Governor Signs Meth-Marijuana Bill and Legislation Increasing Number of Superior Court Judges


On June 2, 2006, Governor Frank H. Murkowski signed into law HB 149, a bill that recriminalizes the use and possession of marijuana and tightens up on activities related to the manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine.

At a bill-signing event at the Woodland Park Boys and Girls Club in midtown Anchorage, the Governor also signed SB 237, which increases the number of Superior Court judges in four areas of the state.

“We are signing these bills at the Boys and Girls Club because they will have a direct and lasting beneficial impact on the youths of Alaska,” Murkowski said. “The growing use of marijuana among teenagers and even younger kids cannot be ignored.

There is always a great temptation to do what other kids are doing, and that includes using marijuana. When the courts have said personal use of this drug is okay in Alaska that sends the wrong message to young people. We believe House Bill 149 will allow the state to successfully defend the outlawing of today’s stronger and more dangerous marijuana in the courts.”

The bill also makes it more difficult to acquire the ingredients to make methamphetamine and adds to the list of prohibited steroids.

“The meth problem is growing out of control in some parts of our state,” the Governor said, “but House Bill 149 takes a

(Governor, continued on page 2)
Governor.

continued from page 1

very important step to regain control and shut down the meth labs. Again, the use and manufacture of this insidious drug reaches far beyond the addicts who use it – they endanger their children and everyone else around them.”

The Governor also signed SB 237, which adds two new Superior Court judges each in Anchorage and Palmer, and one each in Kenai and Fairbanks.

“The courts have been overwhelmed with cases, particularly in Anchorage and Mat-Su, so the new Superior Court judges are a welcome addition,” Murkowski said. “And I believe it is only right that they be paid at a level commensurate with the very important work they do in our criminal justice system.”

Special Honors

Sgt. Lonnie Gonzales
2004 Division Trooper of the Year

Trp. Paul Fussey
Meritious Service Award

BO IV Troy Magnusen
Honorable Service Award

Trp. Brian Zeisel
2005 D Detachment Trooper of the Year

Vicky Naslund
2005 D Detachment Civilian Employee of the Year

Trp. Andrew Ballesteros
Outstanding Service Award

Trp. Gary Tellup
Outstanding Service Award

Sgt. Brian Wassmann
Outstanding Service Award

Sgt. Scott Johnson
Outstanding Service Award

Sue Rogers
Outstanding Service by Civilian Employee

Angie Wills
Outstanding Service by Civilian Employee

Maria Senra
Meritious Service Awards

Gary Napierewski
Meritious Service Awards

CSO Cheryl Gilmour
Outstanding Service Award

Sgt. Steve Adams
2005 B Detachment Trooper of the Year

Sgt. Craig Allen
2005 B Detachment Trooper of the Year

Jill Bybee
2005 B Detachment Civilian of the Year

Trp. Kim Sledgister
Commendation for Meritorious Service

Trp. Rick Pawlak
Commendation for Meritorious Service

Division of Alaska State Troopers
Keith Mallard Promoted to Captain


Capt. Mallard is a 13-year law enforcement veteran, 9 of those with AST. He joined the department in 1997, having experience with the Canyon County Sheriff’s Department, in Idaho, and the Saint Paul Police Department. He was initially stationed in D Detachment, Fairbanks Post, where he became qualified as, and acted as a Field Training Officer. In addition, he became the Department’s first Dual Purpose Canine Handler, as well as a member of SERT.

In 2000, Capt. Mallard transferred to a rural patrol position in C Detachment, at the Aniak Post. After two years in rural, he was promoted to Sergeant and in September of 2002, became the Post Supervisor for E Detachment, Girdwood Post.

In December 2004, Capt. Mallard was promoted to Lieutenant and became a member of the Director’s staff as the Legislative Liaison for the 2005 legislative session, and acted as the FTEP Oversight. In September 2005, he was assigned as the

Andrew Greenstreet Promoted

Colonel Julia Grimes announced the promotion of Sgt. Andrew Greenstreet to Lieutenant, ABADE, effective August 1, 2006.

Lt. Greenstreet has been in law enforcement for 12 years, the last 8 years of which have been with the Alaska State Troopers. He came to AST with 3 years prior experience with the Sitka Police Department and one year with the Palmer Police Department.

His AST assignments have included Palmer Post Patrol, the Mat-Su Narcotics Unit and Palmer GIU. He moved to Kotzebue, where he worked in both Rural Patrol and the Kotzebue WAANT Unit. The combination of his experience in an urban area as well as rural, prepared him to successfully compete for his current assignment as the Sergeant for the ABADE Major Offenders Unit. Lt. Greenstreet will step up to be the Deputy Commander of ABADE where he will directly supervise the daily operations of our statewide drug enforcement program.

Col. Grimes said, “Lt. Greenstreet has always shown strong commitment and has demonstrated his professionalism in each assignment he has held. He has worked to develop his leadership abilities and has proven that he is ready to take on more responsibility within the Division.”
Lt. Andy Greenstreet received his lieutenant badge from his wife, Trisha.

**Tony Wegryn Promoted**

Colonel Julia Grimes announced the promotion of **Trp. Paul “Tony” Wegryn** to Corporal, DPS Academy, Sitka, effective November 1, 2006.

Before joining the State Troopers, Cpl. Wegryn was in the U.S. Air Force, having been deployed twice to the Middle East. He joined the Alaska State Troopers February 23, 2003, attending ALET #29. On graduation from the Academy, he was assigned to B Detachment, Palmer Post, and his current assignment.

Cpl. Wegryn brings with him significant experience and training, which will help him to succeed in his new role as a full time DPS Instructor. He is a Firearms Instructor, Patrol Initiated Emergency Response Instructor, SERT Member and Field Training Officer.

Col. Grimes said, “The DPS Academy is a vital component in the overall success of the Division’s core mission. The Academy is charged not only for the daily supervision, training and evaluation of the ALET academy students, but also for being a lead in the overall statewide law enforcement training effort. I have every confidence that Cpl. Wegryn will help train, develop and prepare for the field, our future trooper recruits and other agency law enforcement officers.”

**Sven Skelle, William Connors, David Herrell, and Michael Duxbury Promoted To Sergeant**

Colonel Julia Grimes announced the following promotion:


**Trp. William P. Connors**, D Detachment, Northway Post to Sergeant, Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Wildlife Investigations Unit effective October 1, 2006;

**Trp. David L. Herrell**, B Detachment, Palmer Post to Sergeant; Anchorage Judicial Services effective September 1, 2006;

**Trp. Michael W. Duxbury**, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement, Anchorage Major Offenders Unit, to Sergeant; ABADE, Major Offenders Unit effective September 1, 2006.

**Sgt. Sven Skille**:

Trp. Skille began his law enforcement career September 17, 1993 attending the Training Academy in Sitka. His first patrol area was Anchorage in December 1993, transferring to Kodiak September 1998.

Trp. Skille attended the University of Alaska Anchorage and also Hamline University. He is a certified Methods of Instruction Instructor, Hunter Safety Instructor, DARE Officer, a Remington 870 Armorer, Vessel Operator and has a Commercial, Multi Engine Pilot’s License. His experience includes acting as the Kodiak OIC, and as a Field Training Officer for new recruits.

Sgt. Skille has prepared himself for his new role as a First Line Supervisor and brings considerable and varied experience to his new assignment. All of this will undoubtedly assist him in successfully meeting the challenges set before him as he further develops his leadership and supervisory skills.

**Sgt. William P. Connors**:

Sgt. Connors attended ALET 26 in August 2001. After graduation, he was assigned to the Division of Fish & Wildlife Protection, B Detachment, Palmer Post. In May 2005, he transferred to D Detachment, Northway Post where he is currently assigned.

In his new position, Sgt. Connors will supervise three trooper investigators and will manage the major resource crime investigations and covert operations of big game guiding and commercial fisheries.

The Wildlife Investigations Unit (WIU) is a vital component in the success of the Division’s core mission to protect our State’s Natural Resources through Wildlife Enforcement.

**Sgt. David Herrell**:

Sgt. Herrell attended ALET 28 in 2002 and after graduation, was assigned to B Detachment, Palmer Post. In 2003, he was assigned to the DUI Enforcement Team, and became a member of the South Central SERT Team.

In addition, Sgt. Herrell participated in the Motorcycle Unit, acted as a Field Training Officer and successfully completed the demanding Drug Recognition Expert training.

Sgt. Herrell will supervise the Prisoner Transport/Court Services Section.

**Sgt. Michael Duxbury**:

Sgt. Duxbury brings with him considerable and varied law enforcement experiences. He attended ALETS #5 as a self-paying law enforcement student. He

(Promotions, continued on page 4)
Promotions, continued from page 3

Grant Cooper received his badges from Colonel Julia Grimes on June 9, 2006. Cooper previously worked for the Klawock Police Department, and was a VPSO in the village of Hydaburg on Prince of Wales Island. He is the second lateral applicant hired under the new program.

Sgt. Duxbury was initially assigned as a Wildlife Enforcement Trooper when he completed study at the Academy. He served as a DPS Boat Operator and a member of the Tactical Dive Unit. He transferred to the ABWE Kodiak post in 1995, and in 2000, he moved into the Anchorage Warrant Fugitive Unit.

In 2001, he transferred to B Detachment patrol for a short period before being assigned, in 2002, to C Detachment, Aniak Post. In April 2004, he transferred back into Anchorage and was assigned to his current position.

Sgt. Duxbury’s new assignment will be as the Major Offenders Unit (MOU) supervisor, overseeing the enforcement efforts of four MOU Investigators and associated staff.

