

Montana Trooper

Montana Highway Patrol 52nd Recruit Academy Graduation – Friday, February 3, 2012

The pinning of the troopers' badges is a special part of their graduation ceremony. The Montana Highway Patrol badge signifies many things. The seven points of the badge represent the seven core values: Character, Loyalty, Knowledge, Honor, Integrity, Courtesy, and Judgment.

The badges were polished by current troopers to ensure the badges given were un-tarnished.

It is now these troopers' responsibility to ensure the badge and the organization remains polished and un-tarnished.

Each trooper selected a special person or people to pin on his or her badge.

CRAIG M. ALLEN



Shelly Allen had the honor of pinning on her son's badge. Craig reported she has always been there for him ever since he can remember, and he couldn't think of any other

person who should have had this honor. Craig also said his mother has worked in unison with his father to support him in all he has done.

Kennewick, Washington, is Craig's hometown. Prior to joining the Patrol, he worked on farms and fueling crop duster airplanes. Craig chose the Patrol because he wanted to join an elite team of people and a professional agency. He felt the Patrol exhibited pride, professionalism, and spectacular leadership,



First row (left to right): Trooper Lawrence F. Adorni (MLEA Trainer), Jason B. Love, Daniel F. Baerveldt, Amari B. Schmalz, Michael A. Zufelt, and Sgt. Alex Betz. Second row (left to right): Craig M. Allen, Wade B. Palmer, Douglas C. Samuelson, Gabriel L. Bernard, Christopher J. Garza, and Derek K. Stoner. Third row (left to right): Lt. Col. Butch Husey, Colonel Michael T. Tooley, and Major Tom Butler.

and he wanted to be a part of the best group of people serving Montana.

Craig thanked:

- His parents, Terry and Shelly Allen. He owes so much to them and is grateful for all their dedication, love, and guidance. Craig said they have done more for him than they know.
- His brothers, Scott, Todd, and Jon who listen and believe in him. They have been supportive of what he has done and are always there for him.
- His grandparents and all the rest of his family who are excited for this new chapter in his life.
- Most of all, Craig wants to thank the Lord for giving him the opportunity to become a part of this great agency

and noble profession of service. He feels truly blessed and without Him, he doesn't believe he would be where he is today.

Craig reported he learned a vast amount of knowledge, and the instructors did a fine job.

His memorable academy events included watching Tombstone with the class and camp commanders, which provided a chance to see a great movie, eat good pizza, and just relax as a group.

Craig was very excited to begin this new life of service and dedication. He couldn't wait to get involved in his community and be a good influence.

He is MHP 169 and was initially stationed in Libby.



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DANIEL F. BAERVELDT



Ashley pinned on her husband's badge. Daniel reported Ashley has been the fulfillment of his life, and she makes him complete. For her to have pinned on

his badge represents not only the commitment he has made to his state, but also the commitment he has made to his wife.

Daniel chose the Highway Patrol because he wanted to be a part of the best law enforcement agency in the state. His desire to help the public and the Patrol's mission to the citizens of the state of Montana is one and the same.

Kalispell is Daniel's hometown, and before joining the Patrol, he worked at Applied Materials as a Haler powder coat technician.

Special thanks from Daniel went to:

- His family for all they have done for him, and the support they have given him throughout this process of becoming a trooper.
- His grandmother, Evelyn, from Henderson, Nevada, for being present for this special day, just as she has always been throughout his life.
- His wife, Ashley, for sacrificing being away from him for an extended period of time and then leaving her home to follow him, so he can pursue his dream.
- The troopers and instructors who spent countless hours preparing and teaching him. Their motivation and heartfelt efforts did not go unnoticed.

He believes the classes at the Advanced Academy have not only taught him the information and skills to help Montana, but also have made him into a servant of the people and to the state.

Daniel said he will never forget the following phrases: "three more minutes" during P.T. or "Taser, Taser, Taser."

Culbertson was Daniel's initial station, and he is MHP 211.

GABRIEL L. BERNARD



Gabe chose his mother, Patricia Cetrone, to pin on his badge because of her continual support in all he does, no matter how stressful or perilous it may be.

From being a United States Marine to a Montana Highway Patrol trooper, she has always encouraged him to follow his heart. She will forever be a quiet driving force and inspiration in his life, and he loves her very much.

Billings is Gabe's hometown. He chose the Patrol because of its history, camaraderie, and professionalism. His desire has always been to be of service and of purpose, and as a trooper, he knows these desires will be fulfilled.

Before the Patrol, he was a student working towards a Bachelors of Nursing and Science degree. During this time he held various jobs which included the Home Depot, landscaping, and a warehouse associate for Keller Supply, a heating, cooling, and ventilation company.

