



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

S.C. Highway Patrol

Today, I am announcing my retirement from the South Carolina Highway Patrol effective April 30.

First, let me express the pride I feel in having worn this uniform for the past 26 years and as your colonel for the last four years. This time in leadership has been full of challenges but more importantly opportunities. I have had the outstanding support of Director Schweitzer as my staff worked to create new initiatives geared toward increasing safety on our roadways; creating a safer environment and more competitive salaries for our troopers on the road; and helping families who tragically lost loved ones on the highways.

I consider myself fortunate to retire from a job I loved and believed in. I attribute my successes throughout my career to the many employees who believed in making a difference and working hard to achieve a common goal.

From the troopers on the road, to the "guys at the shop," to the telecommunication operators, to the administrative support staff -- I cannot adequately express my appreciation for what you do and will continue to do to serve others.

Although we have experienced some very rewarding times, we have also faced tragedy and loss as a family -- including the most recent loss of two fine troopers. These incidents were reminders, however, of the strong bond in the law enforcement community. I will forever be tied to the families of those brave men who lost their lives during my term and preceding it. I would encourage you to continue to include the families of our fallen troopers within the "Patrol family" and your activities.

I am most grateful to my wife, Sandi, and son, Connor, for their support and love during our journey. A strong family unit is vital to be successful in law enforcement especially. I can proudly say that I have a wonderful family who has stood beside me throughout my career.

Additionally, Jim Schweitzer has been a great man to work for and with. He and Darlene are two of the most caring and genuine people I have ever had the pleasure to come to know. I am thankful to the Governor's Office and those members of the General Assembly who have fought to strengthen our ranks through better funding and equipment. It has made a notable difference.

These are a few of the initiatives that I most proud of during the past four years:

- Creating a safer environment for our troopers through better equipment. Making their pay more equitable and competitive;
- Establishing a strong connection to the families we serve. I am so proud of the strides we have made with the creation of our Families of Highway Fatalities' group and the compassionate services we offer;
- Re-connecting with our families of fallen troopers and working to provide "long term" care and friendship to them;
- A more robust community outreach program bringing diverse safety programs to areas all over the state;
- Advanced leadership training for our supervisors;
- Expansion of the role of the MAIT unit in collision investigation;
- Creation of a comprehensive safety curriculum shown at venues around our state each day;
- The Collision Reduction Enforcement Program (CREP) -- tying resources to problem areas through intensive study of fatality trends;
- Establishing the Core Values for our division and integrating those into our culture;
- Revitalized our recruiting efforts.

I am thankful and humbled by the friendships and excellent working relationships I have had the honor of cultivating in my time here at the Patrol and DPS.

I leave with a great sense of pride that my mission has been accomplished to the best of my abilities.

Be safe and God Bless, Colonel Roark

Courtesy - Efficiency - Service

POST OFFICE BOX 1993, 10311 WILSON BLVD., BLYTHEWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA 29016