Successful Bids

Colonel Julia Grimes announce the following successful bidders:

Trp. Josh Bentz, Fairbanks, D Detachment, is the successful bidder for Haines, A Detachment; Trp. Phillip Duce, Palmer, B Detachment, is the successful bidder for Glennallen, B Detachment; Inv. Jason Fieser, Palmer, ABI, is the successful bidder for Dillingham, C Detachment; Trp. Anne Sears, Galena, D Detachment, is the successful bidder for Nome, C Detachment; Trp. James Sears, Galena, ABWE, is the successful bidder for Nome, ABADE/WAANT; Trp. Thomas Lowy, Klawock, ABWE, is the successful bidder for Cantwell, ABWE; Trp. Aaron Frenzel, Kodiak, ABWE, is the successful bidder for Juneau, ABWE; and Trp. Kevin Yancey, Bethel, C Detachment, is the successful bidder for Fairbanks, ABI.

Trp. Kris Hovila (left) and Trp. Stephen Shern were sworn in as troopers by Col. Julia Grimes. Trp. Hovila has previous work experience with the Division of Corrections and the Anchorage Airport Police. His new duty post is Cantwell. Trp. Shern previously worked for the Anchorage Airport Police. His new duty station is Ketchikan.

Trp. Kris Hovilla (left) received his badge from his wife Tammy; Trp. Stephen Shern received his badge from his wife Sharon.
Colonel Julia Grimes announced Terrance “Terry” Cosgrove as the new aircraft section supervisor. Mr. Cosgrove comes to State service from private industry where he served as an aircraft operations manager.

Mr. Cosgrove has been flying since 1977, and has military as well as extensive commercial experience as a civilian, including over 6000 hours of Alaska flight time.

His background includes airline experience as a DC 10 and 747 pilot for a large international airline, as well as experience as a check pilot for multiple jet aircraft. He also brings experience in the many aspects of owning and managing an air charter business.

Mr. Cosgrove will supervise the daily operations and will be responsible for the management of all DPS aviation services, including pilot training, mission scheduling, and maintenance of our fleet of single and multi-engine, reciprocating and turbine, fixed and rotary wing aircraft. He will also be responsible for the section’s budget and for ensuring we remain in compliance with DPS and FAA rules and regulations.

Mr. Cosgrove will lead the aircraft section’s capable staff of mechanics, pilots and administrative employees, and will report to Captain Steve Arlow, Aircraft Operations Commander.

Colonel Grimes said, “We feel very fortunate to have found such an outstanding individual to fill this critical position.”

Salute To Those In The Field

A salute to those who strive and attain success, and thank you to those in the field who have proven they are willing to provide the highest degree of professionalism each and every day.

Trp. Robert Nunley, Palmer Post, received a letter of appreciation for his compassion and courtesy in responding to a call for assistance for a hospice patient. He performed beyond his duty, after caring for the patient; he remained on scene to care for the patient’s animals.

Capt. Dennis Casanovas, on behalf of his staff, B Detachment, received a letter of appreciation from the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Restart Coordinator, for their valuable assistance and expertise in planning and implementing the Willow Restart of the Race.

A salute and thanks to those who have been mentioned, and to those not described, who continue to provide outstanding public safety services, and strive to maintain a proud and professional image.

Lt. Burke Waldron was recognized recently for being a "Dean’s Scholar" with straight As and for achieving the highest grade point average in the Undergraduate Program for the 115th Administrative Officers Course at Southern Police Institute.

Division of Statewide Services Director David Schade recognized several employees on his staff during an Employee Recognition Day. Left: Sandy Fuller received her 5-year pin; center: Bill Arndt received his 5-year pin; and right: Kathy Miller received her 5-year pin from Mr. Schade.
CSO August Bergman received his 5-year pin from Col. Julia Grimes.

Trp. Nathan Andrew received his 5-year pin during an Employee Recognition Day. His family attending including (left) Sheryl Adams, ABADE, Andrew's mother; Heather, his wife; Nathaniel and Peter, his sons.

Mel Nading received his 5-year pin from Col. Julia Grimes.

Kelly Howell received her 10-year pin from David Schade.

Matt Timkin received his 10-year pin from David Schade.

Paula Goforth received her 15-year pin from Col. Julia Grimes.


Gene Wilcox, Aircraft Section, received his 15-year pin from Col. Julia Grimes.

Left: Nancy Wojnowski received her 20-year pin from David Schade; center, Rick Judd received his 25-year pin from Schade; and above, Lt. James Helgoe received a farewell gift from Col. Julia Grimes as he transfers from the Director’s Staff to the Public Safety Academy.
Sgt. Barry Ingalls, Supervisor of the Warrant-Fugitive Unit of Anchorage Judicial Services, has completed 40 years of service to the Alaska State Troopers and retired effective July 18, 2006. He was the division’s Most Senior Trooper. It is a description Sgt. Ingalls accepted with pride.

Sgt. Ingalls retired from the U. S. Army Reserves as a First Sergeant with over 29 years of service. He began his career with the Alaska State Police in 1966, in Anchorage. He attended the Alaska State Police Academy and was then stationed in Anchorage.

From July 1966 to May 1973, he was assigned to Patrol, Judicial Services, Warrants, and Governor’s Security. He was temporarily assigned to Amchitka Island in 1967, and was the first trooper stationed at that location.

In 1973, Sgt. Ingalls was transferred to Glennallen, and in 1981 assigned OIC for the Glennallen Post. In 1982, he was promoted to Corporal and transferred to “F” Detachment, Anchorage Judicial Services as Warrant Section Supervisor.

In 1985, the Warrant Section was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Bureau and redesignated as the Warrant Fugitive Travel Unit. He continued to be Supervisor of the unit. In 1991, Ingalls was promoted to Sergeant. He continued to supervise the same unit he had for more than eighteen years.

In 1996, Sgt. Ingalls received a Certificate of Appreciation and State pin from Governor Tony Knowles in recognition of his 30 years as an Alaska State Trooper. Sgt. Ingalls is the first and probably the only one who will have served as a trooper for 40 years.

Sgt. Ingalls is a member of the Alaska Peace Officers Association, past president of the Anchorage Chapter and currently a board member. He is also past president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, and a current board member of the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers.

Sgt. Ingalls was honored during a retirement banquet on July 21, in the Bill Sheffield Railroad Depot of the Ted Steven’s Anchorage International Airport.

The festive celebration began with a hosted buffet and was followed by the presentation of awards and gifts to honor Sgt. Ingalls and recognize his 40 years of service to the State and to the Division of Alaska State Troopers.

Not to be left out, fellow troopers and retirees, and friends took the opportunity to roast Sgt. Ingalls with tall tales and stories of their experiences with the sergeant, many beginning with "I remember the time...", or "Barry probably doesn't want you to know this but...". It was an evening not soon forgotten.
Capt. Keith Mallard, Commander, ABADE; and Lt. Tony April, Deputy Commander, C Detachment were selected to attend the FBINA 226 Session in Quantico, Virginia. Lt. April has given us an unusual glimpse of their activities with his personal journal. Their graduation will be held on September 15. These are just a few excerpts from Lt. April’s journal:

“I made it here safe and sound and things are great so far. I have met people from all over the world and they all have stories to tell. They range from everything you can imagine. Texas PD arrested a person named “Soda Pop” for an assault. Yes, his was name “Soda Pop”. New York Police Department is scheduling a trip to New York for some R&R and the cost runs about $350, which includes food, lodging, travel, gifts etc. They can only take 100 people so they will draw names to see who will go. My roommate Tom Anderson works for the Washington Parish Sheriff’s Department in Franklinton, LA. He is an older guy from the south with a deep southern draw and he tells great stories. He is funny!

There are 260 “NA” students here and we are broken into five sections, each section has about 52 students. I am assigned to Session 226th and Section 3, staying in Building 5 located in the Madison Dorm, room 305, telephone 703-632-2304.

I am taking the following classes. All are three credit classes except for Fitness in Law Enforcement, which is two credits. Gangs, Developmental Issues, and Criminal Behavior; Conflict Resolution for Law Enforcement Executives; Fitness in Law Enforcement, this class is mandatory; Overview of Forensic Science for Police Administrators and Managers; Labor Law Issues for Law Enforcement Administrators; and Management for Law Enforcement.

I have several term/research papers to write, which can be stressful but I have some great people to help me with my research. In addition, I have several projects including a couple class presentations. The good thing about being here is that everybody is willing to help each other. We have chiefs from large and small departments, same with the sheriff’s departments. If you need help just ask.

“We are in our second week and things are still going well. Last night we had “Flag Night” this is where each student, including the FBI students, stand underneath his or her state flag and talk about their respective state. It was great! Keith and I had our PT test this week the scores were not bad for two old men. We will keep the scores a secret until we get back. I completed my first paper on Conflict Resolution; we should know my grade tomorrow. Both Keith and I were selected for the New York trip, which is July 28-30. It should be a great trip from what we were told. Well, I need to get ready for our first challenge run (1.8 miles) the name of the run is “Not in Kansas Anymore.”

“Another week is done (3rd week) and things are still going well for Keith and I. This has been a busy week starting with a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. The museum was a revelation; so if you ever get a chance to visit DC, make plans to visit the Holocaust. We also visited the United States Capital along with the rest of the NA class. Both were great tour. On Wednesday evening, all the NA students visited the National Law Enforcement Memorial in DC to show our support for our fallen brothers and sisters. The service was well done! I got my paper back (Conflict Resolution), not bad for my first paper so the pressure is on for the next paper. I started working on my midterm paper, which required lots of research and reading. I am doing my paper on DNA, looking at the conviction (Sexual Assault) rates. I am also looking at the use of DNA to exonerate people. I may have bit off more than I can chew with this subject but I will survive. The paper needs to be written using the American Psychological Association’s (APA) style format.