Gabriel thanked:

- His mother, Patricia, for always being there for him no matter how far she had to travel or fly in order to be there when times were tough and things looked their darkest. She is always eager to listen and faithful in prayer.
- His step-father, Don Cetrone, for raising him to be a man of his word and for instilling a strong work ethic in him at a young age. He taught Gabriel that being a man of character, integrity, and honor is more valuable and profitable to a man than anything this world can offer.
- His dad, Ignacio, for loving the Lord with his whole heart, and for exposing Gabriel to Christ as a young child. Gabriel's faith in Christ has been his saving grace and a light unto his path.

Gabe's favorite classes were firearms and crash investigation. His most memorable academy event was the phrase, "Taser, Taser, Taser."

He is grateful for the friendships that were fostered through his journey and is looking forward to seeing where his path takes him from here.

Wolf Point was Gabe's initial duty assignment, and he is MHP 281.

CHRISTOPHER J. GARZA



Sara Garza had the privilege of pinning on her husband's badge due to her constant support and challenging him to achieve his dream and never give up.

C.J., as he prefers to be called, chose the Patrol because of the widespread trust in the Patrol and the high moral standards the Patrol expects of its troopers.

Leavenworth, Washington, is C.J.'s hometown. Prior to joining the Patrol, he worked in Loss Prevention for Fred Meyer and The General Store. In addition, he was a Reserve Deputy for the Kittitas County Sheriff's office.

For the help and support in achieving his life goal of working for a great law enforcement agency CJ thanked:

- His parents, Jay and Cindy.
- His wife, Sara.

C.J. also thanked his classmates for helping him study and succeed.

The Advanced Academy classes were some of the most intellectually challenging classes for C.J. These classes showed him what he is capable of and what can be achieved.

His most memorable Academy events include the many nights of polishing brass and boots, Fire Marshal Bill, and the words "Taser, Taser, Taser."

C.J.'s initial station assignment was Cut Bank, and he is MHP 186.

JASON B. LOVE

Cheyenne Love, along with her mother's help, pinned on her dad's badge. Jason felt it would constantly remind him of his duty to honorably represent and serve his community, as he would his family.

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His desire to maximize his fullest potential in law enforcement drew him to the Patrol. He was raised in Montana, and all he holds dear in life resides here.

As a trooper, he feels better able to provide service for all of Montana.

Three Forks is Jason's hometown, and he is a naval veteran of over 12 years. Prior to joining the Patrol, he worked as a technician and machinery operator for an electronics manufacturer.

Special thanks went to:

- Jessica, his wife, for her endurance, understanding, and loving support. Everyone knows that behind any good man is an excellent woman (or a woman who is embarrassed and is rolling her eyes).
- His daughter, Cheyenne, for her youthful spirit and resilience. His absence from home during training had been hard for Cheyenne to understand.
- His family and friends for their encouragement, support, and confidence in him.

Jason remembered his instructors commenting on how the training being taught was the "best in the world." Now that he has completed his training, he feels fully confident in his abilities, in his classmates, and in what they all have learned thus far. However, he believes the "best in the world" will depend on what they do with this training from this point on.

His most memorable events include:

- OC spray day, when he discovered that spicy foods still make him break out.
- Driving days where innocent bystanders and passengers validated his wife's reservations towards letting him drive.
- Range day when, with the help of fellow classmates, he learned that vehicle lighting makes all the difference in the world.
- Taser training - need he say more?

Sidney was Jason's initial station assignment, and he is MHP 323.

WADE B. PALMER



Wade gave his wife, Lindsey, the honor of pinning on his badge because of her tremendous support and strong spirit. While he attended 20 weeks of

training, Lindsey was tasked with an ever difficult responsibility of full-time mom for their two beautiful girls. Wade has always looked up to Lindsey, and he admires what she is able to accomplish. Lindsey and their two girls are Wade's greatest motivation to become the best person he can be.

Wade chose the Patrol because of their great reputation. The Patrol is not just an agency, but a strong family.

Wade's hometown is Missoula, and before joining the Patrol, he was a dispatcher for the University of Montana Police Department.

Special thanks from Wade went to:

- His wife, Lindsey, and their two daughters, Mia and Cierra. They had to endure so much throughout this process.
- His family for their continuous support and often reminders of those "cop" jokes.
- His fellow classmates for their encouragement during this tough process.
- The instructors, camp commanders, and guest instructors for their patience and great teachings.
- His friends and former colleagues for their push towards pursuing a dream career.
- Lastly, he thanked the Montana Highway Patrol for believing in him, as he already feels at home with the Patrol.

Wade said he learned so much and is excited to put his knowledge to work assisting his community. Wade likes how all of the knowledge he has gained can be used not only in his professional career but also in his personal life.

Wade's most memorable events included:

Trooper Adorni, during physical training days, saying the ever so popular

phrase, "only 3 more minutes" and Jeff Douglass dressing up as Richard Simmons during the first day of P.T.

Wade was excited to begin his career with the Patrol and looked forward to building on so many more positive life experiences.

Wade is MHP 301, and Havre was his initial duty assignment.

DOUGLAS C. SAMUELSON



The honor of pinning on Doug's badge went to his wife, Nancy. He said she was very supportive during the academy and of his decision to pursue a career in law

enforcement.

