerichs
Capt. Caradori
Sgt. Plate
NSP HQ Activities Committee

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Volume 85

2024—Fourth Quarter

A Year In Review

2024 provided yet another eventful year filled with challenges, milestones, and new opportunities to serve the community. This time last year, Nebraska was hit with historic winter storms across the state. These storms were paired with dangerously cold temperatures resulting in hazardous driving conditions. Despite the challenging weather, the Nebraska State Patrol personnel worked tirelessly with other agencies to ensure the safety of all those on the road.

As the year progressed, Nebraska State Troopers remained on the road dedicated to protecting the citizens of Nebraska. In 2024, the Nebraska State Patrol saw a speedy start to the year. During the first 100 days of the year, Nebraska State Troopers issued more citations for speeding at

over 90 miles per hour and speeding at over 100 miles per hour than any other year in the past decade. These excessive speeds place unnecessary risk on Nebraska's roadways. For the year, Troopers stopped 1,228 drivers for speeding at over 100 miles per hour and 5,844 drivers for speeding over 90 miles per hour. This good work by troopers plays an integral role in keeping Nebraska safe.

In addition to patrolling the roads, troopers stayed busy fielding gameday security. In 2023, our Executive Protection detail was assigned the responsibility of guarding the Nebraska football coach, Matt Rhule. Throughout the 2024 season, these troopers were able to provide a safe and fun gameday experience for everyone on and off the field.

2024 also brought exciting advancements and enhancements for the agency. One of the standout achievements was the unveiling of the Nebraska State Patrol's new mobile command post. This state-of-the-art vehicle is designed to serve a variety of purposes, from hosting critical training sessions

to responding to major emergencies. Thanks to a generous donation from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Radiological Security (ORS), the Nebraska State Patrol now has a powerful tool to enhance their operational capabilities in times of crisis.

Another major milestone was the groundbreaking of a \$26 million expansion project for the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory. Once completed, the facility will nearly double in size from 31,000 to 59,000 square feet, providing much-needed space and resources to support the growing demands of forensic investigations. This expansion will enable NSP scientists to better manage their increasing caseload and continue delivering top-tier forensic services to the state.

As 2024 came to a close, the Nebraska State Patrol reflected on a year of hard work, dedication, and progress. NSP is ready to tackle new challenges and continue their mission of keeping Nebraska safe in the year ahead. Keep up the great work, NSP!



Around The State

Troop A

The end of the 4th quarter closed the book on a busy year in Troop A. We want to recognize the excellent work done by the Troop A fingerprinting staff. These team members had approximately 17,100 scheduled appointments in 2024. These team members successfully completed and processed over 14,300, while also registering 80 sex offenders. Great job!

The great work continued with our Troopers and Sergeants, who paved the way for finishing 2024 on a high note. The Troop A Patrol Division finished the year with 195 felony arrests, 41 felony warrant arrests, 321 misdemeanor warrant arrests, 491 DUI arrests, and 27,517 enforcement actions. Thanks to the new LPR technology, Troopers had 54 stolen vehicle recoveries, leading to 11 felony arrests and 4 misdemeanor arrests.

During the 4th quarter we had several dignitary escorts revolving around the upcoming November election. Providing assistance to US Capitol Police and US Secret Service, we assisted in escorts involving Vice President Candidate Tim Walz, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

Trooper Brett Evans "Trooper Brett" was selected to be the voice of Husker Radio providing traffic updates during pre- and post-game coverage. He did a great job during his first season and we look forward to hearing more from him next year.

The Troop A Patrol Division also assisted the Lancaster County Sheriff's office in locating a vehicle involved in a previous pursuit. Troopers pursued the vehicle eastbound on I-80 and into Papillion when the occupants fled on foot and a man hunt ensued. With the assistance

of allied agencies, a perimeter was established, resources deployed, and all 3 suspects were taken into custody. The effort resulted in the seizure of 8,600 Fentanyl pills, \$7,500 USC, small amounts of Heroin and another unknown powder.

Lastly, Troop A had the honor of filming the annual NSP Christmas video. Credit to Cody Thomas and Mikayla Hall for writing, filming, and putting it all together. It's pretty clear why Lieutenant Thorson and Trooper Healy's acting careers never took off.



