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## Montana Trooper



### ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA TROOPERS

#### 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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**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](mailto:montanatrooper@q.com)

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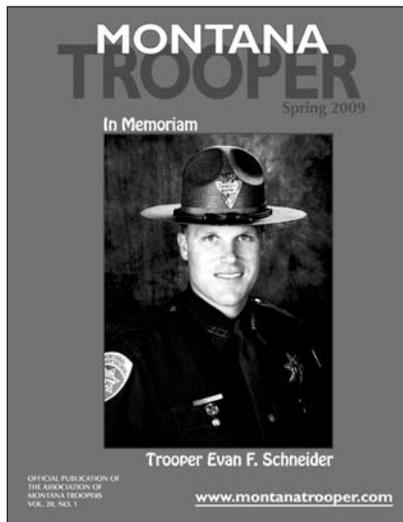
Spring 2009

Association of Montana Troopers  
P.O. Box 394  
Drummond, MT 59832

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### On the Cover



*On August 26, 2008, Trooper Evan F. Schneider was killed in the line of duty as a result of a motor vehicle crash near Columbia Falls. Trooper Schneider became the second Montana Highway Patrol trooper to be killed in the line of duty in the Flathead Valley in less than one year and the sixth to make such a sacrifice in the Patrol's 73 year history. 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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MONTANA TROOPER

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## Montana Trooper

### Editor's Comments



Sgt. Scott Ayers  
Editor  
Montana Trooper

2008 was a year the Montana Highway Patrol will not soon forget, with a number of monumental changes, some of our choosing and some not, some quite positive and some not.

In August, for the second time in less than a year, we lost one of our own, Trooper Evan F. Schneider, the sixth Patrol trooper to be killed in the line of duty in our proud 73 year history. We honor Trooper Schneider, as well as Troopers Graham, Ren, Hedstrom, Anderson, and Steele for their sacrifices to the safety of the citizens of Montana.

In September, we also took a huge step forward with regard to technology, installing General Dynamics Intronic lap top computers with wireless broad-

band internet capabilities, printers, and driver license scanners in all patrol cars. This enabled our computer aided dispatch and records management system to be fully implemented, and opened a new world of possibilities to the division. Computers are tracked by a global positioning system, and communications systems operators and troopers alike are able to view all trooper's availability, locations, and pending calls for service across the entire state. Troopers are able to communicate with each other via messaging across the entire state, access CJIN and NCIC returns, import driver and vehicle returns into electronic citations and crash reports, and write reports, all from their cars. The same system will create a database of past incidences involving locations, person, or vehicles, as well as track enforcement activities state-wide. The comparison has been made that we have moved from the Stone Age to the Space Age overnight, and it has not come without its share of growing pains, although the benefits have already been realized.

The Association's new web site ([www.montanatrooper.com](http://www.montanatrooper.com)) went live

in October, and I invite each of you to take a tour of the new site if you haven't already. Contained within the site is a members only area that is exclusively for dues paying members, active duty or retired, and you can access that area as well by signing up and being approved for entry. Once inside, you will be able to view a variety of documents, as well as upcoming membership events and the calendar of use for the 1935 Ford and 1977 Plymouth. A bulletin board or messaging system is also being added, so members can communicate with one another, wherever they may be. Along with the new web site, each board member now has an e-mail address similar to those used in state government, with their first initial and last name @montanatrooper.com. If you have a comment or concern with regards to the Association, you can e-mail your respective representative at that address.

In November, Attorney General Mike McGrath was elected Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court and a new Attorney General, Steve Bullock was elected. We wish Mr. McGrath well and thank him for his dedication and service with the Department of Justice

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## Montana Trooper

and Montana Highway Patrol. Likewise, we welcome Mr. Bullock and congratulate him on his successful election as Montana's Attorney General.

At the end of December, Colonel Paul Grimstad retired with over 25 years of service to the Patrol. Colonel Grimstad was the driving force behind many dramatic changes in the Patrol during his tenure, the impact of which cannot be understated. Under Colonel Grimstad, the Patrol grew and transformed in a number of ways which include, but are certainly not limited to, increased staffing, increased wages, the widely used title of trooper, campaign hats, uniforms, weapons, patrol vehicles, and technology, all of which have further cemented our place as the largest and finest law enforcement agency in Montana. For that and his long time service and sacrifice, we extend our sincere thanks and congratulations on his retirement.

