

## **South Carolina Trooper of the Year Ceremony 2009**

### **Troop One:**

#### **Senior Trooper Wilson Owens Horton Jr. (Post A/Sumter/Clarendon County)**

Senior Trooper Horton has served in Post A since graduating Patrol School in 2005. From the start, he gained the respect of his supervisors, peers, local law enforcement and members of the community. In fact, he is so well-respected, he was selected two years in a row as the Post A “Trooper of the Year.” Additionally, he has been recognized for making the highest number of drug and DUI arrests for two years straight.

Because of his strong work ethic and his ability to work with minimum supervision, he is assigned to the Troop’s Fatality Reduction Operation Safety Team.

In 2008, Senior Trooper Horton arrested 41 people for driving under the influence. He made 2,399 public contacts, made 1,672 cases, including 38 drug arrests.

In 2008, he investigated a traffic fatality on I-95 involving a family from New York where their 12 year old daughter was killed by a drunk driver. Senior Trooper Horton worked through the night and into the next day to build a rock solid case of felony DUI against the drunk driver. The driver received a 25-year sentence.

While working to complete the criminal side of the investigation, he worked very closely with the family, keeping them informed concerning the investigation. He has maintained contact with the family since the day of the crash and still does today. Ms. Liverpool has expressed to his supervisors that because of Senior Trooper Horton’s heartfelt compassion, the healing process was more bearable for them.

This case is just one example of his initiative, compassion and drive for doing the right thing.

Senior Trooper Horton and his wife, Tammy, have two children Tyler and Logan. He is an active member of Barrineau Pentecostal Holiness Church of Lake City. He is involved as a member of his local Masonic Lodge. He has an active role in his daughter's softball league, where he promotes sportsmanship and teamwork.

**Troop Two:**

**Trooper First Class Benji W. Humphries (Post A/Laurens/Newberry County)**

TFC Humphries is consistent in performing his duties within Laurens and Newberry Counties and has established a good working relationship among fellow Law Enforcement Agencies.

During the 2008 year, TFC Humphries' activity was very impressive with 1,379 cases made including 21 DUI arrests, 449 seatbelt cases, 23 child restraint cases, 30 open container cases and 10 arrests for simple possession of marijuana.

TFC Humphries is certified in marijuana analysis as well as a certified RADAR/LIDAR Operator. Since his employment with the South Carolina Highway Patrol, he has successfully completed MAIT Associate training in addition to ACE training.

TFC Humphries was born in Union, South Carolina, where he attended public schools and graduated from Union High School. He served in the United States Air Force from 1998 until 2002. TFC Humphries began his law enforcement career working for both the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office and Union County Sheriff's Office until he began Patrol School in 2006.

TFC Humphries is married to Jacqueline Humphries and they have two children, Christian and Jasmine. The Humphries are members of Sardis United Methodist Church where Benji is an assistant coordinator of Kids for Christ. Benji is also active in his community serving as a Youth Baseball and Football Coach. TFC Humphries is also an active member of the Union Masonic Lodge.

**Troop Three:**

**Trooper Michael D. Looney (Post A – Anderson County)**

Senior Trooper Looney displays a high level of professional competence, strong initiative and unfailing confidence in performing his duties. He always has a positive attitude and is very dependable. He shows up to work on time and works overtime if needed. He volunteers to help in any way he can and assists other Troopers with collision investigation.

His hard work and dedication are evident in the number and quality of cases he makes. He made 17 DUI cases in 2008 and was first in seatbelt enforcement with 394 cases made. He was first in child restraint enforcement with 34 cases made in 2008. Senior Trooper Looney averaged 176 contacts per month for the year 2008.

In February 2009, Senior Trooper Looney took on the added responsibility of serving as a Regional Recruiter in support of the Highway Patrol's Recruiting and Employment Section. He serves as a mentor throughout the entire hiring process.

Senior Trooper Looney began his law enforcement career with the South Carolina Highway Patrol in 2006. While at the Academy Senior Trooper Looney received the marksmanship award for shooting a perfect score of 300 on the qualification course.

Senior Trooper Michael D. Looney was born in Warner Robbins, Georgia. He graduated from Westside High School in Anderson, SC. He attended Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Fla.

He is very active in his church and is married to Janice, his wife of 32 years. He has two sons, Michael Jr. and Kevin (who is currently employed as a police officer with the Anderson City Police Department) and two grandchildren.

**Troop Four:**

**Lance Corporal Joseph W. Tate (Post C: Chester/Fairfield County)**

L/Cpl. Tate is a 15-year veteran with the South Carolina Highway Patrol who reports to work each day with enthusiasm. He currently has the highest number of arrests for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs in Post C.

