



Randy Cole
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News Release

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Paul A. Pride
Superintendent

Turnpike Commission, Highway Patrol dedicate Memorial Sign to Trooper Robert Perez, Jr. on National Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15

Ohio Turnpike Memorial Sign Program honors those killed and serves as reminder to motorists

BEREA (May 15, 2018) – May 15, 2000 is forever etched in the memories of the surviving family members of Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper Robert Perez, Jr.

Trooper Perez died three days after his patrol car was struck from behind by a minivan on the Ohio Turnpike in Erie County near US 250. Trooper Perez was 24 years old and was born in Lorain, where he was a lifelong resident.

The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission continued its Memorial Sign Program Dedication Ceremonies this week as part of its an effort to urge motorists to move over for first responders with flashing lights on highways. The Commission authorized the program last fall to honor 12 men who perished in work zones or while otherwise performing their duties for the Ohio Turnpike and Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP).

The Commission and Highway Patrol dedicated the Memorial Sign, which is located at Milepost 121 in Erie County in memory of Trooper Perez, Jr.

“We continue our efforts to prevent this type of tragedy from occurring ever again on the Ohio Turnpike,” said Randy Cole, Executive Director. “In fact, by working closely with our partners at the Highway Patrol on education and enforcement, there were no fatalities in turnpike work zones in 2017.”

“Policing is a noble profession, and Robert was a noble servant,” said Col. Paul A. Pride, Patrol Superintendent. “He faithfully represented the Patrol with great pride, dignity and honor. He was the 34th Ohio State Trooper killed in the line of duty, and his name, engraved on the black granite walls of our memorial in Columbus, will forever be in our hearts.”

The OSHP and Ohio Turnpike teamed up in 2017 to conduct and publicize aerial speed enforcement in and near work zones and is doing so again in 2018. Because of these efforts, together, the Patrol and Commission saw a 21.5 percent decrease in the number of traffic crashes in work zones in 2017 (from 349 to 274). This campaign also led to a 44 percent decrease in the number of injury crashes (from 84 to 51). Most importantly, there were no fatal crashes in work zones in 2017.

For more information:

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