Troop B

On October 7th Troop B personnel assisted with a gas leak/explosion in O'Neill. It was determined a vehicle had struck a gas main at St. Mary's school. The leak eventually ignited and caused a massive explosion causing severe damage to the school and church buildings.

Luckily it occurred in the early morning hours, and no one was injured. On October 22nd Troop B personnel, NSP Air Wing, along with Game and Parks assisted the Knox County Sheriff's office with searching for a missing 12-year-old juvenile. The juvenile ran away from the Crofton Elementary School. The juvenile was located two days later on the 24th at a farmhouse north of Crofton.

On December 9th Troop B personnel responded to a report of terroristic threats involving a



firearm in Tilden. Search warrant was issued on suspect's residence. Located handgun, 4grams of cocaine, 43 grams of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and seized \$41,320 in cash.

Troop B held a Troop area Christmas party in December. A few NSP retirees were able to attend. It was good to visit with old friends.



Troop C

The last quarter of 2024 reminds us crime knows no boundaries and it takes all of us working together to get the job done.

On November 10th, Troop C received information that a suspect was travelling through Nebraska after abducting a child. Troopers were able to locate the vehicle and form a plan to apprehend the suspect. After the initial pursuit was discontinued an observant citizen helped troopers from Troop C and D re-engage the suspect on rural roads. The perfect combination of citizen and law enforcement involvement resulted in a positive outcome for the abducted child and arrest of one suspect.

On November 21, Troop C Troopers were called to assist

Hastings Police and Adams County Sherriff's Department with an unusual call. A juvenile had stolen the skid steer and did considerable damage to three marked units and travelled through several residential areas before the skid steer eventually became disabled and the juvenile was taken into custody without further incident.

Communication and coordination were paramount in both situations resulting in safe outcomes for the public and law enforcement. Lastly, in December, NSP graduated Camp 70 of which four Troopers will call Troop C home. Their journey, which has almost lasted a year now, continues in the field where our veteran troopers impart their knowledge and experience for the next several months.



Troop D

The 4th Quarter of 2024 went much like it did in the field for our Ag community friends. Our Troopers, Investigators, Dispatchers, and Support Staff displayed the same hard work ethic. The previous quarters were primers for what we would hang our hats on as we closed this year.

Troop D was up 56% in the number of traffic stops in the 4th quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023. Felony arrests were up 30% with 75. Motorist assists increased by 24% and accidents fell by 43%. Our dispatchers observed this as they fielded calls and pushed Troopers and Investigators to calls for service. It was also followed by self-initiated activity. Our public expects us to make cases and assist those in need whether it is a motorist or allied agency. The initiative and reaction shown by those in the field is what our public observed. We were happy to share comments from the Patrol website, letters of thanks, and the occasional snack crate, flowers, or plant on our X account.

There has been a rekindling of two types of activity that have

Troop E

Quarter four is always filled with holiday excitement. This offers our troopers more opportunities to support our local communities and build touch points with potential troopers.

This year our troop area troopers participated in local Shop with a Cop events. Alongside these events, troopers worked numerous overtime hours to keep Nebraska's roadways safe.

helped bridge the distance here in Troop D. To help put our geography into perspective, it is 211 miles from Holdrege to Omaha. While from Holdrege to Valentine it much closer at 205 miles. Yet, we figure out how to make it work. Troop D has been utilizing our Air Wing with speed selectives. Our effort continues to be shared with our public on the Waze app and social media "scanner type" platforms. We appreciate the non-solicited messaging to help bring attention to unsafe driving habits and what we are doing to address the problem.

Another activity rekindled was saturation patrols. Partnering with local agencies as a multiplier is necessary in some communities. Our creative Sergeants recently put one together in November that resulted in 104 traffic stops in 9 hours, 3 arrests, a DUI, a DUR, and a foot pursuit. Everyone helped each other, stayed safe, and made a strong statement in the community. Such an event is similar to the MAPS model

This quarter Troop E had a couple personnel changes. Sgt. Manuel Jimenez #300 has been promoted to Lieutenant. Trp. Jared Dusatko #174 has been promoted to Sergeant. In addition to this, Trp. Jordan Jones #253, Trp. Ashley Jackson #239, Trp. Garrett Swantek #488 have all completed the FTO program and are working the road. The road to becoming a trooper isn't an easy one, but these troopers made it.

used in Carrier.

