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What is the AMT?

The AMT is an independent association which is not affiliated with any other association or union. It is funded by and run by troopers.

The Association's Articles of Incorporation were completed in February of 1941. Membership in the corporation may be held by an active or retired trooper of the Montana Highway Patrol.

The Association of Montana Troopers is not a charitable organization, nor is it organized or operated for charitable purposes.

What connection does the AMT have with the Montana Department of Justice Highway Patrol Division?

The AMT is an independent association representing active and retired troopers. Its views, opinions, policies and publications in no way reflect the viewpoint of the Department of Justice or the Montana Highway Patrol.

What publication does the AMT produce?

Montana Trooper magazine is the only official publication and fund raiser for the Association. Anyone not affiliated with this magazine should not be considered representing the Association.

Montana Trooper magazine assists association members in the following areas:

- To create an awareness of a trooper's job and of efforts to maintain the high ideals and professional standards of our trooper members.
- To provide a fraternal organization for Montana troopers.
- To interact with other highway patrol and state police agencies and associations on a national level.
- To gain recognition and support from Montana legislators.

Why does the AMT use telemarketing?

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Association of Montana Troopers

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YOUR COMMENTS, PLEASE: The editor of the *Montana Trooper* welcomes your comments, criticisms, or suggestions for the magazine. Your ideas for topics and/or types of articles which you would like to see in future issues of the magazine will be appreciated and given every consideration. Please send your communications to: Scott Ayers, 1013 Babcock Blvd., Billings, MT 59105, montanatrooper@q.com

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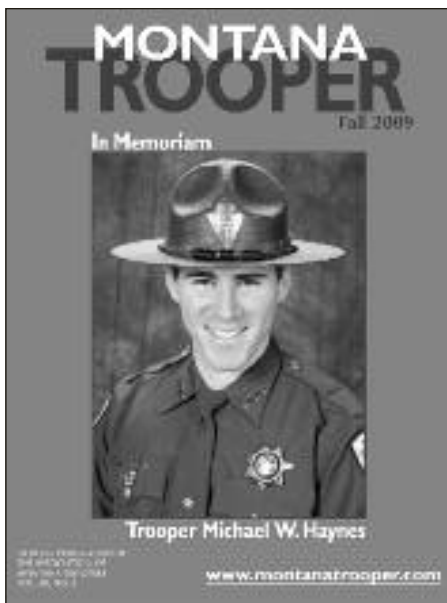
MONTANA TROOPER

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P.O. Box 394
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On the Cover



Trooper Michael W. Haynes died on March 27, 2009, as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty traffic crash on March 23, 2009. Mike Haynes started the Academy on April 9, 2006, and he was sworn in on August 10, 2006. His initial station assignment was Baker, and he transferred to Kalispell on October 1, 2007. Mike will be remembered for his love of the Patrol and loving the career he had chosen. Trooper Haynes' photo is courtesy of Burch's One Hour Photo, P.O. Box 2470, Kalispell, MT 59903. See story, page 9.

TROOPER SCHNEIDER'S PHOTO COURTESY OF BURCH'S ONE HOUR PHOTO, P.O. BOX 2470, KALISPELL, MT 59903.

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Editor's Comments



Sgt. Scott Ayers
Editor
Montana Trooper

Another six months has passed by since our last issue, and unfortunately we at the Montana Highway Patrol have said goodbye to yet another trooper in the line of duty, Michael Haynes, our third in less than two years.

All three troopers died in the line of duty as a result of traffic crashes, which are the single most deadly event for law enforcement officers across our nation.

One, David Graham, was lost to carelessness, and two troopers, Evan Schneider and Michael Haynes, lost were due to the influence of alcohol on the errant driver's part, bringing the issue of DUI to the forefront.

DUI and the many issues surrounding it are complicated and interwoven, and no one single measure will be a panacea. The state legislature, courts, attorneys, law enforcement, medical professionals, insurance companies, and, most importantly, the public must all take a stake in DUI and how it affects each and every one of us on a daily basis. It is my firm belief that once the citizens of Montana have had enough of DUI and its horrible results, the mindset and trend that we have been experiencing for years will begin to taper off and then diminish.