L/Cpl. Tate is currently a member of the Troop Four DUI Enforcement Team, where he applies stringent enforcement techniques in an effort to combat the ongoing fatality rate.

L/Cpl. Tate serves as a mentor for less experienced troopers in the areas of safety education and DUI enforcement. As a representative of DPS, he maintains a positive and sincere attitude while providing safety presentations in the communities in which he lives and works. He places special emphasis on DUI, speed and safety belt compliance. L/Cpl. Tate networks and partners with local officers in the education and enforcement push towards saving lives.

L/Cpl. Tate is well respected by the community, his peers and local law enforcement officers. He maintains an active status in community service and devotes countless hours coaching his son's baseball team.

“Joe” as he is called by all who know him serves as a board member for the Lewisville Dixie Youth Baseball and Softball League, while mentoring the youth. L/Cpl. Tate is married to Melodie Baker Tate and they have four children, Haley, Mallory, Jackson, and Brayden. They are active members at First Baptist Church of Chester.

**Troop Five:**

**Senior Trooper Clinton A. Bostic (Post A/Darlington/Marlboro County)**

Senior Trooper Bostic has earned the respect of his peers, supervisors and other law enforcement agency personnel and the citizens within the community he serves.

Bostic has accomplished this by continually assisting his colleagues in their duties and demonstrating a work ethic that is beyond reproach. Senior Trooper Bostic demonstrates what can be done in serving the community through one's chosen profession by unselfishly giving back to the citizens of the community.

He has completed the CPS technician course and has already demonstrated child safety seat installations and given seatbelt safety talks at local churches and schools. Bostic has received several letters from the public commending him on his professionalism and his devotion to duty.

Senior Trooper Bostic not only is an exceptional trooper, he is also an active leader in the community. He is a graduate of Hannah Pamplico High School in Florence County where he currently is a mentor in his off duty hours. He also assists with coaching the high school track team.

Bostic attends Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Darlington County where he is involved in a brotherhood program for the youth at the church.

Senior Trooper Bostic began his career with the South Carolina Highway Patrol in January 2006 and was assigned to Darlington County. He and his wife, Gwen, live in Effingham, SC.

**Troop Six:**

**Lance Corporal Steve P. Grainger (Post A-- Berkeley/Charleston County)**

Lance Corporal Grainger has 19 years of Patrol service. He joined the Highway Patrol in 1990, assigned to Berkeley County. He is currently assigned to Troop 6, Post A, and has spent his entire career here in the Lowcountry serving the citizens in both Charleston and Berkeley counties.

Lance Corporal Grainger has an astute knowledge of the Crash Reduction Enforcement Planning (CREP) program and understands its application. As he patrolled, he noticed an increasing trend in fatalities in Berkeley County.

He developed a plan to form a team of troopers to patrol areas near and around roadways identified as high collision areas. First Sergeant G.L. Williams developed a five member crash reduction team and made Lance Corporal Grainger the team leader.

In the first six months Grainger led Post A with 852 cases. Through his leadership, the team wrote a combined total of 3,141 cases in the first six months. Crashes declined by 99. Crashes as a result of Driving under the Influence decreased by 10 and speed related crashes decreased by 30.

Lance Corporal S.P. Grainger currently lives in Moncks Corner with his wife and two children. He volunteers at his children's school and is an active member of The Fraternal Order of Police along with the American Association of State Troopers.

**Troop Seven:**

**Senior Trooper Shawn R. Hallingquest (Post B – Calhoun/Orangeburg County):**

Senior Trooper Hallingquest displays a genuine concern for the citizens of Orangeburg County. He is very knowledgeable of South Carolina traffic laws and is thorough when investigating traffic collisions.

He sets high standards for himself -- on and off the job -- and is very involved with the community. He strives to understand the "big picture" of fatality reduction, and seeks not only to enforce the traffic and criminal laws of this state, but also to educate and inform the public about traffic safety.

Hallingquest often volunteers for assignments that involve school safety as well as speaking engagements at churches and civic organizations within the Orangeburg community.

Senior Trooper Hallingquest was born in Frankfurt, Germany. He spent most of his childhood in Cameron, South Carolina. He attended high school at Orangeburg Wilkinson. He completed his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 1994. Hallingquest continued his education at South Carolina State and received his Master's degree in Criminal Justice in 1996.

In 2002, he began his law enforcement career with the city of Orangeburg Police Department, until he joined the Highway Patrol in 2005.

