

AROUND TOWN

Local news you can use.

Remembering One Who Touched Lives

Trooper Paul Butterfield's service sets a lasting memory and legacy, and will not be forgotten.

by Rep. Ray Franz
Community contributor

There are times and events that touch the hearts, mind and soul of a community – we always hope they are for happy occasions or accomplishments, but sometimes they are sad. The latter is the case for the tragic death of Trooper Paul K. Butterfield.

Trooper Butterfield was one of those familiar, pleasant faces that regularly reassured our community that we were safe and protected. His calm demeanor and always friendly smile were what people counted on and felt very comfortable with. I know he made me feel that way.

As a firefighter and medical first responder, I had the opportunity to work with Trooper Butterfield while he was stationed in Manistee County so we often crossed paths at accident scenes and on medical emergencies. He, like all of his fellow troopers, was always calm, under control, cooperative and helpful. He made sure we had the space to do our job while he went about his. We also always knew that he had our backs. That's what professionals do. They make their exacting work look simple, easy and routine.

When we met away from emergency calls, Paul was always quick with that beaming smile and made me and others feel like we were the best of friends. I think that is a carryover of his love of animals. A good heart is simply a good heart. I vividly remember the last time I saw Paul. It was just a week or two before his murder that I ran into him at the "Blessing of the Badges" at Ludington's



Fallen Michigan State Trooper Paul Butterfield.
Photo courtesy of the office of Rep. Ray Franz

Friday Night Live. Jennifer, my chief of staff, and I saw him in his vehicle. As we approached, he jumped out of his car and greeted us as long lost friends. I remember how his face glowed with his large smile, and his handshake was firm and sincere. We chatted about his assignment to the Hart Post and reminisced about his years in Manistee. Our visit ended too soon as we prepared for the Blessing of the Badges ceremony. That Trooper Butterfield was a part of that, a greater power surely had a plan.

Despite the loss of Trooper Butterfield, he shall not go without leaving a lasting legacy. First and foremost are all the lives he touched in some way by serving our communities, being it answering a call for help, protecting our safety on the roads and right up to his smiling hello for a good day wish. The second part of recognizing Trooper Butterfield's sacrifice is work I've begun on several fronts to ensure that his loss will save others, such as options to provide more and better protection shields for law enforcement officers and developing new legislation to help protect them during routine traffic stops.

Lastly, I have introduced legisla-



An officer kneels before the casket of Trooper Paul Butterfield.

Photo courtesy of the office of Rep. Ray Franz



State Rep. Ray Franz.

Photo courtesy of the office of Rep. Ray Franz

tion to dedicate a section of the M-116 highway – from the Lincoln River to the Sauble River at the Ludington State Park – in Trooper Butterfield's name, so that we never forget. Trooper Paul Butterfield was a man who touched our lives in so many ways: who touched our community and who made our world a better place. Not with splashy things – but by going about his normal life in an extraordinary way. He and his service to our communities will be missed by family, friends and residents.



Ludington Daily News

7-TIME COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR, MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION



WRESTLING!
See how MCC
fared at state
quarterfinals. **B1**

LHS GIRLS BASKETBALL: Team wins fourth
straight league title. **B1**

CRAPPIES: Panfish from cold water make a great
meal. **C1**

SATURDAY - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2014

urday, March 1 starting at 9 a.m. at the Ludington High School cafeteria. It is a timed schedule with three games before lunch, then two after lunch in a round robin format.

The tournament is open to all students in elementary, middle and high schools.

Divisions are: high school (grades 9-12); middle school (grades 6-8); upper elementary (grades 4-5); lower elementary (grades K-3). Trophies will be awarded to top players in each division.

For information contact Tracy Thompson, 843-8579. There is no entry fee.

DEATHS

OBITUARIES, A6

Sharon Ann Tenney, 62, Naples, Florida
Constance Ida Ales, 80, Southfield
Bernice Elaine (Crawford) Horacek, 85
John Stafford, 90, of Ludington

BIRTHS

PAGE A6

Kenneth Faith Buckner, Ludington
Sky Greywolfe Stroh, Copemish

COMING UP

IN YOUR LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS

Mental Health

Courts: Lawmakers are expanding special courts for the mentally ill.