Trooper Mike Haynes was a wonderful family man, and he will be missed by all. We owe it to both Mike and Evan to bring about sweeping reform with regard to DUI in their names and memory.

In a somewhat related note, the new Association web site, www.montana-trooper.com, is up and running and there is memorial to all seven of the Montana Highway Patrol's fallen troopers there.

There is a member's only area which members and spouses, active duty and retired, can apply for access to, and contained in that area is a bulletin board or forum for members, spouses, and retirees to get together and talk about our losses or just to catch up.

In addition, the calendar for use of

the recently restored 1935 Ford and 1977 Plymouth is also there, with instructions on how members may obtain the vehicles for community events, parades, and car shows.

Lastly, I very much appreciate the overwhelming response I have had to requests for submissions to the magazine as of late. As a result of the overwhelming response, some submissions had to be pared back a bit so as to make room for more, while others may have to be held over until the next issue. If you feel your submission was not given its due or you don't see your submission this time, please do not get discouraged. Do also continue to update me as to your current mailing address so that you never miss an issue.

Until next time, be safe. □

Submission Guidelines

Montana Trooper welcomes contributions in the form of articles and photographs with captions.

Articles should be submitted in Word and in both upper and lower case, not all caps. The editor reserves the right to edit the text as per content and length in consideration of the style of this publication. Articles may be submitted either on a CD or via electronic mail.

Hard copy photos, digital JPEG photos on CD, or digital JPEG photos via electronic mail may be sent. All photographs should be of the highest possible quality and, if digital, should be at least 5.1 megapixels for black and white reproduction and at least 7.0 megapixels for color reproduction.

Photos meant for the cover are best displayed when taken vertically, as opposed to horizontal.

Please indicate if you wish for your photo(s) and/or CD to be returned. Each photo should have an accompanying description or caption.

Please do not embed photos within articles, but rather send text and JPEG photos as a part of separate files.

Send submissions and all other correspondence to: Scott Ayers, 1013 Babcock Blvd., Billings, MT 59105 or e-mail them to montanatrooper@q.com.

President's Message



Sgt. Art Collins
President
AMT

Greetings all,

Well, it has been a very busy summer, and it doesn't look like the fall will be any less so. There are so many things to write to you all about, so I will try to just touch on the most important things.

I know this letter will be in the fall 2009 issue of *Montana Trooper*, and it has been a year since we have said good bye to Evan and only a few months since the loss of Michael. I believe we are on the way to ensuring these tragedies did not happen in vain. Colonel Tooley and his administration have been and will be working with the legislature to pass stronger DUI laws in our state. Rest assured, your Association will be doing everything it can to assist the Colonel and his staff. I am sure all of you will do your part in this endeavor. It is, in fact, a matter of life and death.

Since I last wrote to you all, the Association has joined 38 other states across the nation to become members of the National Troopers Coalition. I believe it is important that we are involved not only in what happens in our state and region, but nationally as well. We may not be able to make much difference by ourselves, but together with the rest of the coalition, our voices can and will be heard all the way to Washington D.C. While we may not always agree with the NTC, at least

we will have the ability to give our opinion on matters concerning state law enforcement. In addition to having a voice, there are other benefits to our families I hope we will never receive again.

In addition to joining the National Troopers Coalition, we will be hosting the 2010 Spring NTC Conference. This should be a great way to help us celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Montana Highway Patrol, as well as show off our great state. The conference will be held at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish near the end of April, 2010. I have only just begun to start working on this and can see there is a lot of work yet to do. Any help would be greatly appreciated, I am sure there are several of our members that could be a great deal of help on this project.