We completed the second challenge “Tin Man Trot” run (2.6 miles). The temperature was 81 degrees and humidity 88 degrees. We had a couple of guest speakers from the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime and the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program.

New York was a blast! Here is a list of some of the things we did: toured NYPD SOD (Aviation, K-9, bomb squad, ESC, CSU), toured NYC Police Museum, visited Coney Island Beach/Boardwalk.

(A Look Inside, continued on page 9)
A Look Inside, continued from page 8

rode one of the oldest roller coasters in the US (the Cyclone), ate a famous Nathan’s Frank hotdog, saw NYPD Mounted Police, toured NYPD HQ including the Comp stat room, and the Real Time Crime Center, toured the 86th floor of the Empire State Building – Great view, viewed the site where the World Trade Center stood, and took the NYCFD boat ride toured Statue of Liberty, and NYC skyline. Kudos to NYFD, they gave us the red carpet treatment, which included a police escort.

Now in our 4th week and things are still going good for Keith and me. This has been a busy week for us. I have a midterm and two papers due tomorrow. The papers are done. Last night was Enrichment Night and the speaker was Gordon Graham. He talked about Risk Management. “If it’s predictable, it’s preventable.” What a true statement. He’s a great speaker. Well we completed another challenge (30 minutes) “The Cyclone”. Temperature at the time of the challenge was 82 degree, heat index 89 degree and humidity 78 degrees. We have a heat wave. Yesterday heat index was 106 degrees and the day before was 105 degrees.

Today I was elected Section 3 class President. To say that I was surprised would be an understatement. This goes to show that people see things in you that you don’t see in yourself meaning your leadership ability. Now the pressure is on, next week each section’s president will give a five to seven minute speech to the entire NA class. The students will then vote for a session rep who will be the spokesperson at graduation.

Week 5: We completed another challenge “Lion’s Leap” run (3.1 miles). Keith and I are doing well academically. Last night was Enrichment Night. The speaker was Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant (Retired). Durant wrote a book called “In the Company of Heroes”, which became a New York Times Bestseller.

From the Desk of Chaplain Jerry O. Norman

(907) 345-2813 H, (907) 250-9659 C chaplainjerrynorman@msn.com

Once again the seasons are changing. The feeling of fall is in the air. People are thinking of the final preparations before winter, and we all anticipate the coming of the cold weather and long nights.

As we look at the issues that seem to be re-occurring, it is necessary to keep our lives and attitudes in clear focus. We all know that as the winter progresses, we will see increases in the usual crime scene: Domestic Violence, Alcoholism, abuses and so on. I encourage each of you to drop back and take a hard look at how these issues affect us individually and collectively. Facing the results of these issues causes stress at some level to each one of us.

With stress comes the possibility of impaired judgement in every area of our lives. It is also a starter for poor health issues. We need to guard our minds and our lives against these deteriorating situations.

My prayer for each of you is that the Peace of God that far exceeds our understanding will keep and guard your heart and mind daily.

I trust that each of you will do some daily, personal reflection on yourselves and your families. Guard yourselves and let the love of God shine in and through you. I am praying daily for each one of you.

Have a beautiful and prosperous fall season. Be safe!

Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement

Annual Clerk’s Conference

On June 7, 2006 the ABWE clerks met in Anchorage to welcome new Headquarters Clerk Serafine “Sera” Bourne and discuss bureau issues. The two-day meeting was very successful. Thank you F.O.A.S.T. for allowing us the use of your facility!

(Back from left) Vicki Maxell (Northern Region), Kerry Bateman (Southwest Region), Allison Barkhurst (Mat-Su Region), Shery Glasen (Kenai/PWS Region), Shelley Cubbedge (Southwest Region), Diana Brost (Southwest Region), Dena Bronson (Kenai/PWS Region), and Carolyn Hall (Southeast Region). (Front from left) Serafine Bourne (Headquarters), and Audrey Ayay-Dehart (Mat-Su Region).

(ABWE, continued on page 10)
**So long, farewell…**

Dale Minnicks retired from his position with the Wildlife Safeguard Board on March 31, 2006. The Wildlife Safeguard Program is similar to Crime Stoppers, but is geared towards the protection of Alaskan Fish and Wildlife. Tips are called in on an 800 number hotline (1-800-478-3377) and are immediately directed to the nearest ABWE trooper. Convictions result in rewards paid out to the informant, sometimes as high as $1,000. Minnicks began his volunteer work with Wildlife Safeguard in 1985. In 1991, he became the chairman of the board and has held this position faithfully until March 31.

**The Tech’s Tinker’s Tool Belt**

Philip Swimeley, a wonderful and talented PST, had one of those really significant birthdays recently (no it wasn’t 55 or 65). To celebrate the occasion, many of his friends donated things that were useful but sometimes difficult to carry around, especially on the job. To help him out his coworkers put together this very special belt for his birthday that only he was allowed to wear. You can tell by the surprised look on his face just how pleased he was with their thoughtfulness.

The items on this belt include a boat bumper, a coil of rope (aka line for those in SE AK), a roll of TP, a roll of duct tape, a crescent wrench, a whistle, lighter and even a mousetrap. Happy Birthday Phil, and may you have many many more.

**Welcome to Palmer**

August 1, 2006, was a day of change for the Mat-Su Region. Transferring into Palmer Post were Trps. Jim Pagel and Nathan Sheets. Pagel moved into town from Aniak, Sheets was with ABADE in Nome prior to this job. Both troopers are adjusting well to their new location and jobs.

**Southwest Region Personnel Recognized**

Three SW region personnel were recently recognized for their superior performance and service to the citizens of Alaska. On May 31, Capt. Steve Arlow and Lt. Hans Brinke traveled to Kodiak to present Sgt. Lonnie Gonzales with the 2004 Division Trooper of the Year award, and to present Trp. Paul, Fussey with the Meritorious Service Award. Sgt. Gonzales was recognized for his superior performance and leadership while serving as the acting Southwest Region commander for 2004. His superior performance and leadership was especially praiseworthy when considered in context with the major organizational changes that occurred during his watch: the creation of the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement to replace the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection, and the enlargement of the SW Region.

Trp. Paul Fussey was recognized for superior performance and actions on May 2, 2004 while responding to and rescuing two hunters whose inflatable raft had been upended by a strong gust of wind. The two hunters were thrown into the water. Trp. Fussey responded to the overturned skiff. One of the hunters was under the inflatable and was using his
From June 19, 2006, to July 21, 2006, ABWE successfully conducted the Department’s largest statewide enforcement program, the Bristol Bay Salmon Enforcement Program. Seventeen troopers and 14 civilians from around the state participated in this year’s program using three major patrol vessels and seven aircraft. This year’s Bristol Bay Team contended with over 1500 commercial fishing boats, approximately 930 set net sites, as well as 1375 sport fishers. Overall, the Bristol Bay team made 5154 contacts, and issued 303 citations and 417 warnings. Approximately $300,750 in fines was awarded with $130,250 suspended, 18,701 pounds of fish were seized, and one fishing boat was seized. Congratulations to the Bristol Bay Team for a job well done!

Kodiak Gets a New Sergeant

On July 16, 2006, Trp. Sven Skille was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to Kodiak as the program coordinator for the Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) between the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska State Troopers. Welcome aboard Sven.

Col. Julia Grimes and Commissioner Bill Tandeske recognized BOIV Troy Magnusen with an Honorable Service Award.

On May 8, 2006, BO IV Magnusen was on watch aboard the P/V Stimson approximately 12 miles east of Dutch Harbor. At 11:40 a.m., he noticed something odd floating in the water approximately a mile away, near Priest Rock by Cape Kalekta. BO IV Magnusen chose not to ignore this anomaly, but instead chose to investigate it using the vessel’s binoculars, whereupon he determined the anomaly to be an overturned small vessel with a person stranded on top of the hull.

Because of BO IV Magnusen’s alert watch and superior professionalism, a life was saved. The victim was severely hypothermic and had no means to signal his distress. BO IV Magnusen’s alert watch was the only reason this man was saved.

Col. Julia Grimes and Commissioner Bill Tandeske recognized BOIV Troy Magnusen with an Honorable Service Award.

Sgt. Glenn Godfrey’s family stopped by the office with a new addition. Jo-Jean (aka Jo-Jo), 1 year old, recently joined the Godfrey family bringing the family member total to 10! Jo-Jean joins Dorian, 12; Alli, 12; Olivia, 9; Jeremy, 9; Ben, 7; Kassie, 7; and Jacob, 2. Godfrey’s wife, Tracy, is a busy full time mom. She home schools all of their children and still finds time to make Godfrey’s lunch! The post employees look forward to visits from the happy Godfrey clan.

(ABWE, continued on page 12)
ABWE, continued from page 11

Meet the Godfrey Clan: Sgt. Glenn Godfrey, dad; Tracy, mom; and Jo-Jean (aka Jo-Jo), Dorian, Alli, Olivia, Jeremy, Ben, Kassie, and Jacob.

Lt. Steve Bear, Kenai-Prince William Sound Region, received the Alaska Peace Officers Association Statewide Member of the Year Award for 2006.

Lt. Steve Bear humbly received the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) Statewide Member of the Year Award for 2006. Lt. Bear is a very active APOA member always putting forth his best efforts to assist in any community event that APOA sponsors. He is well liked and respected not only by his peers but also within the community. Congratulations Steve, you rightly deserve this recognition.

Trp. Brett Gibbens

Trp. Brett Gibbens from McGrath received the prestigious Shikar-Safari Club International outstanding “Wildlife Officer of the Year” award for 2005. A principal purpose for which the Safari Club International was organized was to protect, enhance, and preserve wildlife species by encouraging and promoting the enforcement of conservation laws and regulations.

