



Highway Patrol Communiqué - 26 December 2017

Greetings Highway Patrol Friends & Colleagues

The year 2017 has only a few days remaining. In the period following the last communiqué (11-2-17), we have had contact with a number of former HP Troopers, colleagues, and HP family members. I share these contacts with you, so that we each may know about one another.

- ▼ Roger MacDonald, Lewiston, ID, macdonald212@yahoo.com; sends greetings.
- ▼ Paul Elmstrom, Delray Beach, FL, cpcus@aol.com; also sending greetings and keeping in touch.
- ▼ Gene Klompus, Vernon Hills, IL, klompus@sbcglobal.net; id keeping busy with his cuff links business <http://justcufflinks.com/>, dealing with some medical issues, and celebrating his birthday on 11-22-17.
- ▼ Billy Roten, Venus, TX, b-jcattleco@msn.com. Billy was the 62nd. Highway Patrol Company clerk, stationed in Heidelberg, taking over that position from Lawrence Oxford in June 1957, and was there until the unit's deactivation in 1958.
- ▼ "Smitty" (Ed Smith), Hickory, NC, edirmgard@@charter.net; advises "I don't get to do very much anymore. I take it one day at a time and do the best that I can". He also stated that he had a good thanksgiving with his family at his youngest sons for a great dinner!
- ▼ Gordon Eyre, St. George, UT, eyre@beyondbb.com wrote, "Thanks for taking the time to communicate with us. I am now 83 and in good health. I have a very large family with 11 children, 35 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. It keeps me busy for sure. My memories of serving in the 62nd HP unit at Seckenheim and Karlsrhue are vivid and strong. I went on from there to serve in the White House when Kennedy was president. I reached the rank of 1st Lt. before resigning my commission and getting out of the military. I had 9 years of active duty before moving on to civilian life. Best wishes to you and yours. Cpl. Gordon Eyre, Det. B, 62nd HP."

I also spoke with or heard from:

- ▼ Jerry Hawkins, Rockville, MD, jc.hawkins@outlook.com. Jerry sent holiday greetings.
- ▼ Cordy Winburn, Hartsville, SC, cwinburnjr@roadrunner.com. He and Walburga are into the Christmas spirit, also enjoying their children, Grand-

children, and great grandchildren. Looking forward to their family Christmas get together.

▼ John Marshall, Mt. Airy, NC, jwellsmarshall@hotmail.com. John and Aleen miss seeing our group and send out Christmas and holiday greetings to all.

▼ Gerd "Fritz" Konieczny, Maryville, TN, fritzkonitz@yahoo.com. Gerd and Nancy recently divested themselves from their businesses and now have a little bit more time to relax and enjoy. Gerd finally found a replacement transmission for his boat and hopes that when the warmer weather returns that he will be able to do some cruising on the local rivers.

▼ Donald Skaggs, Porter Ranch, CA, ddskaggs@aol.com, also sent holiday greetings.

▼ Susan Emala, Margate, FL, SusanEmala@aol.com. Daughter of our deceased comrade, Raymond M. Emala. Susan came with Ray to our Williamsburg, VA reunion in 2013. Ray has been mentioned by several of you in previous correspondence, and kept in touch with a number of his former comrades. Susan, who served in the USAF (Lt. Col, ret.) looked after Ray and got to know a number of us. I always have great conversations with her. She sends regards to all of us. She also stated (as have several others) that she hopes we will have another reunion meeting in the future as she would like another opportunity to visit with us.

John Marshall also echoed those sentiments when we were discussing Mt. Airy. I have enjoyed visiting that locale during our several reunions held there. I do not think that I have ever enjoyed the friendliness and the hospitality of the locals, and especially that of John and Aleen. Perhaps it is time to plan another visit there. "Goober says Hey!"

I have attempted to contact several other former HP members, using phone numbers and email. Unfortunately, I will never know what is valid contact information ~IF~ I do not receive some sort of email reply, be it a bad email notification or some other type of reply. Only a very small portion of our 39 supposedly valid email contacts, and/or the 126 remaining names and addresses on the master membership list are known to be valid. Each time a communique is sent, I am never sure if it has reached the majority of the intended recipients. I can only hope that all are still among us.

My local FOP recently requested local Washington, DC law enforcement volunteers to assist the first Honor Flight of military veterans that were also career law enforcement vets – after their military service. It was a first-time group from around the U.S. I wonder how many of our former HP members went on to a law enforcement career? I know only of a few, and I would like to put together an article about those that chose a law enforcement career

path. Too many of our brothers are gone, and many of their stories will likely never be known.

My request is that if you were in law enforcement, OR, if you know of one of our comrades that was – please provide me with some details so that I might include them in a future article. Names, all details such as department or agency name, duty assignments, dates of service, and any other stories or information about what they did would be useful.

I am also thinking that perhaps I will include in a future communique, that I will include a listing of all the names of former members that I have an address or contact information for. If those of you that receive this emailed missive would be so kind as to check the list – you may be able to inform us if there are individuals listed there that you know that may now be deceased ~ OR ~ you might even be able to provide an email address, or other updated info about them. Certainly, far too many of our original members remain in an unknown category.

Time, health, and life itself has taken a toll upon our members, especially those from the earliest years of our unit's history. The majority of us are veterans of the "Cold War" era. Those few that served during the combat eras of WW II and the Korean war - and also served in the HP have most likely served their final tour of duty and have gone to their final resting place.

It is important that it be remembered, however, that all that once served on active duty, regardless of their actual period of service, took a very important vow. ALL veterans, at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of 'up to and including my life'. That was Honor and Integrity.

In the various stories of our Highway Patrol, both told and untold, we can find a rich and varied history. Several of our members continued to serve on active duty for an entire military career. Included among these were: Edward F. Smith, Cordy L. Winburn, Charles R. Chambers, and others that I am unaware of. MSgt. Donald E. Rudolph, assigned to HP Headquarters in Heidelberg, was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor (and a battlefield commission) for [action](#) in WW II.

Cpl. Norman C. Cooper, Det. K – Aschaffenburg, was reported to have been Killed in a traffic accident while on duty with the Highway Patrol. Another former member of the HP, Sgt. Monte Raoul DeVere. Det. C – Augsburg, 1956-

57 was reported as being Killed In Action while serving as a MSgt in Vietnam in 1970.

During various reunions and gatherings of the Highway Patrol, many stories of service, duty, incidents, and escapades have been told and shared. Many of these were never recorded and may only remain in the distant memories of a fortunate few. That is truly unfortunate to those of us that remain interested in those early years. "Smitty" did his best to share many of these stories with us through the "White Mice", but even his supply of stories gradually dwindled as our remaining members began depleted their personal stories; others never bothered to submit their bits of history.

My memories of the of the period of time that I was assigned to the 62nd HP are all very favorable. The deactivation came far too soon for me, and then it was on to similar duties in another unit. I missed the white 57 Chevrolet, the HP crests, the HP unit and the former members and colleagues. I salute all veterans, and especially those that worked the Autobahns, highways, back roads, and even the wooded trails while performing duty with the Highway Patrol.

Remember to visit our HP website – www.62HP.org

Happy Holidays to all and Best Wishes for the coming new year. May good health (or a reasonable facsimile thereof) be with each of us and our families. As this year comes to a close we can all look back on many years of varied experiences. – many great, and others not so good. It is, however, the way of life. It has been over 59 years since the deactivation of the 62nd Highway Patrol.

Larry



[Webmaster - 62HP.org](http://www.62HP.org)

Should you no longer wish to receive these Communiqués, please advise the webmaster – [DROP ME](#).