He coaches T-Ball through the Orangeburg Recreation Department while at the same time, provides mentoring to a group of young men at New Mount Zion Baptist Church.

**Troop Eight:**

**Jeffrey S. Arledge (Motor Unit)**

Cpl. Arledge is a true asset to the motorcycle unit and the Highway Patrol in many ways. He always gives the extra effort, sacrifice and selfless service to his subordinates, supervisors, the Highway Patrol and the motoring public.

Cpl. Arledge has been with the Highway Patrol for 18 years. He has been assigned to Richland and Greenville Counties before joining the motorcycle unit in 2000. He has played a vital role in the motorcycle training program as a lead instructor and has implemented many new ideas to make the unit successful.

He has attended multiple, intensive training seminars to better himself and the motor unit. He understands the importance of training and how to research new ideas and initiatives to make the motor unit a safer environment.

Cpl. Arledge has been assigned to a newly formed task force by DMV to address the growing concerns of trike motorcycles and the laws that apply to them. He also serves on the SC Department of Public Safety Motorcycle Safety Task Force.

He speaks to motorcycle groups about motorcycle safety. Through his interactions with these groups, he has been highly requested for future events. He recently provided information to the Upstate magazine: "Motorcycle Life Style" regarding motorcycle safety and issues pertaining to the motorcycle traffic in the mountains of Caesars' Head. This information will be published in the summer edition.

Cpl. Arledge also manages to remain active in his community. He attends the New Springs Community Church in Greenville where he volunteers his time helping with building projects for families in need. He coaches little league baseball in Greenville County.

Cpl. Arledge has been married to his wife, Susan, for 12 years and has two boys Colin, 16, and Austin, 10. Susan has been through some difficult times with health issues. He has been by his wife's side through this difficult ordeal while still giving a 100 percent to his job.

### **Troop Nine:**

#### **Lance Corporal James F. Brown (Foothills MAIT)**

Lance Corporal James (Jamie) F. Brown joined the South Carolina Highway Patrol in June 1997 and the MAIT Unit in 2007. Since joining MAIT, L/Cpl. Brown has become a valuable asset to the Foothills MAIT and to MAIT as a whole. He has been recognized as the Foothills MAIT Mechanical Specialist.

L/Cpl. Brown has, on several occasions, assisted outside agencies in their request for mechanical examinations. He was selected to be a member of the Research and

Development Committee for MAIT and also as a member of the Special Response Unit (SRU). L/Cpl. Brown has been to two separate collisions in which the SRU was activated.

On June 27, 2008, he assisted the Florida Highway Patrol in identifying and processing a vehicle that was believed to be involved in a collision in which a pedestrian received great bodily injuries.

On July 20, 2008, L/Cpl. Brown responded to Cherokee County in reference to another pedestrian being struck by a vehicle that left the scene. Evidence collected at the collision scene by L/Cpl. Brown allowed MAIT to identify the vehicle involved. After the vehicle was located, the driver was questioned and confessed to the collision.

On August 03, 2008, L/Cpl. Brown once again responded to a hit and run collision involving a pedestrian in Chester County. Evidence located at the scene and from the pedestrian allowed MAIT to identify the vehicle involved.

L/Cpl. Brown is married to Melanie Brown, of Saluda, and they have one child, Dalton. They currently reside in Ninety Six, South Carolina and attend Westside Baptist Church.

**Troop Eleven:**

**Sergeant Edward J. Talbot Jr. (Training)**

In addition to over 19 years of experience with the Highway Patrol, Sergeant Talbot has been assigned to Training since 2000, providing sound technical expertise in the area of collision investigation.

Sergeant Talbot has a vast knowledge of collision investigation, firearms and defensive tactics as well as years of experience as a Highway Patrol and law enforcement instructor. Sgt. Talbot's experience is at the foundation of the training unit's ability to

provide challenging and rewarding training to members of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Talbot's experiences proved invaluable this year when he was assigned the responsibility of implementing the Regional In-Service Training Plan. In addition to his responsibilities as a senior instructor for the Training Unit, this assignment required him to coordinate with city, county, state and federal law enforcement organizations from around the state.

He coordinated 49 two-day training sessions throughout the state. Additionally, he was the primary instructor, providing over 850 instructional hours. As a result of his efforts and the efforts of SCDPS instructors across the state, this plan enhanced training for all agency law enforcement officers at a cost savings of over \$500,000 to the agency.

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**Telecommunications Officer of the Year:**

**Telecommunications:**

**Blythewood Telecommunications:**

**Cherie Young**

TCO Young came to work with the Department of Public Safety on August 17, 2007. She is a member of the Bible Way Baptist Church. She attended Columbia College and has a Degree in Psychology.

