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Mary Napier

785-783-5494

editor@kstroopers.com

ADVERTISING OFFICE

1-800-520-5081

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On the Cover

KHP Class President Derek Haskin gives the Class Response, saying the 20 members of the class gladly accept the responsibility to serve the state and country.

Photo by Mary Jane King, KHP

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Trooper's Actions Define

VALOR

By Chuck Stangle
Master Trooper, K-422

On March 22, 2010, several members of the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department gathered at Troop F Headquarters in Wichita as Trooper Michael Butler was awarded the Silver Medal of Valor by Sedgwick County Sheriff Robert Hinshaw.

The occasion was pleasurable, but alloyed with pain because as one was awarded a medal for his valor, the other was remembered for his ultimate sacrifice. The other was Deputy Brian Etheridge of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department who was killed in the line of duty on Sept. 28, 2009. Deputy Etheridge was responding to the report of a larceny on South Rock Road when he was shot twice by a 27-year-old male.

Trooper Butler, originally from West Virginia, joined the U.S. Air Force after completing high school. The last of three duty stations for Michael was McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita. After leaving the Air Force, he joined the Wichita Police Department. After 14 years with Wichita PD, Michael was appointed to the Kansas Highway Patrol in 2006. After completing basic training, he was assigned to Sedgwick County where he now resides along with his wife, Connie and two daughters.

When asked why he got into the law enforcement profession Michael said, "Something just drew me to it." In high school, he became interested in the West Virginia State Police and that interest is what eventually drew him to the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Michael remembers Sept. 28 very

vividly. Being his "Friday," he had been catching up on a few accident reports in anticipation of going on days off. After leaving Wichita's North Patrol Office, he overheard Sedgwick County Communications trying to contact Deputy Etheridge on the radio. Michael decided to head south toward Etheridge's last known location on South Rock Road. He was familiar with the area commenting that it was across the street from the water tower at McConnell Air Force Base.

Michael then heard the radio transmission that every officer dreads: "I've been shot, hurry!"

As law enforcement officers responded to the actual scene, Michael, along with a Wichita police officer manned the perimeter one mile east at Webb Road. About four hours later, the incident would come to an end when Michael, along with Agents Mike Jones, Doug Monte, and Steve Gravatt from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, were assigned to search a field near the scene of the shooting.

Michael and the agents were selected to search the field because they were equipped with the M4 rifle. Michael had just completed M4 rifle training one month prior.

As they were searching tree rows in the field riding in a HUMVEE, one of the agents spotted the suspect hiding under a tree. The suspect immediately




Sedgwick County Sheriff Robert Hinshaw awards Trooper Michael Butler the Silver Medal of Valor.

fired on the officers. The incident ended in a foot chase with the suspect firing Deputy Etheridge's handgun over his shoulder at the pursuing officers as he ran. Michael, Agent Gravatt, and Agent Jones returned fire striking the suspect and stopping the threat.

Michael said he appreciates the awards he has received, but wishes this incident would never have happened. Instead of awards, he would rather the knowledge gained from this incident be incorporated into the training of law enforcement officers to better prepare them for future occurrences.

A part of the passage on Michael's certificate for the Silver Medal of Valor reads, "Trooper Butler demonstrated extreme bravery, intelligence, and devotion to duty all while facing a significant possibility of great physical harm or death in order to prevent the suspect from harming any more officers."

Michael's actions along with the actions of all the law enforcement officers who confronted the suspect on that day, from the very beginning to the end, definitely meet the definition of valor. 



**Technical Trooper Eric Haskin, K-88/
Trooper Derek Haskin, K-193
Father/Son**

Trooper Derek Haskin is following in his father's footsteps. His dad is Technical Trooper Eric Haskin, who began his career with the Patrol in June 1978. Currently serving with MVE in Troop E, Eric is also a recent past president of KSTA.

When Derek left the military, he decided to pursue a law enforcement career. "The freedom of statewide jurisdiction and the opportunity to work the open road is what made being a state trooper seem like the best fit for me," Derek said.

"Growing up in a rural community as I did, the troopers were always the most professional looking and admired of any of the uniformed agencies," Derek said. "I noticed the way community members showed troopers a higher level of respect." When going to the Academy, Derek was encouraged to treat everyone as part of the team. He was also told that even if something isn't going as planned, not to get caught up in having a negative attitude—stay positive and only control what you can.

"I have a great feeling of pride knowing that I have taken a responsibility to the citizens of Kansas to be on the front line pursuing criminals and assisting in times of need," Derek said.



Troopers with fathers in the Patrol were pinned by their fathers during graduation.

KHP Graduates 20 New Troopers to Help Protect Kansas Citizens

**Article by Andrea Nolte
KHP Publications Writer II**

**Photos by Mary Jane King
KHP**

On August 19, joined by 600 family members, friends, agency members, and traffic safety partners, the Patrol celebrated the graduation of the 20 members of Class #49, the first class to graduate from the Kansas Highway Patrol Training Academy since December 2008.

