

“When We Honor One, We Honor All” – Colonel Nathaniel McQueen Jr.

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The Delaware State Police held a special sign dedication ceremony to honor the life and dedicated service of Corporal/1 Stephen J. Ballard at Troop 2, Newark in the Trooper Paris Community Room on Thursday, January 9, 2020, this date is also known as *National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day*. This event signified the street name change from the current address of the Delaware State Police Troop 2 in Newark from *LaGrange Avenue* to ***“Cpl/1 Stephen J. Ballard Way”***

“Today we are joined with Stephen’s family, friends, Troopers, multiple law-enforcement agencies from up and down the state, honored guests, Christiana Firefighters, and New Castle County Paramedics along with the Patriot Guard Riders as we unveil Stephen’s name that will represent the street address in honor of his service and sacrifice. This dedication ceremony is to honor him and pay tribute to his memory as he made the ultimate sacrifice on April 26, 2017. A day we will never forget” said, ***Sergeant Richard Bratz of the Delaware State Police***

This ceremony was a respectful recognition of the devoted service and untimely sacrifice of a life cut short. It was at times joyous and at times emotional to those who were touched in some way by Stephen. As ***Governor Carney*** stated, *“this was going to be something special; When I walked in and saw the representation from Law Enforcement Agencies from across our state I was incredibly impressed and I want to thank everyone who had a hand in putting this together and honoring Corporal*

Stephen Ballard and lifting up the family...I had a moment to share with Robin before we got started today, I said well this is a day where we can smile a little bit and she looked at me and she said I'll tell ya this holiday season has been a little rough, it is a little bit of a lift up. Our former Vice President has an expression of prayer that he offers as condolences to people at funerals and he says, his prayer is that the day will come quickly when the thought of your loved one will bring a smile to your face instead of a tear to your eye and hopefully today with the renaming of this street it'll will bring a little bit of a smile to our faces as we think about the service and sacrifice of Corporal Ballard..."

The ceremony was started with a warm welcome followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Delaware State Police Honor Guard and the Delaware State Police Pipes and Drums. The DSP Chaplain led us in prayer with the Invocation followed by encouraging and insightful words by the outstanding delegation of distinguished speakers; which included Governor John Carney, Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-long, Attorney General Kathy Jennings, DSHS Secretary Robert Coupe, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police Colonel Nathaniel McQueen Jr. along with State Representative Earl Jaques and New Castle County Councilman Dave Tackett who spearheaded this initiative getting the street name changed in honor of our Trooper that paid the ultimate sacrifice. Louise Cummings and Robin Ballard offered kind and heartfelt words about Stephen. The ceremony came to a close with the Benediction and the naming of those to thank who had a hand in making this day happen. A befitting tune of **"Amazing Grace"** was performed by the Delaware State Police Pipes and Drums to close out the sign dedication ceremony.

After the ceremony, Louise Cummings and Stephen's mother Robin Ballard were both presented with commemorative replicas of the street sign by Captain Jeffrey Whitmarsh, Troop 2 Commander and C.R. McLeod PIO of DelDOT. The signs were created by the

Delaware Department of Transportation. October 31, 2019, the decision was voted on and was made official; which will result in the road sign change in the next few weeks replacing LaGrange Avenue in front of Glasgow Park. The Delaware State Police Troop 2 and the Keene Elementary School will soon have a common address on Cpl/1 Stephen J. Ballard Way.

Delegation of Distinguished Speakers:

- The Honorable Governor **John Carney**
- Lieutenant Governor **Bethany Hall-Long**
- Attorney-General **Kathy Jennings**
- Safety & Homeland Security Secretary **Robert Coupe**
- Representative **Earl Jaques**
- Councilman **David Tackett**
- DSP Superintendent **Colonel Nathaniel McQueen Jr.**
- **Louise Cummings** (widow) and **Robin Ballard** (mother)

Messages by the Distinguished Speakers:

“When we honor one, we honor all”- Colonel McQueen shared that thought during one of our many conversations about the DSP. Reflecting on the 20 years that I served with the DSP Honor Guard Unit that statement “When we honor one, we honor all” really hit home for me. I believe it captures the spirit of what the Honor Guard does when they attend the memorials and funerals for the fallen, and it captures what we are doing here today. The journey begins when we ask young men and women, like Cpl. Stephen J. Ballard, to serve in law enforcement, to accept the risks that come with this job and to accept the reality that they may one day give their life in service to their state and their community, and we ask their families to accept those same risks. In return, we make a promise to all, “that we shall never forget” their service and their sacrifice if they were to give their life while fulfilling their commitment to the law enforcement mission. Today, we fulfill that promise, “That we shall never forget”, to Cpl. Stephen J. Ballard, to his family and to all Troopers.

Because "When We Honor One, We Honor All" said, Secretary Robert Coupe of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security

"Stephen was an extraordinary man, son, husband, father, friend, and a beloved Trooper. Stephen's was committed to staying connected with the community. He had the true heart of a servant. If he were here today, his smile would light up this room. Stephen's Troop Commander described him as a constant ray of sunshine in a sometimes challenging profession. We were devastated by the senseless and tragic circumstances that lead to the death of Corporal Grade 1 Stephen J. Ballard. Although we were devastated by Stephen's Passing we were inspired by his selfless service and sacrifice.

The outpouring from the community also gave us hope and reinforced our faith in the goodness of people. Hope that the community and law enforcement can come together. Hope that young boys and girls will despite the challenges be willing to serve and aspire to help others. Hope that together we can keep our communities safe. The love of community is why Stephen- and many Troopers choose to enter this profession. It is comforting to know that their service and sacrifice is valued by those we serve. It also confirms that we need each other. To our communities we say thank you- thank you for being there for Stephen's family and for all of us. We will always be there in service to you...This road will be used by our Troopers each and every day. The dedication of this sign keeps our enduring promise to the Ballard Family, to the community that we serve- to our survivors and to our Troopers- past-present & future that we will never forget. Stephen's memory will live on in the hearts and minds of his family and friends and in the many lives, he touched. He will also be remembered as part of the enduring legacy of The Delaware State Police" said, Delaware State Police Superintendent Colonel Nathaniel McQueen Jr.

- After the ceremony, Colonel McQueen also presented Ballard's mom with a glass memorial that had resided for the past year at the National Law Enforcement Museum and Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- Virginia State trooper Chris Francis, a classmate of Ballard's at Delaware State University, drove up for the ceremony. *"There are certain people that you meet in life where you feel like 'I need more time with this person, I need to be around this person. He was one of those people," said Trooper Francis*
- Louise Cummings established Ballard's Reading Buddies, at Southern and Keene Elementary School, which is a program in which community members especially law enforcement officers spend time to help students and read to children. *"That's what he would have wanted."* It's also what she hopes people remember when they see the new Ballard Way sign.

Special appreciation goes to Stephen's family, friends, the many Law Enforcement Officers, DSTA, Active and Retired Troopers, DSP Civilian workers, DSP Clergy, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of DSHS Robert Coupe, Colonel McQueen, Administrative Specialists Jean, Krista and Caitlin, Legislators, Survivors, Firefighters, Paramedics, DelDOT especially DelDOT PIO C.R. McLeod, Honorary Commanders, Southern and Keene Elementary Schools, Patriot Guard, Media Partners, Photographer D. Curran, and our Community Partners. Thank you to all who gave their best and lent a hand in support of our brother Cpl/1 Stephen J. Ballard and his family. We appreciate you! As Colonel McQueen captured it best in our sincere true sentiment **"When We Honor One, We Honor All"**.