Trp. Gibbens has been stationed in McGrath for the past three years with prior duty stations in Galena and Fairbanks. He has been a State Trooper since 1977. As the sole Trooper posted in McGrath, he is responsible for approximately 33,500 square miles of the state. Patrol of this vast region requires that he utilize the state’s aircraft, boats, and snow machines. During the 2005 calendar year, Trp. Gibbens was active in enforcing wildlife regulations in a large portion of western Alaska that ranges from the lower Yukon River near St. Mary’s to Farewell in the Alaska Range as well as the Bristol Bay region near Dillingham.

Trp. Gibbens lives in McGrath with his wife Holly and their four children. When not at work, he and his entire family enjoy the outdoors and are involved in several community activities within the town of McGrath.

Trp. Mark Fineses and his father, James, are “Cover Guys”.

Along with Trp. Jim Pagel making the Palmer paper on Moose Antlers, we have the fine Trp. Mark Fineses and his father in Cabela’s Master Catalog fall 2006.

Last, but definitely not least, ABWE Headquarters would like to welcome back (from the Director’s staff) Sandy Belcher! We missed you!

Welcome back, Sandy!
AST Detachment News
Alaska Bureau of Investigation
Compiled by Jennifer M. Griggs

Well, it has been quite sometime since I sat down to write about all the happenings with ABI... we are all very busy and doing our level best to get the bad guys!!

Sgt. Dallas Massie retired on June 29th, which was also his birthday. A wonderful party was held for him at Evangelo’s in Wasilla. Attendance was great and everyone had a great time. Capt. John Papasodora was very entertaining in his impromptu role as emcee. Dallas’ wife, Alice is a wonderfully gregarious woman and I’m sure she will be keeping Dallas very busy! It was obvious that Dallas is well loved and respected by all and his experience (and of course his smiling face) will be sorely missed. However, retirement must be pretty lucrative because he showed up at Palmer Post sporting a brand new Dodge pickup truck. Rumor has it the truck was a special gift from Alice!

ABI Anchorage said goodbye to ACIII Stacy Stowe in June. She and her husband, Doug headed off to New York and Doug’s new job. We have heard from her and she is keeping very busy and doing well.

Stacy Stowe said farewell to DPS in June on her way to a new career in New York.

After much searching and a stringent selection process, we “acquired through legitimate means” (i.e. stole) Molly Engdahl from C Detachment. Engdahl comes to us with great experience and a willingness to attack any challenge sent her way. Welcome to the team, Molly!

To round out our Anchorage Clerical staff, we welcome ACII Kelly Allman-Chatterley. She is settling in and working hard. She comes to us from a background working with Homeland Security. We are very happy she chose to come help us out. Glad to have you with us, Kelly!

We bid farewell to another of our wonderful clerical staff. ACII Laura Mote of the Soldotna office left us in July to go on to new challenges. She takes with her all our best wishes for success and happiness in her new position.

We are starting to feel like a full team once again with the arrival of Invs. Glenn Charles and Robert Welch who join us in our Wildlife Investigations Unit. They come to us from Juneau ABWE and we are very happy to have them here with us. WIU Sgt. Bill Conners will be joining the team in October from his current assignment in Northway. We are looking forward to his arrival and the first time our WIU has been up to staff in quite some time.

We are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of Keira Tae Womack, although not as anxiously as Inv. Angela Womack and her husband Trp. Todd Womack. Keira should make her arrival the end of August! Inv. Glenn Charles and his wife, Amanda, are expecting their first bundle of joy! Alexander Owen should be making his appearance any day now. We should have a few pics of Keira and Alex next go ’round! Congratulations to all the new parents! (ABI, continued on page 14)

Sgt. Dallas Massie received his retirement plaque from Col. Julia Grimes.

There is much to report in our ‘Hello’ and ‘Goodbye’ categories:
Inv. Jason Fieser from Mat-Su Property Crimes Unit will be heading to Dillingham and we all wish him the best. Our loss is C Detachment and Dillingham’s gain. C Detachment also will have the pleasure of working with Inv. Kirsten Hansen who will be transferring from ABI Fairbanks to Emmonak. Hansen will be sorely missed however the west coast will be gaining a very good Trooper and Investigator.

Inv. Jeremy Rupe, TDU, a.k.a. Angel of the Deep, assisted in recovery of a vehicle as a part of an investigation in August.
ABI, continued from page 13

In other news:

In addition to all of the other wonderful things he does for ABI, Inv. Jeremy Rupe of ABI in Fairbanks is also a member of the Tactical Dive Unit. On August 2, 2006, he was requested by D Detachment to assist with an investigation: a vehicle had just been pushed into a nearby lake by a bunch of juveniles and there was suspected criminal activity. The vehicle was leaking oil and gas into the lake, and posing an environmental hazard as well. Rupe’s diving skills were put to the test as he did a search of the interior of the vehicle in murky water. With about 12 inches of visibility, he could barely see in front of his face. He quickly determined that the trunk was locked and the vehicle had to be removed to do a complete search. Trp. Michael Wery arranged for a nearby loader to be used, along with 45 feet of chain.

Inv. Rupe expertly placed the chain on the vehicle, allowing easy extraction from the lake. The trunk was popped, no bodies inside, and the fish were safe from petroleum-product-induced death. Yeah, team!

September will be a little more busy than usual. ABI was asked to host the fall conference for the Association of State-wide Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA). ASCIA is composed of members from 42 state criminal investigative agencies who all share common challenges. The Alaska conference will be held at the Alyeska Prince Hotel from September 24th through the 27th. We are anticipating investigators from approximately 30 states will be there. There will be lots of exciting things going on and will be a great chance to meet the key members of State investigative agencies from across the nation, share ideas and maybe even solve a few problems. More on the conference next time!

Well that’s all the news I was able to gather. Hope the summer has been good for everyone and that the coming fall treats you all well.
A Detachment, continued from page 14

Ketchikan RDIII Shelly Dunn received her 10-year pin and certificate from Captain Kurt Ludwig.

During his going away party, Trp. Pat Nelson received a plaque from Capt Kurt Ludwig.

Trp. Patrick Nelson transferred to Palmer Post after 2 years service at Ketchikan Post. He has been looking forward to being closer to family in the Anchorage area.

(At right) Ketchikan ABWE Public Safety Tech Charlie Johnson pulled the P/V Compliance. Johnson was the mastermind behind the decorating and organization of the vessel for the parade.

Did you know...

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn’t added until 5 years later.
**Recognition:**

Sgt. Duane Stone and the Glennallen Troopers were thanked in the Copper River Record for their assistance in making the Copper Valley Community July 4th Independence Day Celebration a success.

Capt. Dennis Casanovas presented Sgt. Duane Stone with recognition from the Copper River Record.

Sgt. Steve Adams and Sgt. Craig Allen were co-recipients of the 2005 B Detachment Troopers of the Year award.

Jill Bybee received the 2005 B Detachment Civilian of the Year award.

Trp. Kim Sledgister received a Commendation for Meritorious Service for her part in saving the life of a suicidal woman.

Trp. Rick Pawlak received a Commendation for Meritorious Service for saving a child that had wandered from home.

**Additions and Subtractions:**

Trp. Daniel Sadloske transferred to Dillingham from Glennallen Post.

Trp. Daniel Sadloske transferred to Anchorage Judicial Services.


Trp. Rick Pawlak and K9 Custa have moved on to Anchorage ABADE/MOU from Big Lake.

**Talkeetna Bluegrass Enforcement Effort**

A team of 12 Alaska State Troopers, along with Court Service Officers and civilian personnel, spent more than 482 hours, August 4 through 6, working in and around the Talkeetna Blue Grass Festival.

During the three-day festival, troopers made seven arrests for Driving Under the Influence (one of which was for felony DUI), six arrests for outstanding warrants, and issued nine Uniform Summons and Complaints (USCs) for Minor Consuming Alcohol and 11 USCs for Driving With License Revoked/Suspended/Canceled.

According to Sgt. Walter Blajeski, supervisor of the Talkeetna post, who oversaw the enforcement effort, “Everything went very smoothly both on the roads and on the festival grounds. The organizers of the event did an excellent job in keeping most of those who consumed alcohol off the road. Both the organizers and the attendees are to be commended for keeping the festival a safe, fun event.” All five troopers from Talkeetna, along with the four-member (B Detachment, continued on page 17)
But no day repeated itself.”

Long days, stress and adrenaline rushes, less varied job: “It was hard work and but what caught her attention was an end-

of building a retirement with the state, Thoughtful about her future, she liked the great deal!”

to transfer from place to place—what a to see all of Alaska because I’m just going early 1981, she thought, “Wow. I’m going of 1980, and then was asked if she wanted Transportation in Anchorage in November

State of Alaska with the Department of

FALL 2006

B Detachment, continued from page 16

Alaska State Trooper DUI Enforcement Team from Palmer, two State Troopers riding Harley Motorcycles, and a trooper/ K-9 team from Big Lake worked during the Festival. Troopers made 338 traffic stops resulting in 257 citations. Of these, 108 were for speeding, 5 for not wearing seatbelts, 42 for equipment violations, and 65 for failure to show proof of insurance. Only one motor vehicle collision was re-
ported between Houston and Trapper Creek during the weekend and it was a damage only collision, which resulted in a DUI arrest early Monday morning near

Houston. During last year’s festival, troopers made a total of 19 arrests: 8 on outstanding warrants, 4 for DUI (1 Felony), 6 for drug offenses, plus various other misdemeanor and felony arrests, and issued seven USCs for Driving Without a License.