In closing, I would like to thank the people who worked so hard for the Highway Patrol during the last legislative session. I would also encourage you to thank Attorney General Bullock, Colonel Tooley, Lt. Colonel Huseby, Major Butler, and last, but certainly not least, Mark Taylor. These people worked countless hours to safeguard this agency and its people. So if you see them, take to the time to thank them. I know there are many others that should be listed, many of you included. Thank you all for all you do.

Be Safe.

□

From the Attorney General



By Montana
Attorney General
Steve Bullock

Tradition of solid leadership continues at patrol

On January 5th, I was sworn in as Montana's 20th attorney general. That same day, the 61st Legislative Session commenced, so we had to hit the ground running with our legislative and budget proposals.

One of the most important tasks on my list was assembling the team that would help me accomplish my goals and lead the Department of Justice. For the Montana Highway Patrol, that meant finding someone who would continue to ensure the high degree of professionalism and ethical conduct we need in our troopers, someone who would preserve and strengthen the Patrol's well-deserved reputation as an outstanding law enforcement agency. And someone who would show the same degree of genuine respect, not only to the motoring public, but to every employee and trooper of the Montana Highway Patrol.

I believe I couldn't have assigned those important tasks to anyone more prepared than Mike Tooley.

I swore Mike in as the Patrol's 17th colonel on January 8. On the platform with us that day were six chairs, empty but for a Patrol hat and red rose on each one. We did not expect at the time that, within just a few months, another chair



would be needed.

Trooper Haynes's death was a devastating blow to District VI, the entire Montana Highway Patrol, and us all. As the third fatality in that region in less than two years, it set us asking how this could happen again. That is something Col. Tooley and Capt. Edgell intend to find out. It is my hope that their study will result in steps we can take in the legislature, or through better road design and public education — whatever it takes to keep our troopers and all Montana drivers safe.

We owe that to Troopers Graham, Schneider, and Haynes, to their families, and to one another.

I also encourage you to get involved in the legislative study that, over the next 18 months, will look into how we can reduce the prevalence and acceptance of impaired driving in our state. Let your commanding officers and your local legislators know your experiences and ideas. As the front line in responding to impaired drivers, you are in a unique position to educate others in your communities.

Steve Bullock was elected as Montana's 20th Attorney General in November, 2008. □



Colonel's Message



*Colonel
Mike Tooley*

I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with the readers of *Montana Trooper* for the first time since being sworn in as Colonel on January 8, 2009. Since that time, many events have transpired, including the loss of Trooper Mike Haynes on March 27 as the result of injuries received in a traffic crash while on duty. Trooper Haynes was on routine patrol south of Kalispell when a driver in the wrong lane of traffic collided with his vehicle.

The loss of Trooper Haynes was the third such tragedy in less than two years and follows the deaths of Trooper David Graham and Trooper Evan Schneider, both of whom also died in traffic crashes when drivers crossed into their lane of traffic. The Montana Highway Patrol will study these three crashes in order to determine if there are ways to prevent similar tragedies in the future. Captain Keith Edgell will lead an expert panel made up of individuals from various fields. The panel may make recommendations for changes in policy or practice, or at the very least, answer the questions we all have as to how this could happen three times in such a short span of time. Our fallen officers and those who survive them deserve those answers.

When tragedy strikes, there are two main choices that can be made. Focusing on the tragedy is one. The other choice is to act. The Patrol has chosen to act.

Through partnerships with the Montana State Legislature and other community groups, a movement has already begun to review the state's position on the issue of driving while impaired.

Senate Joint Resolution 39 was passed by the legislature and authorizes an interim legislative study of our DUI laws, as well as the culture behind them. This is an opportunity to greatly improve the safety of the motoring public, which is exactly what the Montana Highway Patrol was created in 1935 to do. The Patrol needs to be a leader in this era of change, and we will be.

The mission of public safety continues. Next year, we will celebrate our 75th anniversary as an outstanding public safety organization. There have been many challenges for the Montana Highway Patrol over the past seven-plus decades, but the agency is as vital and professional as it has ever been. It is a privilege to serve as Chief of this organization, and I look forward to working towards a better and safer future for all of us. □

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