Our facilities and footprint increased this last quarter too. The North Platte office saw an upgrade to its auxiliary power with construction beginning on a new generator. We look forward to February when the project is expected to be complete. Valentine saw the opening of a new shared space at the new Nebraska DOT building. Our northern Troops have been stopping by the office to provide a presence until we have troopers assigned there. So, if you would like to have a brand-new facility to call your own, laterals are just around the calendar corner.

Troop D has rolled into 2025 with the stories and lessons of 2024 in-pocket. We plan to lean into that wind with the same act of selflessness that is our profession. Pro bono publico.



We have also welcomed Trp. Jared Weber #245 from the 70th Basic Recruit Camp. Trp. Weber graduated in December and has started the FTO Program. Troop E has also gained a new Troop Area Chaplain, Kyle Larson. As 2025 begins, we are proud to have our growing team.

Troop H

The Troop H Uniform Patrol Division proudly serves 14 counties in Southeast Nebraska. During 2024, Troop H was busy with severe weather, heavy traffic flows on the major highways, road construction, as well as Husker Football game days. As always, the Troopers adjusted and pushed through, working with vigilance and professionalism. In 2024, Troop H Troopers removed 384 motorists off the streets for DUI, along with 516 citations for drug and alcohol violations. Additionally, they made 190 felony arrests for various law violations. Vehicles traveling at high speeds on Nebraska roadways remained steady throughout the year.

During the last quarter of 2024 Troop H experienced a variety of incidents. In October, Troopers assisted allied agencies with numerous wildfires throughout the Troop area. These fires occurred during the unusually dry conditions we experienced during the harvest season.

On October 8th, Troopers were requested to assist the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office with locating a female party near the U-Save Pharmacy in Waverly. The female had entered the pharmacy showing signs of distress to ask for assistance; claiming she was in danger and attempting to get away from a male subject that was armed. The male party was located driving in the area; however, he refused to stop, and a pursuit ensued.

During the pursuit the suspect began ramming cruisers in attempt to evade arrest. During the incident two Troopers sustained minor injuries and

two NSP patrol units were damaged. The suspect was ultimately taken into custody and identified as Trenton C. Engel.

On October 15, Trooper Landry #249 arrested Tony Pierce for Felony Motor Vehicle Homicide. Pierce was identified as the driver of the vehicle that crashed into Ceresco Police Officer Ross Bartlett's patrol unit resulting in his death. Trooper Landry and Crime Analyst Brooke Noordhoek's work throughout the investigation assisted with the determination for the County Attorney to file charges. Trooper Landry will accompany the Bartlett Family to Washington D.C as the family's Law Enforcement Representative for the National Police Memorial week in May 2025.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Lonnie Connelly #141 who retired with 34 years of service! Lt. Connelly started his new job with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department in the Court Security Division. Lieutenant Kaleb Bruggeman #584 was welcomed back to the Troop H Patrol division

replacing Lt. Connelly.

Congratulations to Sergeant Fred Storm #251 who retired with 30.5 years of service! Sgt. Storm plans to do some traveling and spend more time with his family.

Troop H Patrol Division welcomed Sergeant Cody Paro #587 who transferred from the Troop C Uniform Patrol Division. Sgt. Paro is currently serving as a supervisor on the night shift. Sgt. Paro brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Troop H.

Congrats to Trooper Sund #99 on his transfer from the Troop H Uniform Patrol. He will be starting the next chapter of his career after becoming an Investigator with the State Patrol Technical Crimes Division!



Featured Divisions: NSP HQ Activities Committee and Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center

NSP HQ Activities Committee

The Nebraska State Patrol Headquarters (NSP HQ) Activities Committee is made up of 5 individuals; Tina Little, Rylee Dunham, Autumn Payne, Saylor VonSeggern, and Seth Summers. They meet monthly to plan and organize events that bring our teammates together. From food and coffee trucks to special holiday-themed dessert days, the NSP HQ Committee ensures there's always something fun to look forward to.

