

SO FAR THIS YEAR...

YOUR WSP



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**4,119** impaired drivers arrested

11,088 collisions investigated

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73 fatality collisions



10,133 distracted drivers



8,238 seatbelt violations



41,844 aggressive driver contacts



120,760 excessive speed contacts



**15,442** CMV inspections



Our Washington State Patrol (WSP) communications officer's across the state handle a variety of calls from those in need 24/7. Below is a glimpse of the work they handled throughout March 2023:



**27,449** 9-1-1 calls answered

### Highway Patrolman Fortin, Trooper Atkinson awarded Medal of Honor





**OLYMPIA, Wash.** - Two Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers were awarded the Medal of Honor during a ceremony held in Olympia last Friday.

Fallen WSP Patrolman Vernon Fortin was awarded the posthumous medal of honor, which was received in his honor by his great great niece, Kelli Otis. Patrolman Fortin died in line of duty following a motorcycle collision in 1923.

Trooper Dean Atkinson was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery and heroic efforts in September of last year after being shot in the face and driving himself to the hospital. He accepted the award alongside his wife and parents.

The awards were given by Chief John Batiste and Attorney General Bob Ferguson. The two were among 14 honored at the event.



#### Remembering, honoring our fallen





#### **Chief's Tours begin**



**RECONGITION -** Chief John Batiste and members of the Executive Staff kicked off the spring Chief Tours in District 7 on Friday. Check out next week's edition to learn about those who promoted and award recipients

#### Police Week 2023



NEVER FORGET - Members of the WSP Honor Guard are now in Washington D.C. for Police Week 2023, honoring our agency's 32 fallen whose names are etched in our country's National Law Enforcement Memorial. See next week's edition for more. **SHELTON, Wash.** - The annual Washington State Patrol Memorial Ceremony was held Wednesday at the agency's academy in Shelton. Loved ones, friends, and colleagues gathered as the WSP Memorial Foundation President Lt. Gregerson read the names of all 32 fallen men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. *See page two for more images from the memorial event. All images can be viewed <u>here</u>.* 

#### WSP Annual Awards Ceremony: 2023



**SHELTON, Wash.** - Several Washington State Patrol (WSP) employees were honored during the annual WSP Awards Ceremony on Wednesday. Their hard work, dedication, and drive to continually go above and beyond set them apart. It was amazing to take a moment and recognize everyone's accomplishments. Next week's edition will include images of the award winners with their respective honors.

# YOUR WSP

## National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

NORTH BEND, Wash. - Last weekend was National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, honoring those who lost their lives in the line of duty across the nation. The 42nd National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony was held in Emmitsburg, Md., and honored 144 fallen firefighters, 79 of which were lost throughout 2022.

Among the fallen, five Washington State

- firefighters were honored, including
- Blake Nelson (Naches Fire Department, Yakima County Fire District 3) who died in 2021 after a battle with COVID-19;
- Daniel Patterson (Spokane Valley Fire Department) who died on Aug. 4, 2022, after collapsing on a post 24-hour shift;
- Michael Bieniek (Grays Harbor Fire District #10 -Wishkah Fire Department) who died in 2021 from complications with COVID-19;
- Chadwick "Chad" Mittleider (Aberdeen Fire Department) who suffered a heart attack after a shift responding to multiple medical and arson calls;
- Joseph Killian (Clark County Fire District #6) who died from cancer in 2022.

The memorial at our Washington State Fire Training Academy in North Bed states "We honor those firefighters who have performed an outstanding act of courage and boldness at the risk of personal safety above and beyond the call of duty. It is for us, the living, to be dedicated here to watch the unfinished work which they have so nobly advanced."



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## **Community Outreach: SWAT visits EHS**

#### ENUMCLAW, Wash. -

Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper Newton and Trooper Ramos, both members of the agency Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team visited Enumclaw High School last month to share what they do as members of the team, as well as what possibilities are available to them as a potential WSP employee. The students were also given the opportunity to don some of their gear, including their entry vests and helmets equipped with night vision. The students had great questions and appreciated having the one-onone opportunity. Several said they too were interested in law enforcmenet one day.







bility - attention to detail - work ethic

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# **Community Outreach: Coffee with a Cop**



**OAK HARBOR, Wash. -** Washington State Patrol (WSP) District 7 Trooper Donwen joined Oak Harbor Police Department officers for Coffee with a Cop on Whidbey Island earlier this week. Trooper Donwen had a great time interacting with the community and serving coffee.



#### **Community Outreach: Prescott Health Fair**



**PRESCOTT, Wash.** - Washington State Patrol (WSP) El Protector Trooper Mosqueda attended a health fair in Prescott on Thursday. He was able to meet with members of the community and share public safety tips - as well as give folks an idea of how impairment can really affect your abilities by providing goggles that simulate an individual's vision when impaired.

# WSP Bomb Squad: In-Service 2023

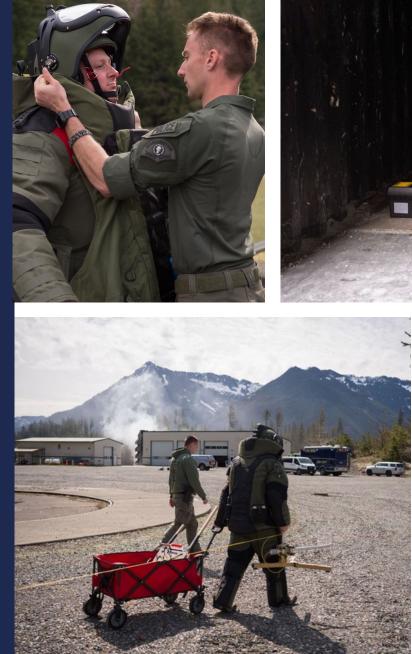
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honesty - integrity - accountability





