



The CCPS All-Points Bulletin

Mission: To reduce crime, enhance public safety and assist victims throughout North Carolina.

April 2010

Message from the Secretary



This has been a good month as we officially welcomed home the North Carolina National Guard's 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team on April 11. The 4,000 citizen soldiers had served ably in Iraq for nine months while their children were growing a bit taller and smarter, and their family's love was growing stronger, too.

These courageous men and women of the N.C. National Guard were supporting Iraqi security forces and involved in dangerous work. These are our citizen soldiers fighting to bring freedom to people around the world while ensuring ours remains intact. We are deeply grateful for their sacrifice and glad to have them home.

Employees from other divisions have also been busy. Since July 1, Victim's Compensation Services has awarded more than \$7.7 million to victims of crime. Alcohol Law Enforcement agents have been cracking down on alcohol and drug violations, and Emergency Management has been hosting seminars on how to mitigate against earthquake hazards.

The State Highway Patrol has made our roadways safer by implementing Operation Slowdown from March 29 through the Easter weekend. The crackdown resulted in 26,053 citations, mostly speeding tickets (10,000).

One way we recognize CCPS employees' good work is through the annual Employee Appreciation Day picnic held at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. This year the event starts at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 7. I hope every employee who is able to come does so. The food is delicious, the games entertaining and the camaraderie can't be beat. Coming together in this casual atmosphere is one of the highlights of the year for many of us. I hope to see you there.

Reuben Young



Congratulations!

The following employees were promoted:

Fiscal: **Barbara Wilson**

State Highway Patrol:

**Adam Alcorn
Waylon Allred
Robert Annas
Michael Bailey
Derrick Banks
Darryl Barber
Kevin Barringer
Christopher Bell
Christopher Black
Shannon Boyles
Leroy Bunn
John Burgin
Jennifer Burnette
Adam Carter
Jason Cash
James Chappell
Timothy Clapp
Demetrius Clark
Kasey Cornwell
Leo Cromartie
Derek Del Castilho
Kevin Conner
William Dees
Robert Dial
Daniel Edwards**

**Michael Elrod
Adam Fowler
Jonathan Futrell
Michael Gerard
Richard Grogan
Kearstin Howard
Patrick Holmes
Lloyd Hughes
James Jones
Tully Langley
Keith Lee
Sean Lineberger
Chad Lloyd
Johnny Locklear
Shane Lynch
Joshua Maynor
Samuel McLawhorn
Harry Middleton
Jonathan Moore
Daniel Moxley
Jerry Noland
Denny Parunak
Danny Payne
Myrl Pennington
Bruce Phillips**

**Jonathan Phillips
John Pointer
Brad Porter
Bennie Pulliam
Brian Rakestraw
Jake Reeves
Devin Rich
Christopher Rogers
Edgar Shelton
Jonathan Sherrill
David Simmons
Jason Smith
William Smith
Sean Smithey
Steven Spivey
Edward Suttles
Benjamin Taylor
Corey Thompson
Curtis Tripp
Verlin Vinson
Larry Whitaker
Thomas Williams
Johnny Wilson
Steven Wilson
Benjamin Young**

The following employees celebrate significant service milestones in their state careers:

25 years

State Highway Patrol: Lt. Col. **Wellington Scott**; Lt. **Jeffrey Williams**; First Sgt. **James Barrett**; Sgt. **Herbert Tucker**, Troopers **Michael Moretz**, **Timothy Whitaker**, **Gary Williams**, **Gregory Seabolt**, **Jay Meade** and **James McKinney**; Pilot **Gary Langdale**

20 years

State Highway Patrol: Troopers **Mary Reynolds** and **Allen Johnson**; **Barnabas York**.
National Guard: **Janet Ellington**

Comings and Goings



Welcome to our new employees:

State Highway Patrol: **Claudelle Julien, Adrienne Lake and Peggy Sutton**

Best wishes to our recent retirees:

State Highway Patrol: **Mitchell Davis, Stephen Grizzell, Robert Lane, Michael Moretz, Patty Petteway and Michael Wheeler**

In Memoriam:

State Capitol Police: **Steven Equils**
State Highway Patrol: **Raymond E. Young Sr.**



Commuters who work in Durham, Orange and Wake counties are encouraged to carpool, ride the bus, walk or bike to work or telecommute (if your boss lets you) during the April 15 - May 15 Smart Commute Challenge.

The Smart Commute Challenge helps reduce the carbon footprint of Triangle commuters while increasing your savings in gasoline and auto repair costs. If you haven't already filled out the Take the Challenge card, you can find one on the Web site: <http://www.smartcommutechallenge.org>.