Monday

WEATHER

24-HOUR OUTLOOK



Saturday's high: 21°
Tonight's low: 13°
Details: B9

INSIDE

TODAY'S LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS

LOTTERY A2
HISTORY AND ANSWERS A4
OBITUARIES A6
SPORTS B1-3
CLASSIFIEDS B4-7
PUZZLES B6
COMICS B8
FROM OUR COURTS B9
OUTDOORS C1
FACTORY FUNNIES C2
IMAGINATION C3

Your Ludington
Daily News: Read

WITNESSES: DEFENDANT ERIC KNYSZ SAID

'I killed a cop'

Recording has
Eric saying he
shot Trooper
Butterfield
'one time'

BY PATTI KLEVORN
NEWS EDITOR

Witnesses testified Friday that murder trial defendant Eric Knysz told them, "I killed a cop," "I killed a f---ing cop," "I shot a police officer."

Deborah and Mark Harris of Wellston and Trooper Paul Butterfield Eric, a friend of theirs, came to their Peacock Road home in rural southeastern Manistee County Sept. 9, 2013, the night Michigan State Police Trooper Paul T. Butterfield was shot and killed.

Eric came to buy marijuana, they said.

He was acting nervous, they said, but they didn't believe what he was telling them about shooting of officer at first, they testified.

Deborah said later she had her daughter check her phone for news and Mark said he drove toward the "four corners" area, toward the Dublin Express, and saw law enforcement vehicles with their lights on in the area and then drove home. He did not call 911 or tell authorities what Eric had told him, Mark testified.

Mason County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Spaniola: How was Eric acting?

Deborah Harris: He seemed very nervous. He came over to see about getting some pot ... from my husband.

Deborah Harris: I asked him what was going on. He said he killed a cop. When he said that, me knowing Eric, I never would have thought that was true.

Deborah Harris: My daughter kept on asking me, why don't you check and see if what he said was true ... I told her, "You do it" ... (she said she handed her daughter her phone).

Prosecutor: What did you find?



Defendant Eric Knysz leaves the courtroom Friday. He'll return Monday morning — as will the jury — as his trial enters week 2.

PATTI KLEVORN | DAILY NEWS



Michigan State Police Lt. Jeff Crump, a firearms specialist, shows jurors a .357 magnum Colt Python revolver police have said defendant Eric Knysz was holding and dropped after being shot at the Dublin gas station in Irons on Sept. 9, 2013. Trooper Paul Butterfield was shot with the illegal weapon, according to police reports, testimony and Mason County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Spaniola's opening statement.

JEFF KESSEL | DAILY NEWS



Trooper Paul Butterfield



Michigan State Police Det. Sgt. Gary Green testifies about his interview with defendant Eric Knysz. Listen to audio of the interview with Green with this story at www.ludingtondailynews.com.



PATTI KLEVORN | DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

Mark and Deborah Harris of Peacock Road, Wellston, testified Eric Knysz came to their home Sept. 9, 2013 and told them both he shot a police officer. They said he was a friend and came over for marijuana. Mark Harris testified he has a medical marijuana card. They said Sarah, Eric's wife, was with him at the time, but that she did not say anything while she was there.

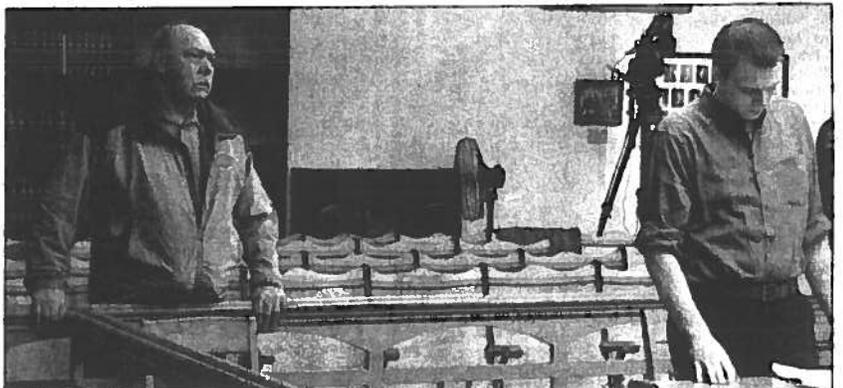


PHOTO BY PHILIPPA / PATTI KLEVORN

Legislative Analysis



TROOPER PAUL K. BUTTERFIELD II MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Mary Ann Cleary, Director
Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5257

Sponsor: Rep. Ray A. Franz

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Complete to 2-21-14

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5257 AS INTRODUCED 1-28-14

The bill would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of highway M-116 in Mason County beginning at the Lincoln River and continuing north to the Big Sable River as the "Trooper Paul K. Butterfield II Memorial Highway."

Proposed MCL 250.2081

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 2 of the Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the State Transportation Department shall only provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the name of the highway "when sufficient private contributions are received to completely cover the cost of erecting and maintaining those markers." As a result, the bill has no state or local fiscal impact.

MCL 250.2081

Legislative Analyst: E. Best
Fiscal Analyst: William E. Hamilton

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.