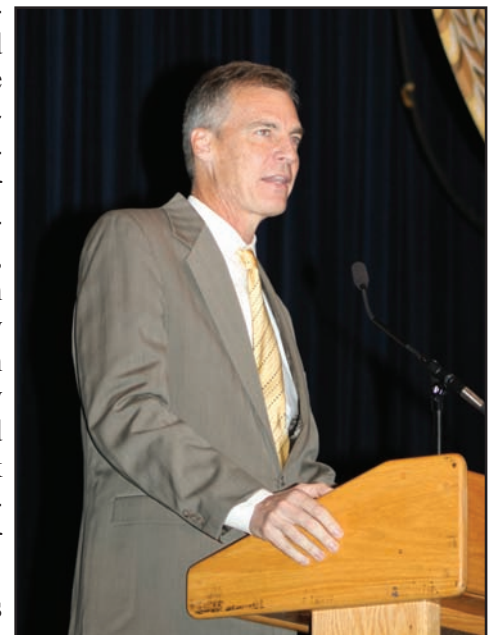
The hiring of these additional troopers would not have been possible, due to budgetary constraints, had the Patrol not received a grant in 2009, which allowed for the hiring of the Domestic Highway Enforcement Team, and allowed the Patrol to move these new members into the now vacant positions created when personnel joined DHET. The grant received was a U.S. Department of Justice-Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) 2009 Recovery Act Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs Program grant.

The recruits reported to the Academy in March, and will help fill areas of the state that are short on troopers. These newest troopers completed 897 training hours during their time at the Training Academy.

Most of the training this class underwent was the same training the other recruit classes have gone through. However, for the first time there was a service project that the class completed. On July 19, the class went to Sunset Park in Salina and painted playground equipment and pulled weeds. The project was organized by Trooper Marcus Seirer from the class.

The graduation ceremony on August 19 began as the KHP Honor Guard posted colors and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. *The National Anthem* was sung by Heidi Jirak, daughter of Lieutenant Greg Jirak. Trooper James A. Wright delivered the invocation, saying thanks for the special day, the strength and courage to get through the Academy, and for the opportunity to serve and protect Kansans. Captain Dennis Gassman and Colonel Terry Maple welcomed the crowd then turned to the keynote speaker, Governor Mark Parkinson, with Maple introducing Parkinson as a "very, very good supporter of KHP and public safety in general."

Parkinson congratulated the class on their remarkable accomplishment. "Your family and future generations of your family will talk about this long after you've left. I know this because the Kansas Highway Patrol has had a rich



Governor Mark Parkinson addresses Recruit Class #49 at graduation, encouraging them to be heroes, and telling them they are needed in the state.



The 20 newest troopers are sworn in by Colonel Terry Maple.

history from the beginning, and it has expanded and become a service agency and a planning agency for the entire state. The Patrol's work has saved thousands of people in the state."

The Governor also expressed how the troopers are joining a top notch group of people and are members of a select few. So many apply for the Trooper Trainee positions, and they are narrowed down to only those who are super-qualified, he said.

"This is a great day for Kansas," Parkinson said. "We need you."

Parkinson encouraged the class to be heroes, saying sometimes our society's priorities and heroes are misplaced. "Heroes are those who quietly and heroically do work to help people, when they never think they will get any credit at all. These are our firefighters, police officers, troopers. You have the opportunity to do that now. Do the right thing so you can be a hero."

Parkinson explained how troopers give a lot of themselves, of their time, and sometimes, they make that ultimate sacrifice. "We don't want to add any more names to that list of 10 troopers who've been lost in the line of duty."

"I hope you'll stay for a long time and hopefully in 50 years you are getting a service pin for decades and decades of service," Parkinson said.

The second speaker was Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mary Lou Leary with the U.S. Department of Justice. Leary told the class their achievement was a gift to the citizens of Kansas and while the duties will be challenging and not everyone the troopers encounter will be pleasant, by maintaining the professionalism learned in the Academy, these new troopers will help protect everyone.

Leary also talked about the Domestic Highway Enforcement Team and the benefits their work provides Kansas. "The Domestic Highway Enforcement Team has been effective in making our homes, roads, and communities safer, both here [in Kansas] and across the U.S.," Leary said. "The Department of Justice will strive to support you. We know that you all are the backbone of safety in Kansas."

Class President Derek Haskin, son of KHP Technical Trooper Eric Haskin, responded on behalf of the class. "On March 24, 22 people from different backgrounds and walks of life joined with the common goal of becoming Kansas State Troopers. Not all, but most, made it," he said. "Eventually, as time went on in the Academy, culture shock diminished and was replaced by an understanding of what it means to be a Kansas State Trooper."

Derek thanked the instructors and Training Academy staff for showing the class examples of what it means to be a good leader. He thanked the wives, girlfriends, children, and other family members for their support and sacrifices as his class attended training.