In addition to these events, the committee organizes fun contests, such as this year's chili cookoff and dip competition, where teammates cast their votes to determine the winners. More fun was had this quarter through an ugly Christmas sweater contest and "Wear Your Halloween Costume To Work Day." Beyond the fun, the committee is dedicated to giving back to the community by spearheading initiatives like donating winter coats for elementary children and participating in the 2024 State Campaign Against Hunger.

Taking time to enjoy fun activities with colleagues fosters camaraderie and boosts workplace morale. Thank you to everyone who participated in the NSP HQ Activities Committee's 2024 events. If

you have any questions or would like them to coordinate a coffee truck for large training sessions or events, please email the committee at NSP.HQActivitiesCommittee@nebraska.gov.



Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center

The Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy strives to provide the best, up to date, training to all of those within and outside the agency whether it is a basic academy class, an advanced course such as LPO, or specialized training.

When you come to the Academy you may notice some changes to the facility. A lot of planning has been going into upgrading the grounds. Construction will begin on the North side of the grounds where a new building will be built. This building will include two classrooms to accommodate 50 students each, along with more offices and office space. Along with this building will be a new TAC house to conduct building searches, close quarters scenarios, force on force training and more.

The EVOC area of training will also be receiving a much overdue upgrade. This upgrade includes a new building with a training room, large bay for vehicle storage, as well as designated garages for vehicle maintenance. The track will be rebuilt to include an extension to the south and a much larger training pad area. With these upgrades we will be able to spend more time training on site where training time now is shortened due to travelling off site. We will also be able to expand on what we currently instruct with these resources readily available.

A benefit of our location and sharing a facility with NLETC are the other training opportunities that can be offered. NLETC will be starting their series of crash investigation trainings beginning with Intermediate Crash

Investigation which is March 31st through April 4th. Intermediate builds on the lessons from Basic with an emphasis on “at-scene” evidence recognition, photography, and diagramming. Not only is it a good refresher on crash investigation, but for those that may be interested in becoming a forensic mapper/ drone pilot, it is a required course. We encourage those in the field who want to further their knowledge and experience to look into these other training opportunities.

In-service is right around the corner. Every year the Training Academy provides in-service training covering topics that are required by statute and others that have been requested from the field. The two-day centralized in-service will include topics such as range, Anti & Implicit Bias, Mental Health and more.

Finally, Camp 71 began their journey on January 6th and are scheduled to graduate on June 13th. While the staff at the Training Academy does put a lot of work into all the courses provided, we could not accomplish what we do without the assistance of all of those from the field. Your assistance and your experience help us provide the best training available. Camp 71 began camp with fifteen recruits and have found themselves down to 12 at the beginning of week three. The early morning PT sessions, long days of training and encouragement from our TAC troopers are making this the unforgettable experience many of us share. They are building their foundation with discipline and resiliency so they can begin their physical tasks as a team.



Featured Stories: Pink Patch Project & Holidays With NSP

Pink Patch Project

This quarter, the Nebraska State Patrol honored breast cancer fighters across the state with the Pink Patch Project. The Pink Patch Project is a national campaign that coincides with National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Through this campaign law enforcement officers wear a pink patch to show their support for breast cancer fighters across the nation. NSP is proud to support this campaign for the last seven years.

At the Nebraska State Patrol, troopers have the option of replacing their traditional NSP patch with a pink NSP patch for the month of October. "The Pink Patch Project is a wonderful effort that covers the entire country," said Colonel John Bolduc, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol, "NSP is proud to support the many



cancer fighters across Nebraska."

As a part of this effort, members of the public and employees were able to purchase Pink NSP patches at their local NSP office. All proceeds from this project

were donated to the Nebraska's Hereditary Cancer Foundation. Serving the community comes in all shapes and sizes. This quarter, our team was proud to give back while raising awareness for this incredible cause.

Holidays With NSP

Quarter 4 brings many holiday activities and community outreach opportunities for Nebraska State Patrol personnel.

In October, troopers across the state participated in many local Trunk-or-Treat events. In addition to their daily duties, troopers took the time to decorate their patrol vehicles

and celebrate Halloween with their local communities, providing a safe and enjoyable experience for families.

November is one of the busiest travel months of the year, and NSP troopers stepped up to ensure Nebraskans reached their destinations safely. To prepare for the increase in holiday travel, NSP launched the Make It Click campaign.