“I’d Do It Again”

Lynda Horn was interviewed by Mary Odden, Copper River Record

Lynda Horn retired from the Alaska State Troopers dispatch office last month, after twenty-five and a half years as an information center, a communications link and lifeline for Copper Valley residents and visitors. In those years she heard dumb questions, secrets, cries for help. Twice in her career, its saddest moments, the people on the other end of the line were dying. Dispatching is a very strange but very real holding of hands.

PHOTO COURTESY SGT. DUANE STONE

When Lynda started working for the State of Alaska with the Department of Transportation in Anchorage in November of 1980, and then was asked if she wanted to move out to work for the troopers in early 1981, she thought, “Wow. I’m going to see all of Alaska because I’m just going to transfer from place to place—what a great deal!”

But when she got to Glennallen she liked it, and liked the job, so plan #1 went out the window and she stayed put. Thoughtful about her future, she liked the idea of building a retirement with the state, but what caught her attention was an endlessly varied job: “It was hard work and long days, stress and adrenaline rushes, but no day repeated itself.”

Linda Woodcock was the lead dis-
patcher then, and 5-6 dispatchers shared the jobs of communicating with troopers in the field and supervising offices, taking calls, preparing reports, documenting ar-
rests and actions that would go on to the court system. In those days, a clerk came into help with the mountains of documenta-
tion that keep an AST office functioning.

Since the 1980s, the workload has not diminished, but a series of budget cuts and attempts at centralized dispatching eventually cut the Glennallen office to one dispatcher—Lynda Horn.

Her days have often been long, and in-
cluded conversations with people via phone, written statements, radios, and not infrequently as a jail guard. She met great people, and interesting people, she says, and sometimes they were even the same people. “But I also met more murderers and thieves than I ever expected to meet in my life. And they talked to me. People will tell you anything when they are in jail.”

If your humor is fully operational, there’s plenty to enjoy in the phone calls alone. Anonymous phone calls to trooper’s office are frequent, but after 20 years in the valley Lynda recognized nearly everyone’s voices. Sometimes she’d slip and answer the caller with his or her name, “You bet, Bill—I’m writing this down.”

Many visitors to the region call the Troopers, and Lynda made respectful an-
wers to people who asked her when they could pick rocks in Chitina, and when does the sap run. But one day at the post office she was asked, “Where does this mail box go?” as if mail from Glennallen could not possibly reach the outside world. On that day her laughing got the best of her and she answered, “The mailbox doesn’t go anywhere. It sits right here.”

An unofficial benefit of being the Trooper dispatcher and having all that contact with people, Lynda says, is that she met two husbands through her work. “I kept the best one,” she says—Randy Jones, who was working as Ahtna custo-
dian and occasional jail guard for the Troopers. “I swept her off her feet,” says ex-broomhandler Randy, which gives you an idea of why those two get along so well.

Lynda underplays her importance at the Trooper office, saying only that “they got their money out of me.” But Sgt. Duane Stone says it more directly if you ask him about whether or not DPS will choose to replace Lynda Horn with another dispatcher.

“You could not replace Lynda with just one person,” he says. “Her local knowl-
dge and knowledge of our system are more than several people could replace.”

For Lynda, though, it was “time to go.” Son Robert is 15 years old and she wants to fulfill a promise to him and the old promise to herself “to travel and see this country—the capital and its monuments, the Grand Canyon—there’s so much to see.”

As for spending the last 25 years in Glennallen, Lynda says she’s very glad she was here, and working as a dispatcher for the Alaska State Troopers: “I’d do it again. If I had to do it over, this is what I would have done.”

(Reprinted by permission from the Copper River Record.)
C Detachment News

Bristol Bay Fall 2006

By Sgt. Jeff Laughlin

“Chamai” from Bristol Bay! Summer is always the busiest time of year in this region and this year was no exception. Perhaps the most uplifting story of the summer was the return of Trp. Justin Rodgers and his wife Erika to Dillingham. They returned home on July 22nd and to help welcome them, the community got together and enjoyed a Sunday afternoon barbecue at the Dillingham airport. Many folks brought food to share and all had a smile or a hug for Justin and Erica. Justin is not back to work yet but just seeing him “getting around” town is a relief to all. Welcome home and keep up with your physical therapy!

Dillingham post had some staffing changes over the summer. Our clerk in Dillingham, Jeanette Spofford, moved to Anchorage and is now at C Detachment Headquarters. We miss having her here in Dillingham but she’s only a fax or phone call away and still very involved in providing support for the Dillingham office. In fact, on August 1st, we hired Jessica Baumer as the new Dillingham clerk and we were fortunate to have Jeanette come back out to provide Jessica with some training. More importantly, Jeanette was able to provide the staff with a homemade cheesecake! We’re already trying to come up with an excuse to have Jeanette come back out for more treats - I mean, “training.”

Some of you may have caught on to the identity of our new clerk, Jessica. As I write this article, she is on leave, but when she returns, her new name will be Jessica Sims. That’s right, Jessica and Trp. “Moose” Sims were married on August 12th down on the Kenai Peninsula. Congratulations!

Some may wonder how “Moose” and Jessica will get along, once they start working together. Well, as it turned out, we’ll never know because “Moose” had a change to his name as well. “Moose” is now “Investigator” Sims and as of August, he is the first ever Dillingham assigned Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team member (WAANT). We will miss having him as part of the uniformed rural enforcement team but he will now focus primarily on drug and alcohol issues in this region, a much-needed asset. Congratulations on your transfer into the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement.

Trp. Dan Sadloske, formerly of the Glennallen Post, has arrived for duty in Dillingham and has already gone on small aircraft and helicopter flights around the bay. All the modes of travel that make service in rural Alaska exciting and unique! This is no small feat if you know Dan, considering the fact that he is not a small guy. Dan’s wife Pam has stayed behind to finish her seasonal employment but we’re looking forward to welcoming her to Dillingham.

(Continued on page 19)
Dillingham at the end of September. Dan has proved himself to be a good addition to the team and it’s been overheard that Sgt. Jeff Laughlin is happy to hand over the title of the “Eldest Trooper in Dillingham.”

As for Trp. Bump he kept busy at work but managed to get away from the grind and “put a hurt” on the local Arctic Char population at Aleknagik Lake. There is also a story going around that during one of those trips, he “put a hurt” on his outboard’s propeller as he tried to cross a gravel bar in a less than adequate depth of water. I understand he is now a proponent of jet drives or better yet, airplanes!

Sgt. Laughlin returned from his time away at the Southern Police Institute and has spent nearly all of his off-duty time chasing fish in his family’s new Thunderjet boat. Fishing has been phenomenal this year and is yet another reason everyone should experience “life in rural Alaska.” No crowds and fish-a-plenty!

Trp. John Holm from King Salmon had a “different” kind of summer this year. Rather than work in and around the King Salmon area, John came over to Dillingham and spent several weeks working from the P/V Woldsad in Nushagak Commercial Fishing District. Trp. Holm could be seen bouncing around the bay in one of the small patrol boats, working long hours, wearing a float coat and a huge smile. John enjoyed the work so much, it is said that he will be volunteering to work with ABWE folks again next season.

Trp. Marc Hendrickson did a great job handling things at the King Salmon Post while Trp. Holm was away. Marc was able to get out and spend a lot of time in the villages and is even happier now that his family has joined him in King Salmon. We’re all hoping that Marc will soon start working at building flight hours on his quest at becoming a state pilot in King Salmon.

Finally, we’d like to welcome Trp. John Groover to Iliamna. Trp. Groover and his family moved into Iliamna at the end of July and although John transferred to the ABWE position in Iliamna, we expect he’ll be helping out with everything until the vacant patrol position is filled.
Sadie Goes to Minnesota

In mid June, Kotzebue Post was made aware of a very small orphaned brown bear cub wondering the City landfill. Troopers and Fish and Game kept a close eye on the cub until a suitable facility was located to take the cub. It is unclear how the cub came to be orphaned. Neither the sow nor its remains were ever located.

On June 25th, Trooper Grant Miller and Investigator John Brown captured the cub with the assistance of their families. Inv. Brown and his wife Mary cared for the cub in their home. The cub was ultimately named “Sadie” after a nearby creek where she was located. Fish and Game authorized the home care and the cub’s health and diet was monitored daily by Jim Dau of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The cub was severely dehydrated and weak when first captured. She remained in the Brown’s home several days due to many airline-scheduling delays.

All of the Kotzebue Troopers and their families volunteered their time and supplies to help care for this little orphan and supervised short visits with local residents to provide information and education about orphaned and injured wildlife.

Sadie was nearly destroyed but in the final hour, the Minneapolis Zoo came through. On June 29, Sadie was flown to Anchorage where she was met by Alaska Great Land representatives who cared for her until she was flown to her permanent home at the Minneapolis Zoo. Sadie was fed goat’s milk, baby formula and cereal, applesauce, and eggs round the clock. Her little appetite was insatiable, her screams deafening, her smells less than pleasant, and her temper well intact. Although adorable, she was quite a handful. Through the persistent efforts of Kotzebue ADF&G and Troopers, this little bear got a happy ending.

Update: It was later learned, not only is Sadie doing well at Alaska Great Land. She has her own yard to play in, and a new playmate, “Haines”, an orphaned bear from Haines, Alaska. They will both remain in Alaska for about a year, then move to the Minnesota Zoo’s “Russia’s Grizzly Coast” exhibit which is scheduled to open in 2008.