Looking for a carpool in your area? Go here to find other carpoolers or to register: <http://www.gotriangle.org/rideshare/carpool/>

This year, the Smart Commute coordinators are encouraging commuters to send in pictures of what they see on their commute to work. Top prize for the best photo submitted is \$750 in photo supplies. For more information, contact Robynne McCrary, (919) 733-2193, x-261.

Wellness Corner

By Terri R. Butler, Active for Duty Committee Member

Creating a healthy lifestyle doesn't have to mean drastic changes. In fact, drastic changes almost always lead to failure. By drinking a little more water each day, adding more fruits and veggies to your diet and moving more, you will be a healthier you.

Managing Stress:

Feel better in seconds

If you're having a bad day, lift your spirits by smiling, even when you don't feel like it. Forcing up the corners of your mouth triggers the production of feel-good neurotransmitters in the brain. You'll attract positive attention, and since smiling is contagious, you'll become a popular carrier of contentment.

Smart Solutions:

Never doubt yourself again

Constant second-guessing can make a difficult decision even harder. To nip it in the bud, simply nod your head while silently repeating a choice you've made. Just as an audience fuels confidence when it visually supports you while speaking, nodding while thinking makes you feel like you're on the right track.

Making small changes in how you live each day can lead to big rewards, so figure out what you can do to be healthy today.

Events News

Cancer Support Group

Dealing with cancer is hard for both patients and family members. Support groups provide patients and families with information, guidance and understanding of living through cancer.

The next CCPS Cancer Support Group meeting will be held on **May 12** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Highway Patrol Training Academy, 3318 Garner Rd., Raleigh, Building 4, Classroom 2. Contact Trooper Larry McKeithan, (919) 662-4490

Visit the Wellness Program link on our CCPS Web site for more information on healthy living and other health-related resources. Go to the employee page and look for Wellness Program in the categories on the left side of the page.



2010 CCPS Employee Appreciation Day Friday, May 7 **Tickets on Sale Until May 3**

The annual Employee Appreciation Day picnic will be here soon. CCPS employees and their families are welcome to attend the picnic being held Friday, May 7, at 11 a.m. at the Harrill Center, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh.



Tickets are \$5 a person and may be purchased from anyone listed below. No tickets will be sold at the door.

This year's menu is baked and fried chicken, fried fish, potato salad, coleslaw, three-bean salad, corn-on-the-cob, hushpuppies, rolls, homemade ice cream and

pound cake, assorted fruits, tea and lemonade.

Besides catching up with your co-workers and meeting new ones, activities include rock climbing, Segway rides, basketball, dancing, music, hula hoops, karaoke, volleyball, horseshoes, tug-of-war and the dunking booth (at \$1 per throw).

Proceeds from the dunking booth as well as profits from the CCPS clothing sales are used to finance the many door prizes.

Employees may purchase a ticket from one of the following members of the 2010 Employee Appreciation Committee:

Alcohol Law Enforcement – **Cheryl Teeters**
Butner Public Safety – **Chris Bracci**
Emergency Management – **Brenda Jones**
Governor's Crime Commission – **Shirley Brinson**
Human Resources – **Chariss Jones**
N. C. National Guard – **Terry Barbour**

Public Affairs – **Ernie Seneca**
Redevelopment Center – **Donna Miller**
Secretary's Office – **Janice Turner**
Secretary's Office – **Teresa Vines**
State Capitol Police – **Christine Taylor**
State Highway Patrol – **First Sgt. Steven Green**
State Highway Patrol – **Sgt. Jorge Brewer**

Employee Spotlight

You may have heard Trooper Eddie Digh sing the national anthem at State Highway Patrol memorials or the annual CCPS employee picnic. If you have, you know he has a huge talent and a gracious heart.

He has sung at Gov. Bev Perdue's inaugural ball, Mudcats baseball games, and most recently in front of more than 14,000 hockey fans when the Carolina Hurricanes played the Washington Capitals on March 18.

Digh has been singing in public since the age of 6, first for his church and then in school talent shows. He also plays the piano, organ, bass guitar and trumpet. He is a talented actor and dancer.

Digh credits both his father and mother for where he is today. His father was a Buncombe County sheriff's deputy for 30 years, and Digh said he gets the performer trait from him. He said his father played bass guitar and sang back-up for Jim Reeves as a member of Reeve's band, the Blue Boys. Jim Reeves's (billed as Gentleman Jim Reeves) was a former disc jockey turned country and western star in the late 50's and early 60's. His mother worked as a weaver at the Stonecutter Mill in Spindale.

"She did everything for me," Digh said. "I was her only child, and I was her world."

He said the only time he got antsy about performing was when he was playing piano in public for the first time when he was about 12 years old. He told his mom, "There are 88 keys on the piano and that many chances for me to mess up." She coached him through and he did fine.