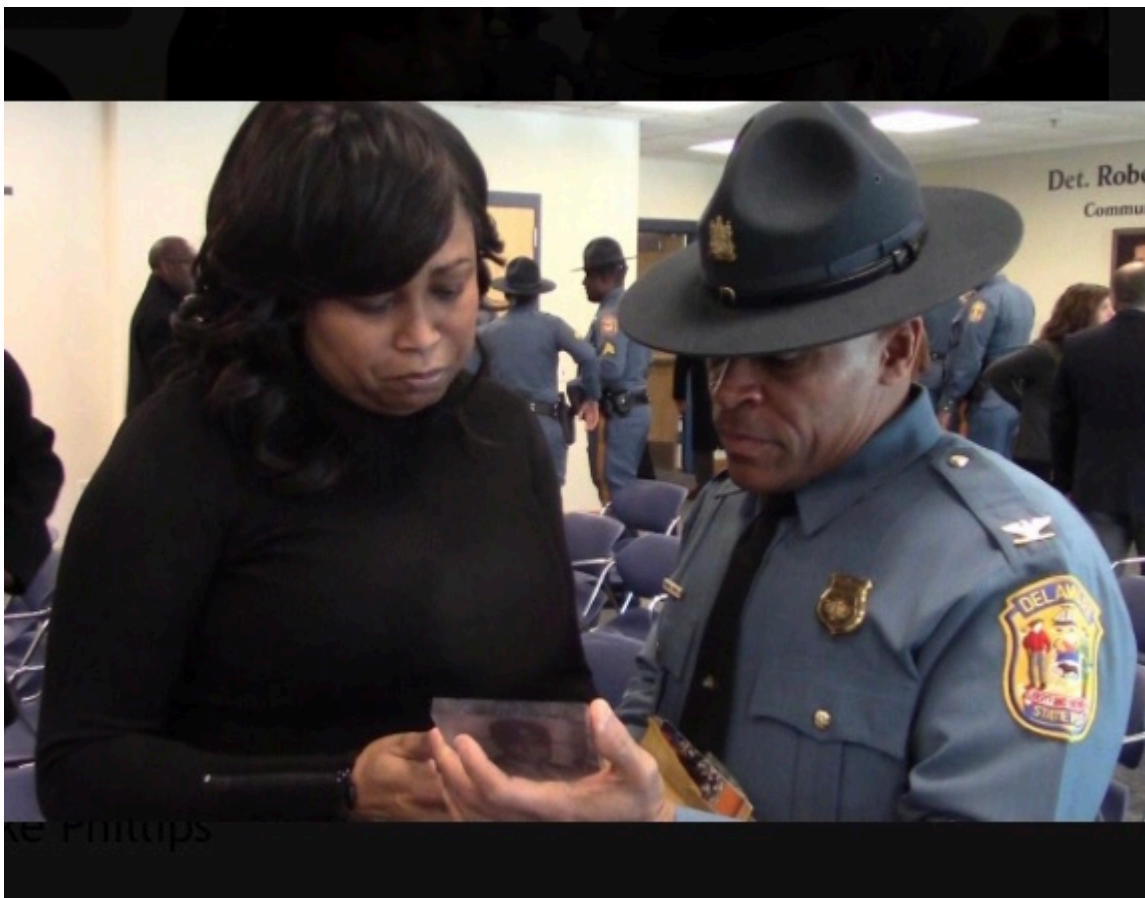












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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 011020 2055

-End-

***TRAFFIC ADVISORY* Troopers
Investigating Two Vehicle
Crash – Newark**



Newark, Delaware – The Delaware State Police are currently on scene of a crash involving two vehicles with one rollover that occurred at approximately 6:25 p.m., Friday, January 10, 2020, on Ogletown Stanton Road northbound in the area of Stanton Christiana Road.

As a result of the crash, all lanes are closed. Use caution and avoid the area if possible. Expect traffic delays.

For updated traffic conditions and road closure information log onto http://www.deldot.gov/Traffic/travel_advisory/index.shtml#advisories

The investigation is in the early stages with further details being released as they become available.

Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released:011020 1844

-End-

***TRAFFIC ADVISORY* Troopers Investigating Crash Involving a Pedestrian – Kirkwood Highway**



Wilmington, Delaware – The Delaware State Police are currently on scene of a crash involving a pedestrian that occurred at approximately 4:19 p.m., Friday, January 10, 2020, on Kirkwood Highway eastbound east of Saint James Church Road.