Doug's hometown is Belgrade. He chose the Patrol because he believes it will be a great agency to work for and because of all the interaction he had with troopers prior to joining. He thinks the state of Montana is a great place to live and wants to do whatever he can to keep it that way. He also is interested in traffic enforcement and DUI prevention.

Prior to joining the Patrol, Doug was on staff for several years at Montana State University. He began as Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach and later served as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach.

Doug sent special thanks to the following:

- Nancy, his wife, for all of her support while he has spent the last 20 weeks away from home.
- Elaine Samuelson, his mother, for all of the support she has given him throughout his life.
- Trooper Justin Braun for mentoring him and helping him through the process of becoming a trooper.

Doug thought all of the classes were great. He had no prior law enforcement experience and was able gain a lot of valuable knowledge during the academy.

His memorable moments include: Trooper Adorni's pushups and sit-ups, ground fighting with Trooper Connor Smith, the phrase "Taser, Taser, Taser,"





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and the friendly banter with Camp Commander Phil Freed.

Doug is MHP 222, and Terry was his initial duty assignment.

AMARI B. SCHMALZ



Amari gave the honor of pinning her badge to her mother, Donna Black, because she and her mother are very close, and she has a lot of respect for her.

Amari reported her mother is a very important person in her life and has been by her side through all her life experiences. Even though she does not want her to engage in such a dangerous profession, she continues to encourage her.

Amari also gave the honor of pinning her badge to her husband, Jeff Schmalz. Amari said she has a lot of respect for her husband because he is the type of officer she wants to be. He is confident and knowledgeable of what he does, and he loves doing it. Jeff has been a great mentor to her, as well as a supportive husband, and he was behind her the whole way.

Amari chose the Patrol because she believes it is the agency that shares the same professional and honorable reputation she wants in her career as a law enforcement officer.

Helena is her hometown. Prior to joining the Patrol, she was an administrative assistant for the Patrol at the District IV Office in Billings.

Amari thanked the following people for all their continuous support and guidance throughout this entire process:

- Jeff Schmalz
- Captain Keith Edgell
- Trooper Bill Bullock
- Eric and Donna Black
- Michelle Williams

She felt the deadly encounters class was very beneficial to understanding how a person's body works under stress and how to use her skills to work through those situations. She feels every officer

in training needs to experience the stress so they can prove to themselves they can do it.

One of the most memorable events for Amari was the day the whole class took turns being tased. She reported she would never forget that and the looks on all of their faces. In addition, on the snowiest day at the academy, after Trooper Braun and some of the cadets cooked outstanding steaks, then trudging back to the Cottonwood classroom in over a foot of snow on one of the movie nights.

She said the Advanced Academy was a very valuable part of her training, and she was thankful the Patrol takes care in preparing them.

Glendive was Amari's initial station assignment, and she is MHP 171.

DEREK K. STONER



Derek gave the privilege of pinning on his badge to his father, Glenn Stoner, because it was his support and knowledge that led Derek to pursue his goals.

As a retired career Highway Patrolman, Derek was honored to have his father pin on his badge.

Kalispell is Derek's hometown, and he chose the Patrol because he knew it to be the most professional law enforcement organization in Montana. Helping those in need has always been important to Derek and working for the Montana Highway Patrol will allow him to serve the community and the people traveling through Montana.

Prior to joining the Patrol, he had jobs as a wild land firefighter, computer technician, and a bowling and billiards instructor.

Derek thanked:

- His family, especially his parents, Glenn and Kitty, and his friends, for supporting his goals.
- Derek's former supervisors were also very supportive in his goal to work for the Highway Patrol.

He said the training he received

during his time at the academy gave him a solid foundation for the start of his career, from study habits to early morning P.T.

His most memorable events include: the "three more minutes" phrase during P.T., the firearms range during a snow storm, and steak night.

Derek is MHP 176, and he was initially stationed in Havre.

MICHAEL A. ZUFELT



Camie Zufelt, Mike's wife, had the honor of pinning on his badge. Mike reported she had supported him and had let him achieve his dream of becoming a trooper.

Mike's hometown is Helena, and he chose the Patrol because of the service the Patrol provides to the public, respect to and from the public, and the integrity every trooper must have.

He worked as the service manager at Townsend Marine prior to joining the Patrol.

Thanks from Mike went to:

- His best friend and wife, Camie, for supporting him through the process of becoming a trooper.
- His family.
- His wife's family, and the Terrio and Bingham families.
- Friends Dan McDaid, Cal Janes, Brian Inman, and Jeramy Rice for all of their support.

Mike indicated the classes throughout the academy were a great foundation, which will need to be built upon every day.

His memorable academy event was passing around the Target gift that Wade Palmer was supposed to return.

His parting thoughts to his classmates were to keep yourself and your partners safe. Your family depends on you, our families depend on you, and our new family of the Montana Highway Patrol depends on you.

Plentywood was Mike's initial station assignment, and he is MHP 310. □