We also congratulate Mike Tooley on his promotion from Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel. We look forward to his continued leadership in his new role as the Chief Administrator of the Montana Highway Patrol. I believe he is up to the challenge and will do great

### 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 for 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 7.0 megapixels.

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

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 imbed 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](mailto:montanatrooper@q.com).

things for the Patrol in the years ahead.

2009 will be another active year for the Patrol, with new leaders and new challenges. I am reminded of the often quoted phrase, "With change comes opportunity," and I encourage each of you to seize the opportunity that is upon us and to keep us moving forward.

Like always, I encourage each of you to submit articles, photos with captions,

and your ideas on how this publication can remain a success. You can submit those to me at either my old e-mail address, [montanatrooper@q.com](mailto:montanatrooper@q.com) or my new e-mail address, [sayers@montanatrooper.com](mailto:sayers@montanatrooper.com).

Likewise, if you move, please advise me of your new address, so you never miss an issue.

Until the next issue, be safe. □

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## Montana Trooper

### President's Message



Sgt. Art Collins  
President  
AMT

I hope everyone has had a good year so far. Last year was one of highs and lows for the Montana Highway Patrol. We were extremely saddened by the loss of another outstanding trooper from the Flathead area. The loss of Evan will be felt for a long time. My hope is that all who knew Evan will try to take some part of this tragedy and turn it into something good, something that Evan can look down on us and smile and say "well done".

On the high side for the year, the Montana Highway Patrol has moved years ahead in the area of technology. I know there have been some growing pains with this project, but I believe that once we have gotten past the initial start up, everyone will be happy with how it turns out. As quickly as this project moved forward, it is amazing that

there weren't more complications than there were. This is a huge change for us in a lot of ways, but a change that can only help us in the way we do business.

Other big changes have occurred in the area of leadership. After 25 years of service, Colonel Paul Grimstad has retired. Under his leadership, the MHP has moved forward by leaps and bounds, from the weapons we carry to the computers we rely on daily to fulfill our mission. Most importantly, the passage of House Bill 35 helped provide the first manpower increases in 35 years. Paul, you can retire with pride knowing you served your state with honor, and we thank you.

With the retirement of Col. Grimstad comes the promotion of Mike Tooley. I, for one, am proud to know Mike and consider him a friend. There is no doubt that he will continue to lead the patrol forward and we will continue to be the premier law enforcement agency in the state. This past December, I had the opportunity to visit briefly with then Attorney General Elect Steve Bullock. My impression was that he is very interested in the Highway Patrol and will keep us moving in the right direction. With the world economy in the state it is in, I'm excited about the lead-

ership we have and know they will guide us through whatever challenges may come.

The Association of Montana Troopers has asked the good folks at Smith & Wesson to design and build a commemorative pistol in honor of the Montana Highway Patrol's 75th anniversary. This pistol will be as near as possible to the same pistol that was issued in 1935 to the first men to wear our uniform. In addition to the pistol, we have also made arrangements to have a 75th anniversary badge produced. This will be a high quality gold badge that anyone would be proud to own. I hope everyone has the opportunity to purchase one or both of these items. My hope is that both of the items will be delivered by December 2009, just in time for our anniversary year.

As always, please remember this is your association, and we should be working for you. Feel free to contact you representatives about any concerns. This can be done through the website e-mail link (thank you, Scott Ayers) or however you wish. I am always happy to hear from our members and am interested in what you have to say.

Until next time, stay safe.

Art Collins



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## Montana Trooper

# From the Attorney General



Steve Bullock  
Montana  
Attorney General

For the better part of the last two years, my family and I have traveled to every corner of this state, visiting with folks from every walk of life. The campaign journey reinforced our appreciation for the grandeur and diversity of our state. And as a native Montanan and the father of three young children, there is nothing more important to me than protecting and preserving our home.