TROOPER LEGACIES

Lieutenant Kirk Simone, K-141/ Trooper Adam Simone, K-140 ***Father/Son***

Trooper Adam Simone is also following in his father's footsteps. His dad is Lieutenant Kirk Simone, with the Patrol's Special Operations, who began his career with the Patrol in June 1982. He currently helps oversee the Domestic Highway Enforcement Team.

Adam always had an interest in law enforcement and believed that the Kansas Highway Patrol was the best law enforcement agency in the state. "A trooper's uniform always stood out to me in public, and I looked up to them. I have always wanted to be a trooper," said Adam.

Adam said that his father always talked about how much he enjoyed his KHP career, and Adam hoped to have a career he enjoyed as much. "I always looked up to my dad and respected him because he was a trooper, and I hope someday my kids will feel the same way about me," said Adam.

Kirk told Adam it was going to be a lot of hard work entering the Training Academy, but he just needed to stay mentally focused. He explained to Adam that while it's tough, and not for everyone, if Adam stuck with it, it would be worth it in the end. He also told Adam to give it his all and do his best.

"I always remembered all of my dad's patrol cars and how I couldn't wait to have my own patrol car when I became a trooper," said Adam.



TROOPER LEGACIES

Retired Lieutenant Ray Bailiff, K-435/ Trooper William "Tyler" Bailiff, K-70 Father/Son

Trooper Tyler Bailiff is another trooper following in his father's footsteps. Tyler's dad is Retired KHP Lieutenant Ray Bailiff, who retired from the Patrol's Special Operations section in December 2006. Ray had served the state of Kansas for 32 years. Following his retirement, he was rehired by the Patrol and worked for two years as a Criminal Asset Investigator with the Special Operations section.

From being around troopers all the time growing up, Tyler knew we wanted to follow the same path as his dad. The troopers he met as a kid were always nice and he remembers how funny they were. "I knew I wanted to be a trooper since I was a little kid. Being around troopers my whole life and hearing how it is the best job in the world helped me decide," said Tyler. "My dad talked about the freedom of being a trooper and how fun it is. I remember how he loved going to work and never dreaded it."

As Tyler entered the Training Academy, he had some helpful advice to think about. "I was told to be a leader, not a follower. Be honest. And you can't regain your credibility once it is lost," said Tyler. "I was told to really focus at the Academy and listen carefully."

"I like to help people as much as I can, and I knew this job required helping people on a daily basis," said Tyler. "To me, being a trooper means a lot. Troopers have a huge responsibility and to be able to serve and protect people everyday makes me feel like I will have a rewarding career."



"It's an honor to serve our state and country...we gladly accept responsibility," Derek said.

Before swearing in the class, Colonel Terry Maple told the class, "You've accomplished many things. You've completed almost 900 hours of training. Your coaches and instructors have prepared you for this day. Now your Field Training Officers will teach you the practical application of what you've learned here."

Maple thanked the Patrol's safety partners who were in attendance, as well as the families and friends. "I would like to recognize the wives, family members, and those of you who will act as support mechanisms. Your support and understanding is critical. These troopers will see what many people in our state never have to see."


To the class he said, "You have been given a valuable piece of equipment and you've done nothing to earn it—your uniform. It speaks very loudly on the streets. Think about that and work to build on this reputation that so many before you have laid the path way for."

The ceremony continued as Maple

swore in the class and their badges were pinned on. Then Lieutenant Colonel Robert Ladner recognized Classes #20 and #21, who recently completed 25 years of service.

"Take care of yourselves, take care of each other, and always wear your vests," Ladner told the class.

Before the KHP Roll of Honor was read, three Kansas law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty since the last graduation were recognized—Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Etheridge, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Natural Resource Officer Luke Nihart, and Franklin County Sheriff's Deputy Samuel Smith. Then, the 10 Kansas troopers who have been lost in the line of duty were honored.

Trooper Roy Henry provided the benediction, asking for courage, strength, dedication, and the ability to give concern and compassion. He asked to keep these new troopers, their brothers and sisters, and family and friends safe, and to guide them during the hard times if the day should come and the ultimate sacrifice has been made. 

TROOPER LEGACIES

Captain Robert Maier, K-365/ Trooper John Maier, K-238 Uncle/Nephew

Trooper John Maier's uncle is Captain Robert Maier of Troop E, who began his career with the Patrol in June 1982.

John said the decision to be a trooper came when he realized he could do more with life. "I tried to figure out where my skills and attributes would be used in a positive way and landed on the idea of becoming a State Trooper," John said.

"Since my uncle, Bob Maier, has been with the Patrol all my life, I decided to talk to him about his career," said John. "He didn't have anything negative to say. He's a little laid back (like me), so I thought that I might find my place with the Patrol as well."

Bob's father-in-law is retired trooper Charlie Hanna, and both were able to give John some advice. Among it was take pride in what you do, work hard and you'll be fine, and not to take shortcuts. "I was told to make sure I do a good, thorough job every day," said John. "To be a KHP Trooper makes me feel a sense of pride and belonging that I haven't found anywhere else. I've finally found a 'job' that I look forward to doing."