Kotzebue Post celebrated Independence Day with Cubby Bear again this year. Troopers had 2 vehicles in the parade and nearly all the troops and their families came out to ride with Cubby. Inv. John Brown’s son Patrick climbed into costume this year and thrilled the little parade goers with plenty of Cubby hugs and candy. Pictured are Trp. Kevin Baker, his wife Lisa and son Cameron, Trp. Grant Miller, his wife Keri, son Wyatt and daughter Raegan, Cubby of course, Inv. Brown’s wife Mary, niece Ashley and daughter Danielle, Trp. Eric Lorring’s son Gage and daughter Emily, neighborhood friend Kiolauni, and last but not least, Trp. Eric Lorring’s wife Carrie.
On July 4, 2006, the 3rd annual Unalaska Public Safety Fair was a rousing success, despite nasty weather. The fair was geared to public safety in all forms, including boating safety, bicycle safety, home and fire safety, just to mention a few. There were numerous booths and the kids were given a puzzle piece. When they collect a piece at each station and when they completed it, they were given a special prize. There was food and fun stuff for the kids, and Safety Bear and Sparky made their rounds, greeting all. Trp. Ralf Lysdahl enjoyed putting on the big bear costume, but was relieved to have “hydration breaks”.

D Detachment News

**By Sue Rogers, AST Fairbanks**

It’s been an unusually eventful summer so far! We’ve all been busy as usual and this year it’s rain instead of smoke! We’ve added several new members in D Detachment and had two retirements. A new tradition was started with our first “Family Fun Day” in June and then in July we had the crew from Extreme Home Makeover in town.

**Sgt. Dave Drvenkar Retires!**

On June 17, 2006, family, friends and coworkers gathered in the Jade Room at the Fairbanks Princess Lodge to honor Dave Drvenkar as he retired after 34 years of law enforcement service with the State of Alaska. Dave’s wife, Carla Drvenkar, was presented with flowers to thank her for the sacrifices she has made over the years. Retired Capt. John Myers was on hand to emcee and shared many stories of Dave’s journey as a State Trooper.

Presentations included a t-shirt from Retired Lt. Lee Farmer; a picture drawn by Trp. Sherry Ferno and signed by swing shift personnel; a “vest” created by dispatcher Kitty Lancaster displaying appliquéd patches and signed by his friends and coworkers; and a mug presented by Sgt. Brian Wassmann.

Both Major Howard Starbard and Major Matt Leveque were able to attend and presented Dave with his service plaque and badge set.

New Babies . . .

Trp. Nasruk Nay and his wife Yelena are the proud parents of Eva Victoria Nay born July 28th at 8:32 am. She is 7 pounds and 22 inches long.

Roy and Angie Wills (Fairbanks Evidence) are proud to announce the arrival (D Detachment, continued on page 22)

Sgt. Dave Drvenkar received his retirement plaque from Major Matt Leveque.

New Babies . . .

Trp. Nasruk Nay and his wife Yelena are the proud parents of Eva Victoria Nay born July 28th at 8:32 am. She is 7 pounds and 22 inches long.

Roy and Angie Wills (Fairbanks Evidence) are proud to announce the arrival (D Detachment, continued on page 22)
of their daughter, Kendall Rae Wills. Kendall was born June 29, 8 pounds, 14 ounces, 21 inches long, brown hair and blue eyes. Baby and parents (as well as both big sisters) are doing great.

Meet Kendall Rae Wills, daughter of Roy and Angie Wills.

Trp. Ryan Nichols and wife, Tina, are thrilled to announce the arrival of Catherine Jewel Nichols, born on August 13, 2006, at 12:33 p.m., weighing 9 pounds, 4 ounces. Catherine joins her four brothers at home.

Meet one day old Catherine Jewel Nichols, daughter of Trp. Ryan Nichols and wife, Catina.

Eight new trooper recruits arrived in Fairbanks in July: Edwin Carlson, Austin Macdonald, Barry Cebulski, Lucas Altepeter, James Proctor, Christopher Nelson, Joseph Paul and Garrett Frost. Kris Hovila is a new recruit in Cantwell through the lateral hire process.

Judicial Services has a new clerk, Letheia Robinson, who started in July.

Suzanne Hall and Misty Boman have both joined the dispatch team in Fairbanks, starting August 16th.

Transferring in to Delta from Nome in August is Trp. Edward Halbert. Trp. Henry Ching has transferred to Patrol from Fairbanks ABI and Trp. Sherry Ferno has transferred to ABI from Patrol. Trp. Nick Zito has made his move to Kodiak from Fairbanks, starting there on August 16th.

Sgt. Odean Hall started his new duties in Fairbanks as a patrol sergeant on August 16. He made the move up the Parks Highway from Cantwell following his promotion to Sergeant.

CSO Pete Zazlenski has retired from his Barrow position with Judicial Services. A luncheon was held at Judicial Services in Fairbanks on June 30, 2006 to say goodbye.

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld just completed the Lend-Lease ceremony and had a moment to visit with Lt. Lantz Dahlke, Lt. Lonnie Piscoya, Chief Sean McGee(UAFPD), and Officer Steve Getz(UAFPD) after they escorted him to his hotel.
This year, D Detachment put on a complete package picnic for the troops and family. We all gathered up on a sunny Friday in June at Pioneer Park in Fairbanks. We reserved a pavilion with plenty of outdoor space and picnic tables. Sgt. Scott Johnson and his wife, Brandy pulled out all the stops with the support of PSEA to organize a burgers and hot dog barbecue complete with games for the youngsters. We had a great turnout of DPS employees and family.

While folks chipped in grilling burgers and hot dogs on loaner grills from home, Sgt. Johnson led the way with all kinds of kids’ games rivaling the summer Olympics. Some of the events included: spoon/egg race, water balloon toss, three-leg race, and spin and run. All participants received ribbons, with 1st-3rd place getting colored ribbons compliments of PSEA. A big thanks goes out to Sgt. Johnson and his wife Brandy for putting together a truly enjoyable family day for all of us.

We also had time to hand out some well-deserved recognition to DPS employees in D Detachment. Major Matt Leveque and PSEA president Rob Cox were on hand to join Captain Burke Barrick in handing out the following commendations: Trp. Brian Zeisel, 2005 Detachment Trooper of the Year; Vicki Naslund, D Detachment 2005 Civilian Employee of the Year; Sue Rogers, Angie Wills, Outstanding Service by Civilian Employees; Maria Senra, Gary Nabielski, Meritorious Service; and CSO Cheryl Gilmour, Trp. Andrew Ballesteros, Trp. Gary Tellep, Sgt. Brian Wassmann and Sgt. Scott Johnson, Outstanding Service Awards.

Family Fun Day


Major Matt Leveque presented Vicki Naslund her award for 2005 D Detachment Civilian Employee of the Year.
Wow! What an event! We were notified that a family was selected in our area on the 9th of June. Because of not wanting the information to be leaked to the press, everyone was sworn to secrecy to insure that the family wouldn’t get a heads up on what was shaking.

I had the dubious honor of trying to set up traffic control for nine days while the project was being completed from the 9th of July to the 15th.

After slinking around and asking for volunteers to work on a project that I couldn’t disclose to anyone, I got a great response!

We had voluntary participation from the Troopers, Fairbanks Police, North Pole Police, UAF CSOs, Volunteers in Policing, and the Local Police Explorers Post.

Basically because of the five day, 106 hour work schedule, we were requested to provide traffic control 24-7, for the hundreds of construction vehicles, dropping off tools, equipment, and materials.

At times the traffic was overwhelming! Long hours were worked by everyone, (10-14 hour shifts) and after nine straight days, I was ready for a break! But what an event to be involved in!

The local communities came together and there were more than enough volunteers to complete all of the work from start to finish. The 13 members of the Rogers family in North Pole left one day from a home of 850 square feet.

When they returned a week later, a custom-built 4800 square foot home stood in its place. There is even an artificial turf short football field in the back yard for the boys to play on!

The producers were so touched by this family’s story that they are making this show the two-hour season opening! The season premiere is scheduled for Sunday September 24th.

A special thanks to everyone that was involved!
Fishing Expedition at Fred Meyers

On Thursday, July 6, 2006, at 2105 hours, Trp. Sherry Ferno and Trp. Michael Potter responded to the Fred Meyer West Store in Fairbanks to a report that an employee in the liquor department had seen a beer bottle being lifted into the ceiling by a coat hanger.

On arrival, Trps. Ferno Potter were directed to the Employee-Only door, located in the hallway near the public bathrooms. Located on the other side of the door was a metal ladder attached to the wall leading to a trap door in the ceiling. Trps. Ferno and Potter went through the trap door and located two males hiding near a raised portion of the floor. Both males stated they did not intend to drink the beer or take the beer from the store, knowing it was illegal.

Lt. Gary Folger advised there was no fish and wildlife law broken for fishing without a license, catching and not releasing, and snagging due to the fact it was beer they were fishing for and not fish.

One male was remanded to Fairbanks Correctional Facility, the other was remanded to Fairbanks Youth Facility. Both were charged with Criminal Trespass, Possession of Alcohol by a minor and Burglary II.

Trp. Nasruk Nay participated in a flag raising ceremony in Delta Junction during their 4th of July celebration.

E Detachment News

Meet Brenna Michelle Cox, newborn daughter of Dan and Heidi Cox. Brenna was born June 4, 2006, and weighed 8 pounds, 4.5 ounces at birth. Although Brenna looks like Dan, she is definitely a mama’s girl. Dan and Heidi are getting into the parenting groove but sure wish she came with an instruction manual!

Meet Brenna Michelle Cox, newborn daughter of Dan and Heidi Cox. Brenna was born June 4, 2006, and weighed 8 pounds, 4.5 ounces at birth. Although Brenna looks like Dan, she is definitely a mama’s girl. Dan and Heidi are getting into the parenting groove but sure wish she came with an instruction manual!

