

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

Tennessee Highway Patrol graduates 83 troopers in ceremony at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church

NASHVILLE, Tenn --- On June 18, Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner **Jeff Long** and Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) **Colonel Matt Perry** welcomed the newest graduating classes of Tennessee State Troopers. The department simultaneously instructed a regular 17-week trooper cadet class and an 11-week lateral trooper cadet class. The lateral class returned from their district assignments for the graduation ceremony that took place at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, 3475 Lebanon Pike, Hermitage, Tennessee. **Governor Bill Lee** served as the keynote speaker during the

“Your goal of one day joining the ranks of the Tennessee Highway Patrol has turned into a reality,” said Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long. “Your hard work, persistence, and desire to serve your fellow man have paid off. I am proud to welcome and congratulate you for earning your right to be called a Tennessee State Trooper.”

graduation ceremony and Commissioner Jeff Long delivered the oath of office as the graduating class was sworn in.

Trooper Cadet Class 624 graduated 67 troopers. The Lateral Trooper Cadet Class 524 graduated 16 troopers composed of all prior Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (P.O.S.T.) certified law enforcement officers from across Tennessee. The lateral class brings a combined 107 years of prior law enforcement experience to the THP. “Your goal of one day joining the ranks of the Tennessee Highway Patrol has turned into a reality,” said Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long. “Your hard work, persistence, and desire to serve your fellow man have paid

off. I am proud to welcome and congratulate you for earning your right to be called a Tennessee State Trooper.”

“Joining any law enforcement agency makes you a part of something far bigger than yourself,” said Colonel Perry. “Today, you represent the Tennessee Highway Patrol while in uniform and out. You will be held to a higher standard – not only by the public but also by your peers and your leaders.” He spoke to the importance of their positions, stating, “You have embarked on a career of service in the Volunteer State. When you leave here today, and every day as you

don your uniform, remember that service is at the heart of being a Tennessee State Trooper.”

Trooper Kirby W. Smith of class 624 was named the top cadet for his class and was presented with the Trooper Calvin Jenks Memorial Award for Excellence for his leadership, work ethic, and academics. The award was named in honor of the late **Trooper Calvin Jenks**, who was killed in the line of duty in January 2007.

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security’s mission is to serve, secure, and protect the people of Tennessee.



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Welcome, Travelers!

“Along with our allies, we formed largest armada in history,” says U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn on Senate floor to honor 80th Anniversary of D-Day veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C. , June 18,2024– On the Senate Floor, U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) recapped her recent visit to Normandy, France, where she honored World War II veterans and Tennesseans on the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landing.

REMARKS AS PREPARED

Brave Men Embarked on a Mission to Defend the Free World

“Eighty years ago this month, America and our allies embarked on a mission that would change the course of history: We stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Along with our allies, we formed the largest armada in world history—with more than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft—with the goal of liberating Nazi-occupied Europe and defending the free world.

To our country’s eternal gratitude, those brave soldiers succeeded. And on the 80th anniversary of D-Day on June 6th, I joined a bipartisan Senate delegation to Normandy to honor the Americans and Tennesseans who put their lives on the line in the name of freedom.”

Meeting With Tennessee Hero Cletis Bailey

“Of the 16.4 million Americans who served in WWII, less than 1 percent are still with us today, so it was a special honor to meet with some of these brave heroes during the memorial services.

Among them was Tennessee native Cletis Bailey, who fought to liberate Europe while serving in the 84th Infantry Division. Two years ago, at the age of 96, Mr. Bailey received a Bronze



Sen. Marsha Blackburn

Star for fighting at the Battle of the Bulge—76 years after his service came to an end.

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Like so many Americans who served in WWII, Mr. Bailey was gracious and humble about the incredible sacrifices he made to defend our country. It was a powerful reminder that the Greatest Generation viewed service to our country—even through the hor-

rors of war—as their duty as Americans.”

Championing Legislation to Support Our Veterans

“In so many ways, Normandy is a reminder that America is the home of the free because of the brave. And while we can never repay their sacrifices, we must ensure that no veteran is left behind—especially when it comes to the benefits and quality care that they deserve.

In the Senate, I have championed legislation to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs’ caregiver program and protect veterans’ personal information.

Thankfully, both bills became law, but there is so much more we can do for our veterans.

That’s why I introduced the Veterans Health Care Freedom Act, which would expand health care options for veterans by allowing them to seek care in their local communities instead of VA facilities that are often far away from their homes.

These efforts will not only benefit our nation’s veterans, but also the more than 1.2 million active duty troops when their service comes to an end.”

A fun day for some flag football...



Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders' office played a flag football game at War Memorial Stadium on Wednesday, June 12 and made it a good day for exercise and fun. (Photo/Courtesy: Gov. Sanders’ Office)

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