As a result of the crash, the center and the left lane of Kirkwood Highway is closed with traffic only getting by on the right lane.

For updated traffic conditions and road closure information log onto http://www.deldot.gov/Traffic/travel_advisory/index.shtml#advisories

The investigation is in the early stages with further details being released as they become available.

Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released:011020 1650

-End-

Troopers Offer Tips to Help Avoid Being Scammed by Fake Social Security Calls

According to the Social Security Administration in the last year, Social Security phone scams have skyrocketed, becoming the #1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission and to Social Security.

Similar to other types of telephone scams, the scammers are trying to trick you into giving them your personal information and money. Don't be fooled!

Scammers pretend they're from Social Security. The number you see on caller ID may even look like an official government

number but it is not. The caller may say there is a problem with your Social Security number or account. They may ask you to give them personal information like your Social Security Number or bank account. They may tell you to fix the problem or to avoid arrest you must pay a fine or fee using retail gift cards, pre-paid debit cards, wire transfers, or cash.

These calls are **not** from the Social Security Administration. The following tips will help you avoid falling victim to one of these scams by being able to better identify a fake call.

Social Security will NOT:

- Threaten you.
- Tell you that your Social Security Number has been or might be suspended.
- Call you to demand an immediate payment.
- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a pre-paid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash.
- Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money.
- Request personal or financial information through email, text messages, or social media.

Social Security WILL:

- Sometimes call you to confirm you filed for a claim or to discuss other ongoing business you have with them.
- Mail you a letter if there is a problem.
- Mail you a letter if you need to submit payments that will have detailed information about options to make payments and the ability to appeal the decision.
- Use emails, text messages, and social media to provide general information (not personal or financial information) on its programs and services if you have

signed up to receive these messages.

If you receive a suspicious call from someone alleging to be from Social Security, please:

- Hang up right away.
- Never give your personal information, money, or retail gift cards.
- Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov/ to Social Security's law enforcement team at the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

To help reduce these types of fraud, Commissioner Andrew Saul and Inspector General Gail S. Ennis have also announced the launch of a [new online form](#) to report Social Security phone scams.

Please share this information with your family and friends.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released: 011020 1500

-End-

State Police Assist in Shooting Investigation-Delmar

Delmar- The Delaware State Police are assisting the Delmar Police Department in investigating a shooting incident that occurred last evening.

The incident occurred on January 8, 2020 at approximately 8:32 p.m., when the Delmar Police Department responded to the 11000 block of Buckingham Drive, Delmar, DE in reference to a female being struck by gunfire. Further investigation revealed that the female victim was standing at the front door to her residence, attempting to enter when she was struck by rounds.

The Delmar Police Department requested the assistance of the Delaware State Police. Detectives collected one projectile from the front porch of the residence and another projectile is known to have entered the residence from the direction of the roadway.

The 56-year-old female victim sustained two non-life threatening gunshot wounds and was transported to a local area hospital.

There is no suspect information at this time.

The case continues to remain under investigation and anyone with information is asked to please contact the Delmar Police Department at 410-896-3131 or the Delaware State Police, Troop 4, Detective M. Doughty at 302-752-3794. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or

have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Melissa Jaffe*

Released:010920 0816

-End-

Troopers Investigating Fatal Pedestrian Crash-Rehoboth

Beach

Rehoboth Beach- The Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal crash involving a pedestrian that occurred last evening.

The incident occurred on January 8, 2020 at approximately 8:02 p.m., when a 2019 GMC Terrain was traveling northbound on Coastal Highway in the left lane just north of Munchy Branch Road. A pedestrian was believed to be crossing the highway in an easterly direction. For an unknown reason, the pedestrian stepped from the median into the path of the GMC. The operator was unable to perceive the pedestrian, who was wearing dark clothing and not using a light. As a result, the left front of the GMC struck the pedestrian in the left lane.

The operator of the GMC, a 29-year-old female from Rehoboth Beach, DE was properly restrained, remained on scene and was not injured.

The pedestrian, a 68-year-old female from Rehoboth Beach, DE was transported to the Beebe Medical Center where she was pronounced deceased. Her name is being withheld at this time pending the notification of next of kin.