To give you a little of my background, prior to running for attorney general, I served in the Attorney General's Office for four years. From there, in 2001 my wife and I moved to Washington D.C. where I practiced law and served as an adjunct professor at the

George Washington University School of Law. In 2004, we moved back to Helena, where I started my own private practice. As an attorney, I have worked on a broad range of issues. I've represented individuals, consumer organizations, labor unions, small businesses and peace officers.

As Attorney General, I believe we must ensure that the Highway Patrol is adequately staffed and troopers are paid a competitive wage so we can continue to recruit the best and the brightest, while retaining experienced troopers. We must keep up with the technological advances that are continually being made, continue to foster a solid working relationship with local law enforcement, and be vigilant to ensure that our highways are safer.

We must also keep in mind the broader mission of the Department of Justice. We must ensure that, throughout this diverse, 750-employee department, we are all working together to maintain the quality of life Montana offers and expand the opportunities for the generation that follows us.

The Montana Highway Patrol is responsible for keeping our roads, communities and families safe. As Attorney General, I will push for continued investment in our Patrol so that we can address those challenges. Guaranteeing that Montana Highway Patrol troopers have the funding and resources they need to do their jobs is one of my top priorities as we enter the 61st Legislative Session.

I am very much looking forward to this next chapter, and to serving as Montana's 20th Attorney General. I am fortunate in that, as I take office, the Highway Patrol is at the forefront of technology and has a professional and widely respected staff.

The Patrol truly is at the core of fulfilling the Department's public safety mission. I look forward to working closely with the nearly 300 members of the Montana Highway Patrol. Please know that the door of my office is always open if you have any questions or concerns. □

*Steve Bullock was elected Montana's 20th Attorney General in November of 2008.*

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## Montana Trooper

# Colonel's Message



Colonel  
Paul Grimstad  
Chief Administrator

I'm saying goodbye to the Montana Highway Patrol after almost 26 years of service. I will miss many aspects of this job, but I know there is life after! You know when you're ready to go, when you look forward to passing the torch to someone else with their own thoughts and ideas. That newness is what keeps an organization going forward with enthusiasm. Embrace change and make it work for you; make it work for the organization. This outfit will be in great hands with Mike Tooley at the helm. Mike has the right attitude and cares about this organization and its employees, rest easy.

One thing that we started is empowering the employees to make a difference, this leads to people taking chances, not being afraid of making a mistake and building confidence in

themselves and others. This in turn leads to developing good people who will run this agency properly in the future. The Patrol is top-notch for a reason, its people! Don't forget, "Stalled or moving forward? The choice is yours." Always keep fighting for a better Patrol and you will get what you have worked so hard for.

I will always be proud of what was done during my tenure as Colonel. The decisions that I made were, in my opinion, the best for the organization. You all know what has been accomplished and should be proud to be a part of that legacy! I've often told people that they received a great return on their tax dollars during my time from troop to Colonel. The commitment to this organization and the public has always been my top priority. I love the Patrol and will always stand behind it no matter who the detractors are!

Before I close, there are a couple of people that I would like to personally thank. The first being Mike Tooley, or shall I say Colonel Mike Tooley! Mike has been a friend of mine since 1983 when we were stuck dispatching together. He has been a true friend and confidant these past 6 years. I couldn't have asked for a better person to help me navigate through this Colonel posi-

tion than him. Mike has been at my side through thick and thin and I can't think of anyone else that deserves a shot at the top more than he.

The second person I would like to thank is Attorney General Mike McGrath. Without his support, I would have never been where I am today. He had confidence in me and knew I would, "shake things up." Mike McGrath has been a wonderful boss, and I am forever indebted to him.

There are so many other people to thank with only a small amount of space to do so. You all know who you are, from captains, sergeants, troops, communications center employees, supervisors, and all civilian staff; I could not have done it without you. The support from all of you has been outstanding and allowed me to do the things that we needed to do. Thank you! Your friendships have been invaluable and gotten me through the tough times as well as the good times. I will never forget you!

Take care. I know this organization is in great hands ... no worries!

For those that follow in any supervisory position, always remember the quote which I truly believe is right. "Rank does not confer privilege or give power, it imposes RESPONSIBILITY!"

Paul

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