E Detachment is the lucky recipient of five new Trooper Recruits:

Trooper Recruit Matt Ezell hails from Junction City, Oregon, where he lived for most of his life. His wife and two little wrestlers (ages 7 and 11) are in the process of moving up to join him. By the time they arrive, Ezell should know the peninsula like the back of his hand and be able to show them a good time, providing he’s not off on a hunting expedition. Trp. Ezell enjoys many things about being a State Trooper, most notably doing a job that really matters and knowing that each day will bring something new and exciting.

Trooper Recruit Grant Cooper is splitting his field training between the coastal communities of Anchor Point and Seward before heading to Kodiak for his permanent position. Cooper has previous law enforcement experience in Alaska: he

people have tried to order Whoppers and French fries from them, the ladies love the new technology and the increased efficiency the headsets allow.

E Detachment is the lucky recipient of five new Trooper Recruits:

Trooper Recruit Matt Ezell hails from Junction City, Oregon, where he lived for most of his life. His wife and two little wrestlers (ages 7 and 11) are in the process of moving up to join him. By the time they arrive, Ezell should know the peninsula like the back of his hand and be able to show them a good time, providing he’s not off on a hunting expedition. Trp. Ezell enjoys many things about being a State Trooper, most notably doing a job that really matters and knowing that each day will bring something new and exciting.

Trooper Recruit Grant Cooper is splitting his field training between the coastal communities of Anchor Point and Seward before heading to Kodiak for his permanent position. Cooper has previous law enforcement experience in Alaska: he

(E Detachment, continued on page 26)
E Detachment, continued from page 25

moved from San Juan Capistrano, California to Hydaburg in December 2002, where he worked as a VPSO, and then became a municipal police officer for the City of Klawock. He was called to active duty with the Army National Guard in October 2004, and went to Kosovo as part of the UN/NATO peacekeeping operation until January 2006. While overseas, he visited 14 countries! All that traveling has Cooper looking forward to settling down and staying in one place.

Our three other recruits, Kyle Carson, Joshua Cook, and Forrest Peck enjoy knitting socks and scarves for craft fairs and painting pictures of cuddly bunnies. Okay, maybe not, but they were too busy to give me their life stories this time. Look for their official, authorized biographies in the next Quarterly issue.

Trp. Brad Nelson transferred from Soldotna to Seward this summer. Although the house-search has been quite a challenge, Nelson and wife Rachel are excited about the change in scenery. Speaking of big changes, the Nelsons are expecting a baby in December. Both Brad and Rachel are a little nervous at the prospect of the baby being just like its father, but we think that would be wonderful!

Radio Dispatcher Dan Nelson has joined the Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center. Dispatching must be in his blood...his mother, Judy Nelson, retired from Soldotna Dispatch a few years ago. Welcome, Dan.

Division of Fire Prevention

BY MAHLON GREENE

The Division of Fire Prevention recently had three of its members attend the National Association of State Fire Marshals 2006 Annual Conference in Washington D.C. State Fire Marshal Gary Powell, Assistant State Fire Marshal Rusty Belanger and Fire Training Administrator Jodie Hettrick represented Alaska at the conference; the theme was Transportation Safety and Security. Exhibits, venues, and guest speakers focused on technologies that are on the cutting edge of the transportation world.

Subjects included up and coming hybrid vehicles, LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) safety within our environment, and advanced communication technologies that are now or soon will be used by fire and law enforcement nationwide. Committees made up of fire service members from across the country met on a wide variety of subjects that continue to improve fire fighter safety and enhance public education nationwide.

Training and Education Bureau

Fall is a very busy time for the Public Education Office. August 4th through August 12th we set up a booth in the Tanana Valley State Fair in Fairbanks. The booth was staffed by Public Education Coordinator Mahlon Greene and local volunteers from the following Fire Departments: Chena-Goldstream Fire and Rescue, Ester VFD, Ft. Wainwright FD, North Star VFD, and Steese Area VFD. A special thanks goes out to Terry Solomon for coordinating the volunteer schedule. Several fire safety brochures were distributed at the booth. Early attendance reports were around 130,000 people. The entire Fairbanks Fire Prevention staff (Pam Brandt, Dave Aden, Tom DePeter and Bill Hedrick) provided logistical help to make this a very successful fire prevention program.

On August 22nd and 23rd the Training and Education Bureau held three Fire Safety and Extinguisher classes for food vendors and employees at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer. This is part of a pilot program to improve public safety at all fairs and large exhibitions in the State of Alaska. Fire Brigades, safety checklists, and Fire Marshal inspections are also part of this pilot program. This project is called “The Alaska Fair and Exhibition Fire Safety Improvement Project”. If this pilot program is successful at the Palmer fair then it will be implemented throughout the state. The Alaska State Fair in Palmer has always been one of our largest public education opportunities.

This year our focus was on cooking safety. Cooking is still the number one cause of home fires in Alaska and the entire nation. Cooking safety information, cooking timers, oven sticks and potholders were distributed at the fair. (Fire Prevention, continued on page 27)
October is Fire Prevention Month and this year’s theme is “Watch what you Heat”. Every year we have a poster depicting Burny and his deputy Bernadette practicing fire safety in relation to the fire prevention theme for the year. This poster is sent to all schools and fire departments throughout the state.

LSIB welcomes two new employees since the last quarterly. Nathan Rocheleau was hired as a Deputy Fire Marshal I and Amy Gamboa is LSIB’s new Administrative Clerk III.

Nathan Rocheleau

Deputies from the Life Safety Inspection Bureau have been busy traveling to all areas of the state investigating fires. On August 3, 2006 at 8:00 a.m., Deputy Fire Marshal II Donald Cuthbert and Deputy Fire Marshal Daniel Jones received notification of a conflagration fire in Hooper Bay. Initial reports indicated that 80 buildings were burning. The Deputies were on scene by noon thanks to the Aircraft Section providing a direct flight from Anchorage to Hooper Bay on the King Air.

The Deputies conducted a fire origin and cause investigation into the blaze and determined that the fire started beneath the area of a classroom and bathroom in the elementary school.

With cooperation from Bethel Troopers and Palmer ABI, the investigation resulted in several confessions from children setting fires beneath the school. The children were all under 12 years of age. The fire destroyed 58 buildings in all including 13 homes, a village store, the elementary and high school complex and many auxiliary structures. Damage is estimated at $35 million dollars.

On the same day Deputy Fire Marshal John Bond and Deputy Fire Marshal Tom DePeter responded to a $2.9 million dollar hotel fire in King Salmon. The cause of the fire was undetermined. The hotel was a total loss.

(REMINDER—
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS
CHANGE YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERY
DAGLIGHT SAVING
TIME ENDS
OCTOBER 29, 2006)

Firefighter’s Prayer
By R. K. Cecil

Oh Lord, please help this firefighter
To be skillful and be brave.
Please let me never falter
When there are lives to save.

Be with my fellow firefighters
And ride with us on each run,
From the moment that we “suit-up”
Until the job is done.

Be with me as I guide a child
Through the dark and smoky haze,
Give me strength and courage
As I fight the deadly blaze.

Lord, I put my safety in Your hands,
But in the chaos and the strife,
Help me act with selfless courage,
Fire Prevention, continued from page 27

The village of Hooper Bay as seen before the fire on August 3, 2006. The fire began in the school (the large buildings in the center of the photo) and ultimately destroyed 80 buildings in the village including 13 homes, a village store, the elementary and high school complex, and many auxiliary structures. Damage is estimated at $35 million.

On August 3, 2006, the Quinnat Landing Hotel in King Salmon was totally destroyed by fire. Value of the hotel was $2.9 million. The cause of the fire was undetermined.

Deputy Fire Marshal II Donald Cuthbert inspected the scene following the Hooper Bay Fire.
Executive Summary
In keeping with the Governor’s initiative to develop win-win partnerships between state agencies and Alaska’s university system, DPS entered into a partnership with the UAA College of Business and Public Policy to provide real world business experience to UAA students while providing Public Safety with greatly enhanced systems at minimal cost. The UAA Team of Susada Sananikone, Alina Tkach, and Ross Martin donated 959 hours to provide the State Fire Marshall’s Office with a new online Plan Review system, saving the State and DPS well over $100,000.

Background
In May 2005, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) initiated a summer internship program to support the growing backlog of user requests to maintain applications and databases. Through the student chapter of AITP, a professional IT organization, DPS recruited Alina Tkach from UAA’s CIS Department to maintain a number of Access databases, rewrite the DPS Writ application, and build online reports for the State Troopers. Ms. Tkach has been subsequently hired by DPS as our Webmaster.

Based on our successful experience with UAA, the DPS Programming Supervisor approached UAA faculty for help with a critical system for the State Fire Marshall’s Office Plan Review Bureau. The Building Review Inspection System (BRIS). The team of Susada Sananikone, Alina Tkach, and Ross Martin responded to our request for service.

Development Highlights
The UAA Team closely managed a complex development process from the initial requirements gathering meetings with key users through to the delivery of the new system, including all system and user documentation, testing and project management documents. This required coordination with DPS IT staff and users at multiple sites.

Critical goals which were identified and addressed by this development project include:
• Centralize data from disparate databases at three DPS sites
• Provide a new web front end to the system

• Identify and fix major data quality issues
• Provide a layer of security and access control
• Address known business logic problems
• Provide necessary reporting products

The new Plan Review System (CAPRI) has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Plan Review Bureau, and was scheduled for deployment for the Fire Marshall’s Office in mid-summer.

Susada Sananikone, Project Manager; Ross Martin, Web Developer; and Alina Tkach, Database Developer.