Coastal Highway northbound had partial lane closures for approximately 3 hours while the crash was investigated and cleared.

The crash continues to remain under investigation by the Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Melissa Jaffe*

Released:010920 0609

-End-

Troopers Investigating Carjacking – North Wilmington

Wilmington – The Delaware State Police are investigating a carjacking that took place in the parking lot of an Edgemoor area liquor store on Tuesday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:15 p.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2020 in the parking lot of Edgemoor Liquors, located at 4823 Governor Printz Blvd., Wilmington. A 20 year old female was in the front passenger seat of a vehicle waiting for her sister, who was inside the business. As she was waiting, two male subjects entered the vehicle, one in the driver's seat and one in the rear passenger's seat, and ordered her out of the vehicle. After the victim exited the suspects fled in the vehicle, northbound on I-495. The victim was not injured

as a result of the incident.

The suspects could only be described as black males, 17-20 years of age.

The vehicle is a 2012 Hyundai Elantra bearing Delaware tag 225413.

No surveillance images are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Troop 2 Robbery Unit by calling 302-365-8566.

<http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:010820 1040

-End-

Troopers Investigating Robbery of Fairfax Area Gas Station

Wilmington – The Delaware State Police are investigating the robbery of a Fairfax area gas station that occurred late Tuesday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 11:55 p.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at the Circle K gas station, located at 1801 Concord Pike, Wilmington. A male suspect confronted an employee at the sales counter and demanded money, while implying that he had a weapon. The employee complied with the demand and turned over an undisclosed amount of cash to the suspect who then fled on foot northbound on Concord Pike. The employee was not injured as a result of the incident.

The suspect was described as a white male, 5'10" tall, average build, wearing a dark colored jacket and jeans. No weapon was displayed, only implied.

No surveillance images are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Troop 2 Robbery Unit by calling 302-365-8566.

<http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Michael Austin

Released:010820 1005

-End-

***UPDATE #2-Victim Identified* Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Involving a Pedestrian – New Castle**

New Castle – The Delaware State Police have identified 20 year old Lavon Stewart of Wilmington, as the pedestrian who was struck and killed in a crash that occurred at approximately 6:46 a.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2020 on Christiana Rd. (DE Rt. 273) west of Churchman's Rd., New Castle.

Click on the following links to view related releases:

[*TRAFFIC ADVISORY* Troopers Investigating Crash Involving a Pedestrian – Christiana Rd. at Churchman’s Rd. New Castle](#)

[*UPDATE* Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Involving a Pedestrian – New Castle](#)

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Forester of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8485.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:010820 0935

-End-

UPDATE Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Involving a Pedestrian – New Castle

New Castle – The Delaware State Police are continuing to investigate a fatal motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian that occurred at approximately 6:46 a.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2020 on Christiana Rd. (DE Rt. 273) west of Churchman's Rd., New Castle.

The initial investigation has determined that a 2017 Chevy Colorado, operated by a 50 year old New Castle man, was travelling westbound on Christiana Rd., in the left lane, west of Churchman's Rd. A 20 year old Wilmington man, was attempting to cross Christiana Rd. from the north to the south on foot when he proceeded directly into the path of the Chevy. The front end of the Chevy struck the male victim, throwing him to the ground in the left lane of travel where he came to rest. After the collision the Chevy came to a controlled stop and remained at the scene.

The male pedestrian was transported to the Christiana Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. It was determined that the pedestrian was wearing all dark, non-reflective clothing, was not carrying a light and was not utilizing a marked crosswalk. Impairment on his behalf is undetermined at this time. Identification is pending notification of next of kin.

The driver of the Chevy, who was properly restrained, was not injured. Neither impairment nor speed are deemed as contributing factors on his behalf.

Click on the following link to view the original release:
[*TRAFFIC ADVISORY* Troopers Investigating Crash Involving a Pedestrian – Christiana Rd. at Churchman’s Rd. New Castle](#)

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Forester of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8485.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:010720 1210

-End-