Troopers partnered with other local law enforcement agencies preformed high-visibility patrols across the state to reduce fatal and serious crashes in Nebraska. As a result of our Troopers' and Dispatchers' hard work, troopers arrested 52 drivers for driving under the influence. Troopers also issued 44 citations for seat belt and child safety seat violations.

In December, Nebraska State Patrol personnel participated in a variety of holiday activities. Troopers all over Nebraska participated in local shop with a cop events in which our troopers helped shop for a families Christmas gifts. Additionally, troopers in many troop areas celebrated the holiday with their team members and family at internal holiday events.

At the Nebraska State Patrol, our top priority is protecting the great state of Nebraska and its citizens. The holiday season is a reminder of the positive impact our team can have—not just on the road, but in the hearts of our communities. Thank you to all NSP personnel who went above and beyond to make the holidays safer and brighter for everyone!



NSP Adds Nine Troopers with Camp 70 Graduation

On December 20, NSP welcomed nine new Troopers to the ranks. Members of NSP's 70th Basic Recruit Class received their badges and were sworn-in during a graduation ceremony at the State Capitol in Lincoln.

Outstanding performance in several areas of training was recognized with awards during the graduation ceremony. Recruit Jared Weber, of Sidney, received the Superintendent's Leadership Award, the Captain Mark Williams Core Values Award, and the O.H. Witt Academic Achievement Award. Recruit Zachariah Johnson, of Grand Island, was honored with the D.R. Shearer Marksmanship Award. Recruit Tyson Guzman, of Omaha, was presented the R. J. Buchholz Physical Fitness Award.

"Public service is an extraordinary calling," Governor Pillen told the new troopers. "The highest calling of government is to keep us safe. Since 1937 the standards are exactly the same. For you to be here today, you have met everything that every previous member of the Nebraska State Patrol has accomplished."



Name	Hometown	Badge	Duty Station
Kelsee Colgrove	Spearfish, SD	202	St. Paul
Jamie Garrison	Alda	213	Aurora
Tyson Guzman	Omaha	220	Hastings
Ryan Hilliard	Wausa	222	Norfolk
Zachariah Johnson	Grand Island	223	Grand Island
Jordan Orduno	Ponca	226	South Sioux City
Isaac Scharff	Lexington	265	Holdrege
Matthew Walker	Milford	244	Burwell
Jared Weber	Sidney	245	Sidney



PERSONNEL ACTIONS

New Hires

October 2024

- Azlyn Fendrick, Program Analyst-Research/Planning, Lincoln
- Michael Salmen, IT Infra Support Analyst Sr (CJIS), Lincoln
- Khyng Jordan, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Cole Moody, Security Guard, Lincoln
- specialist-CID Front Desk, Lincoln
- Chad Ruhnke, Electronic Technician/Sr, Lincoln
- Gabe Gilsdorf, Electronic Technician/Sr, Lincoln
- Melissa Barton, office Specialist-CID Front Desk, Lincoln
- Hussain Alghazawi, Security Guard, Lincoln

November 2024

- Yajaira Ramirez, Office Specialist-HDQ Patrol Division, Lincoln
- Megan Ryan, Office Spe-

December 2024

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Transfers

October 2024

- Kaleb Bruggeman, IA Lieutenant to Patrol Lieutenant, Lincoln

York

Investigator, Lincoln

- Levi Cockle, Trooper-Patrol to Executive Division, Columbus to Lincoln

November 2024

- Alexander Winters, Patrol Trooper, Hastings to

December 2024

- Chase Sund, Patrol Trooper to Tech Crimes

Separations

October 2024

- Ricky Cleary, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Nancy Kozisek, CID Program Manager-QAIP, Lincoln
- James Soule, Security Guard, Lincoln

Criminal History Specialist, Lincoln

Trooper Holdrege

- Shealyn Warrick, Office Specialist-NRAMS, Lincoln

November 2024

- Emma Mach, Forensic Scientist III-Biology, Lincoln
- Heidi Klar, Admin Tech-

December 2024

- Grant Moody, Trooper-Patrol Division, Aurora
- Jonathon Tidyman, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Timothy Meguire, Crime Analyst-Intell, Lincoln
- Amanda Gardine, Patrol

Retirements

October 2024

- Pamela Tierney, Communications Specialist, North Platte.
- Lonnie Connelly, Patrol Lieutenant, Lincoln
- Brad Wagner, Sergeant-CE Division, Waverly

