



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND STATE POLICE
1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208-3899
410-486-3101
TOLL FREE: 1-800-525-5555
TTY: 410-486-0677



COLONEL
WOODROW W. JONES III
SUPERINTENDENT

November 10, 2020

Dear Maryland State Police Retiree:

During what has been a busy time of year, I want this letter to remind you that you remain an important member of the Maryland State Police family. I hope you and those you love are doing well.

On September 30th, Governor Larry Hogan joined me for an award ceremony to announce our employees of the year and a number of other awards for outstanding performance. For 2019, the Trooper of the Year is Trooper First Class Kashef Khan, formerly of the Forestville Barrack and now assigned to Glen Burnie. Our Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year is a sergeant in the Criminal Enforcement Division who we are not identifying due to the extensive work he has done undercover. Our Police Communications Operator of the Year is PCO Michael Hoffman of the Bel Air Barrack and for the fourth consecutive year, our Police Communications Supervisor of the Year is PCS Sydney Sarrichio, of the Rockville Barrack.

We held an abbreviated ceremony due to COVID precautions, but that did not diminish the accomplishments of these and many other employees. Once again, the courage, perseverance, ingenuity and initiative of Maryland State Police employees was on display in the stories of dedication to duty, courage and actions going above and beyond the call of duty. Governor Hogan said he was ‘immensely proud,’ and I could not agree more.

The outstanding work of our troopers and civilian employees has carried on through the summer and fall of this unusual year. In addition to our own enforcement initiatives, we have been called to assist other law enforcement agencies multiple times with prolonged situations occurring in Baltimore, on the Bay Bridge and in Ocean City. You may have seen videos of interactions troopers had with individuals in Ocean City. Our troopers acted with the utmost professionalism and never hesitated to take appropriate action. I am grateful for the hard work of our employees statewide this past summer, especially during this time of ongoing social unrest and disdain for law enforcement.

Part of the credit for the accomplishments of our employees this year goes to you, our retirees. You are the men and women who came before us and built upon the foundation of excellence this Department is known for. You set the performance standards high and our current troopers and civilian employees work hard to meet and exceed those standards. Thank you for your part in continuing the proud tradition of excellence in public service the Maryland State Police is known for.

Many of you are military veterans who served both our nation and our state. As we observe Veteran’s Day, I thank you personally and on behalf of your Maryland State Police family for your military service. Our military liaison, Sergeant (Ret) Gregg Harrington, often reminds us that since 9/11/2001, at least one member of the Maryland State Police has been deployed in our nation’s ongoing fight against terror. We currently have three troopers, one deputy state fire marshal and one civilian employee who are deployed in direct support of the war on terror.

“Maryland’s Finest”



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We are continuing to adapt to policing during COVID. Despite the precautions we take, our troopers are still doing outstanding traffic and criminal work. For instance, our troopers on the Capital Beltway have conducted numerous enforcement campaigns dealing with increased speeding and negligent driving there. In October, I was joined by Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh to announce 19 indictments of individuals involved in a drug trafficking organization that was importing a significant amount of heroin and fentanyl into Baltimore and the surrounding region. This work was accomplished by troopers in the Criminal Enforcement Division and those allied law enforcement personnel they work with as part of Strike Force 7, one of the seven investigative groups that are a part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Baltimore Strike Force.

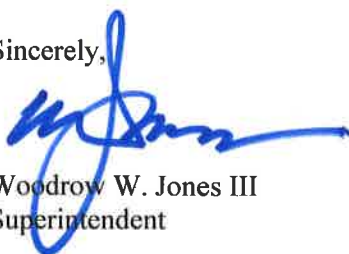
As COVID continues to be a concern, let me remind you of the commitment I made to you earlier this year. If you are in need of assistance that we can provide, do not hesitate to contact your local barrack commander or my office. If you need help of any kind, I and the other members of your Maryland State Police family will do all we can to help you. All you need to do is ask.

We have a number of exciting events on the horizon. We anticipate ceremonies to open the new Cumberland Barrack and to break ground for the new Berlin Barrack either late this year or early next year. Also, thanks in large part to the Maryland State Police Alumni Association, we anticipate the opening of the new museum early next year in time for our 100th anniversary year. Plans to mark our actual birthday in January 2021 and for a larger social event sometime next year are still tentative. Again, all of this is being impacted by the ongoing restrictions presented by COVID precautions.

As another year heads quickly toward its close, I hope you are in good health and good spirits. I wish you and your family all the best during the upcoming holiday season. We have much to be thankful for, not the least of which was our opportunity to be one of "Maryland's finest."

Thank you for your service, your friendship and your ongoing support for the Maryland State Police. Please stay safe.

Sincerely,



Woodrow W. Jones III
Superintendent