According to Wikipedia:
The “CSI Effect” is a reference to the phenomenon of popular television shows such as CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, raising crime victims’ and jury members’ real-world expectations of forensic science, especially crime scene investigation and DNA testing. This is said to have changed the way many trials are presented today, in that prosecutors are pressured to deliver more forensic evidence in court.

Universities have seen an increase in students enrolling in forensic science and related science programs. There has been criticism from police departments that, in an effort to increase their student numbers, universities have been offering unsuitable courses, leaving graduates unprepared for real-world forensic work.
Division of Administrative Services

The Anchorage Finance Office has hired Christine (Chrissy) Bond to replace Mary Rowland after she left for an Accounting Tech I position with AST-C Detachment. Bond worked for Worthington Ford for seven years and then Ford Motor Credit office in Anchorage for two years. She brings a lot of great qualities to the office, and we’re happy to have her onboard!

Judy Skagerberg is our new Budget Analyst III in Juneau, and came to us from Dept of Health and Social Services on June 16. She’ll be working with all divisions on missions and measures as well as budget and RSA duties, and we’re very glad that she made the move to Public Safety.

Juneau Finance has had some staff changes over the past year. Etherlene (Dianne) Lanuza was hired as an Accounting Clerk I in May for the Juneau Finance office and has already been promoted to Accounting Clerk II when a vacancy opened up.

Administrative Services staff work to support the mission of the department and are always happy to answer questions on any fiscal, budgetary, procurement or procedural questions whenever possible.

Kari Kittoe Joins DPS Supply Staff

Please join the DPS Supply staff in congratulating Kari Kittoe on her promotion to Procurement Specialist I in Supply. Kittoe is now serving in the position that Lou Butler held for five years prior to his promotion in April to Supply’s new Procurement Specialist II job.

Kittoe transferred from the Division of Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, Anchorage ABWE Post, where she served as a Public Safety Technician II. She has been with the Department for over seven years and has a wealth of knowledge concerning a wide range of Trooper operations and responsibilities, especially those in challenging remote areas.

She will be serving in Supply as the DPS State Property Officer, working with the numerous DPS property custodians throughout Alaska who manage state property records. Her understanding and experience with accountable state property procedures within the unique Department will help ensure a smooth transition for all concerned as she takes on this demanding job. Additionally, she will be working closely with the AST Director’s Office to procure household goods moving services for relocating Troopers and their families. She also will be working on a wide variety of small procurement projects in support of numerous DPS organizations, including the Crime Lab and the VPSO program.

Kittoe has consistently proven throughout her tenure in the Department that she is a dedicated, loyal and effective employee. We are confident she will continue her strong record of achievement in DPS Supply. Please join us in welcoming Kari to the DPS Supply team.

In Other News

Alaska Army Guard State Command Sergeant Major David Hudson Heads to The Pentagon

Alaska Army National Guard State Command Sergeant Major David Ray Hudson is leaving Alaska to become the senior enlisted advisor for the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, at the Pentagon. It’s a three-year assignment, beginning in August that significantly multiplies Hudson’s imprint on the National Guard.

“My new job will be to advise the chief of the National Guard Bureau on all the issues surrounding the 400,000-plus Soldiers and Airmen serving in the National Guard,” said Hudson, whose last official day as Alaska State Command Sergeant Major was July 14. “Here in Alaska we have 1,900 Soldiers, who I’ve had the pleasure to work with. In this new job, I will be working with more than 200 times that many people—it’s immense, almost unfathomable.

I look forward to visiting Soldiers and Airmen across the world and sharing with them how the National Guard Bureau and the government can provide them with the support they need.”

Hudson has served in the U.S. military in various capacities since 1973. He started in the U.S. Air Force, serving four years of active duty service and six years in the Air Force Reserves. As an airborne meteorologist, he flew in every hurricane that hit the United States from 1978 to 2006.
Hudson, continued from page 30

1983 and logged 3,200 hours in a C-130 Hercules aircraft.

In 1983, he moved to Nome, Alaska, and joined the Alaska Army National Guard. Three years later he began working for the Alaska State Troopers, and in those 19 years, he has since lived in just about every corner of the state from Fairbanks to Homer across to Ketchikan and Sitka.

“Working for the State Troopers has allowed me to be in every unit of the Alaska National Guard,” Hudson said. He credits this vast experience as one of the reasons he was chosen to be the State Command Sergeant Major for the Alaska Army National Guard in early 2005.

Hudson said, “I’m sure we’ll return to Alaska and someday retire here; Alaska has great, great people,” “But I’ve always embraced change. I think change keeps people on their toes and makes them more valuable to the community.”

The Department Says Farewell

Retired Alaska State Trooper Jamie Hall died August 9, 2006, following a long illness. In accordance with Jamie’s final wishes, there is currently no memorial service scheduled.

Inv. Hall joined the Department on July 8, 1974, as a Judicial Services Assistant in Tok. May 16, 1976, he moved to Glennallen where he worked as a Judicial Services Officer until December 1977 when he upgraded to Trooper.

Hall worked in Glennallen as a Trooper until transferring to Palmer Post May 6, 1988. After working a short time in Palmer patrol, Hall was assigned to the General Investigations Unit.

Hall specialized in sexual assault cases until his retirement. Jamie was a great asset to GIU and his knowledge and expertise were considered invaluable. He retired August 31, 1994, after 20 years of service with the Division.

With Regret

On July 4, 2006, Canine “Sirius” of the Alaska State Troopers passed away from natural causes while he and his handler, Inv. Joe Hazelaar, were in Fairbanks on Military Leave.

Canine “Sirius” began his career with AST in 2002 as a dual purpose canine, working both in the Fairbanks and more recently, Bethel area.

Canine “Sirius” was a valuable member of the Alaska State Troopers and will be missed. Our condolences go out to Inv. Hazelaar and his family.

From Whispers in the Wind

by George G. Rodgers
reprint by permission

Last night the wolves called my name.
Not the name I now carry,
but the one I was known by,
a million winters ago.

How they knew it was me I was not sure,
for I knew it not myself,
but part of me knew,
and part of me answered,

“Come, my brothers, let us run together,
Let us weave the patches of moonlight
into a story, written on
fresh fallen snow.
For the world in sunlight to know
that a band of brothers
passed this place in time.”

John Glass Named Wasilla Police Chief

Wasilla Mayor Dianne M. Keller appointed AST Retired Col. John Glass the new Wasilla Chief of Police. Glass had been Acting Deputy Chief since February 6, 2006, when the position was created.

Sgt. Angella Long has been named to the position of Deputy Chief.

Col. Glass retired after more than 27 years with the department in the Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement.
It is July 4, 2006. The weather is strange – hot and sticky and windless, not what you become used to in the desert of Las Vegas. Lately the news has not been pleasant with the war in Iraq, the bickering of politicians in Washington, and threats of violence and nuclear activities. In towns across our country your ears are assaulted by rap music and graffiti defaces property in both affluent and poor communities. Where are the youth of the United States going? Where are they taking us? Are these really the people who are going to lead this country as the next generation takes over? Today I found out not only am I becoming one of those grumpy senior citizens who worries too much about the future, but some of these young people truly are the leaders of the next generation, and we can be very proud of them.

A few days ago I heard a Las Vegas radio commentator talking about the efforts of a seventeen year old, Eric Dixon, who undertook a very special project to attain his Eagle Scout award in the Boy Scouts of America. The commentator said that Eric would be raising American Flags in the park located at Lone Mountain and Durango in Las Vegas to honor the over two thousand five hundred service people who have been killed in the war in Iraq.

When my friend and I arrived at the park we saw that Eric, his family and his scout master had placed three hundred and twenty-four flags on a gentle rise in the park. The flags were evenly spaced as if they were standing at attention on a field of honor. Each flag pole had a tag containing the names of at least eight ser-

(Eric Dixon, continued on page 33)

The Golden Eagles, a Boys and Girls Club boys soccer team for boys under age ten were excited to have won their tournament. The Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers was their generous sponsor.
Eric Dixon, continued from page 32

vice people. Each tag was individually typed and contained the name, rank, branch of service and the specifics about how and when each service person died. Some of the flag poles had yellow or red ribbons tied to them — remembering someone who was lost — red for Clark County, yellow for the State of Nevada.

I walked amongst the flags reading some of the tags — male and female, officer and enlisted ranks, Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, all were remembered and homage paid. There was a stillness there — a respectful silence. People walked amongst the flags including the parents of a fallen Marine who left them behind when he was only eighteen years old. They stood proudly by the flag that contained his name and that of seven other American heroes. My friend and I watched them from a distance as we let them have their time with their son.

Eric explained why he took on this project. He wanted these heroes to be remembered. He did this by following the rules and guidelines for Eagle Scout projects. He requested assistance from businesses, organizations and members of the community. One local union gave him the pieces of rebar cut to size to fit the flag poles over. A landscaping company gave him PVC pipes to use as flag poles. A large home store gave him end caps to finish off the PVC flag poles. A friend of the family built a tool to drive the rebar six inches into the ground so the flags and their poles could proudly stand in the park. Businesses and members of the community contributed money to buy the flags. It was nice to see that some of the names of the donors were from foreign lands — people who moved here to find a better life. They knew this was a way to say thank you to those who made it possible for them to live in this country.

As I prepared to leave this special place I took one more look at the flags. A strong breeze came up causing all the flags to stand straight out like they were coming to attention and saying thank you for visiting with us.

Eric deserves his promotion to Eagle Scout, but more importantly he deserves the recognition of the public. He is a future leader of this community and an asset to this country. The world will be a better place in the future when we leave it in the hands of young American citizens like Eric Dixon.

(Keith Bettinger, 9669 Vista Crest Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89148, 702-795-8616, keithbett@cox.net)