December 2024

- Shane Flynn, Inv. Sergeant-Auto Fraud, Lincoln
- Buck Duis, Lieutenant Colonel, Lincoln

Promotions

October 2024

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kari Hernandez, Elec Tech/Sr to Elec Tech Leader, Lincoln • Dan Smith, Admin Tech to Records Analysis Supervisor—CID Permits Team, Lincoln • Noah Huber, Patrol Trooper to Patrol Sergeant, South Sioux City to West Point • Joseph Hansen, Executive Protection Sergeant to IA Lieutenant, Lincoln • Taner Engel, Executive Protection Trooper to Executive Protection Sergeant, Lincoln • Brandy Porter, Biology Section-Forensic Scientist to Forensic Lab Supervisor, Lincoln | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Giffey, Tech Crimes Inv. to Auto Fraud Sergeant, NE City to Lincoln • Andrew Bestenlehner, Patrol Trooper to Patrol Sergeant, Oakland to Norfolk. • Christian Robb, IT App Developer to IT Applications Developer/SR, Lincoln • Rylee Dunham, CID Office Specialist to Admin Tech (Concealed Handgun Permits), Lincoln |
|--|---|

December 2024

- Jared Dusatko, Patrol Trooper to Patrol Sergeant, Alliance to Chadron
- Jeff Roby, Western Operations Major to Lt. Colonel, Lincoln

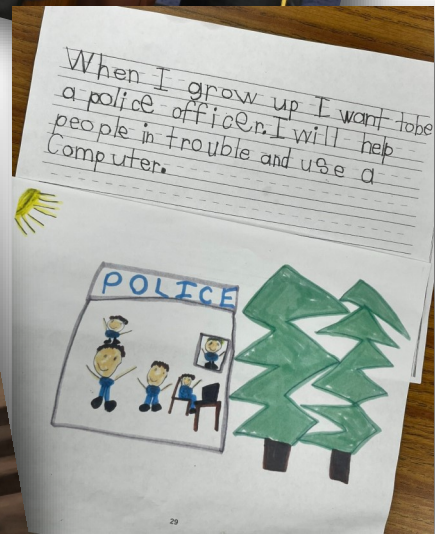
November 2024

- Manuel Jimenez, Patrol Sergeant to Patrol Lieutenant,

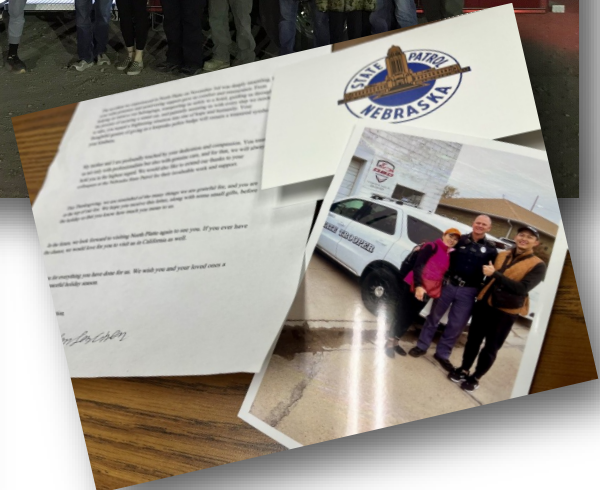


All images were taken by various NSP personnel and friends around the State during the fourth quarter of 2024!









Pro Bono Publico

NEBRASKA STATE
PATROL

4600 Innovation Drive
Lincoln, NE 68521
PO Box 94907
Lincoln, NE 68509

Phone: 402-471-4545
<https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/>

For further information about what it means to be a Trooper, visit <https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/nebraska-state-patrol-0>.



**In memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice
while serving the State of Nebraska.**

Loyal M. Zink (#43)

John T. Meistrell (#67)

Vernon C. Rolfs (#129)

Marvin L. Hansen (#98)

Duane F. Nichols (#133)

Raymond M. Koerber (#108)

George W. Amos Jr. (#9)

Michael D. Farber (#427)

Robert J. Chab (#221)

Donald Matejka (#192)

Mark P. Wagner (#168)

Jerry L. Smith (#373)



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