TCO Young is always willing to go the extra mile to assist the Blythewood Communications Center in any capacity needed. On several occasions she has worked unscheduled hours to ensure coverage. She is always willing to assist other operators whether it is calling wreckers, running traffic, or just relieving them so that they can take a break.

TCO Young has proven that she keeps calm and professional under the toughest situations. Once while working the radio she received a call that a trooper had been shot during a traffic stop, a traffic stop that was never called in to her. TCO Young was able to take quick action during the crisis. She remained calm during the entire situation, and she was able to get assistance to the trooper.

TCO Young excels in her knowledge of the Computer Aided Dispatch. TCO Young's CAD, NCIC, Fatality entries are complete and packed with information to ensure compliance with Policies and Procedures put forth by the Department of Public Safety.

**Charleston TCC:**

**TCO II Shatara L. Hilton**

TCO Shatara L. Hilton has been employed by the South Carolina Highway Patrol Communications Division since July 17, 2007. Since that time she has successfully completed the 40 hour TCO Certification, 40 hour Basic NCIC Certification, CAD Certification and 8 hour Defensive Driving Course. She has also completed the FEMA IS-100 and IS-700.

TCO Hilton has been in the National Guard for the past five years as a Military Police Officer obtaining the rank of E-4. Her hobbies are fishing, deer and turkey hunting.

She has been a very dependable employee even with her military obligations. TCO Hilton is always on time for her shift. She is willing to assist other operators when they might get busy. She is always asking her supervisor if there is any thing she can do to assist in the TCC.

TCO Hilton is very competent in the operation of the CAD system and NCIC. She completes all the paperwork and assures everything is documented and filed. She assures that her work area is safe and clear of any clutter. She has a great rapport with the other

operators and troopers. She is always cheerful and conducts herself in a professional manner when dealing with the public.

**Florence TCC:**

**TCO Kay J. Knotts**

TCO Knotts has been a telecommunications operator since October 2, 1998. She maintains the attitude and belief system needed to be a public servant, providing effective communication and assistance to the uniformed personnel of the South Carolina Highway Patrol and the travelling public.

TCO Knotts maintains a good working relationship with her supervisors, her subordinates, and uniform personnel. She has the patience and compassion for others needed to “dig a little deeper” in order to provide vital information correctly and completely to the trooper. She is able to handle multiple calls of a diverse nature during her shift.

TCO Knotts was a pioneer and leader in teaching the other operators, including the supervisors, the Computer Aided Dispatch system when it was installed in this Center. TCO Knotts continues this tradition in passing on information and teaching all the operators if something new and improved comes about with CAD or any other technology available to us.

TCO Knotts has also successfully completed the Train the Trainer certification and, since doing so, has trained at least six new operators. She excels at training and has an uncanny knack to keep a new operator driven and determined to learn all aspects of the duties of the telecommunications operator.

TCO Knotts is always positive and upbeat in her conversations and actions with other TCO's. She demonstrates what it means to be a career minded, seasoned professional with a positive outlook for the future of the Communications Unit.

**Greenwood TCC:**

**TCO Paula Morgan**

TCO Morgan is from McCormick County where she has lived all her life. She has a daughter, Crystal 24, and son, Zachary, 11. She also has a 5 yr old grandson, Dakota.

TCO Morgan attended Piedmont Technical College where she received a degree in Criminal Justice. She has been with SCDPS for over two years and is very dedicated to her job and takes pride in her work.

TCO Morgan comes in whenever asked and is quick to help other operators when needed. She is very easy to get along with and makes everyone at ease when they start to work here. She is quick to learn and shares her knowledge with other operators to help them succeed.

TCO Morgan works a rotating 12 hour shift and still finds time to home school her 11 yr old son, Zachary. She is a member of Willington Presbyterian Church.

**TCO of the Year -- Greenville TCC**

**TCO Iris Stroble**

TCO Stroble has been with the SCDPS Communications since October 17, 2003, and has proved to be an asset to the Greenville/Spartanburg Telecommunications Center. Iris is a hard worker and is well-respected and well-liked by her co-workers. She is always pleasant, has a positive attitude and is quick to help those in need both at work and in her personal life. Iris is a giving and caring individual. In February this year, she organized an appreciation dinner and fund-raiser for a friend who had been stricken with cancer. She was aware that her friend was in need of a boost both financially and emotionally. She dedicated many hours of hard work to make this a

success and help her friend in time of need. This sort of selfless act is a reflection of the kind of person that Iris is.