"Growing up in the mountains was very wholesome. You didn't have to lock the doors or pull the door to – we didn't even think about it," Digh said. "We trusted each other." He would spend the summers with his dad near Cherokee where at the age of 15 he began his first paying job at Frontier Land.

"It was one of the first cowboy-type theme parks when Westerns were so popular," Digh said. "It was the bee's knees of it's time."

Digh played one of the bad guys, performing a shoot-out at the jail house. One morning he stepped out to get a newspaper. It was the last one in the stand. As he turned around he ran into Dan Blocker who played Hoss in the hit television series, Bonanza. Blocker joked about how it was just his luck to miss out on the last newspaper. He autographed the one Digh had for him. They got to know each other over the course of



his two-week stay at Frontier Land, and Digh said Blocker was a down-to-earth man who liked to play practical jokes. When he left, Blocker sent Digh some photos including an autographed map of the Ponderosa Ranch.

“I wouldn’t take anything for it,” Digh said. “That was my favorite Western show.”

Digh worked at Frontier Land for two seasons. He said the casino, Harrah’s of Cherokee, is now on that spot. When he was 19, Digh started working at another mountain theme park, Tweetsie Railroad, this time playing the town marshal.

Digh went to East Rutherford High School where he played trumpet in the band, sang in the chorus and played football, even trying junior varsity.

At the age of 16, he found himself at the Orange Bowl, singing the national anthem. He was thrilled to be up close to Miami Dolphin stars Larry Csonka, Jim Kiick and Mercury Morris.

“That was the highlight of all highlights – not that I was getting to sing – but to be standing near the sidelines with these guys,” Digh said.

Digh graduated from high school in 1974, and went on to study at Isothermal Community College in Spindale for two years, getting an Associate of Arts degree. He transferred to Appalachian State University and graduated from there in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and theater. He also played football for ASU.

In his spare time, Digh had been singing in a rock group when his uncle introduced him to his Gospel Quartet. He filled in for him on occasion.

“That got me hooked,” Digh said. “I started playing bass guitar for several gospel groups.”

“When I got through with ASU, I was playing and singing with semi-professional groups on weekends. I wanted to further my education.”

He sold his car to go to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. He graduated in 1984 with a Master of Divinity with religious education.

While at the seminary, Digh was an interim youth and music minister for a church in Durham. During this time, doctors diagnosed trouble in his throat and said that it was a cancer. They didn’t want Digh to speak above a whisper for three weeks, much less sing. The church relieved him of his duties. This gave Digh time to think and reevaluate his direction. He was now married with two young children. He had lost both



his parents, and that, he said, took a lot out of him. The cancer, by the way, went into remission and he hasn't had a problem since.

He became a public safety officer for N.C. State University for three years and was a reserve officer for the Rolesville Police Department.

Digh wanted to help people, saying it was in his blood. "You just respect everybody until they show you otherwise."

In 1992, the Division of Motor Vehicles hired Digh as a process officer. He was on the road with duties similar to a State Highway Patrol trooper. The Motor Carrier section of DMV merged with the Highway Patrol and he was sworn in as a member of the N.C. State Highway Patrol in 2005.



"It's an honor to wear this uniform," Digh said. "This agency has so much history and has done so much good for this state, I'll always be proud of that."

He now works as a Motor Carrier Enforcement administrator, doing e-procurement for Motor Carrier Safety – the federally funded part of commercial vehicles. In addition, he works with fleet administration and is in charge of the surplus vehicle sales. He helps process the new fleet vehicles, the Tahoes and Chargers. He's worked in uniform supply, office supply and he's driven the SHP delivery trucks.

"Any other rope that needs to be tied, I do that, too," Digh said.

Trooper Digh sings the National Anthem at the March 18 Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Game.

"Trooper Digh displays a positive attitude in the work place and is always dependable in getting the job done," said Capt. Benjamin Parham. "He is quiet and humble in nature until asked to sing, which he does very well. Trooper Digh is a team player that works toward providing customer service to patrol personnel from the Logistic Section."

During his time in Raleigh, Digh has performed in several theatrical shows at Memorial Auditorium. He's played Herr Zeller in *The Sound of Music* and Representative Joseph Hughes of North Carolina in *1776*. At the Raleigh Little Theater he was in numerous

plays including *The Merchant of Venice*, *Smoke on the Mountain* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

He was given a part in Ira David Wood's version of *A Christmas Carol*, but his schedule wouldn't allow him to perform. He hopes to pursue that another year.

In the meantime, the Digh talent is being carried on with his two teenage sons, 17-year-old Landon (yes, named after Michael Landon in *Bonanza*) and 15-year-old Aubrey. They sing and play current hit music in their band, *Two Digh For*. Recently, dad heard them sing at a high school performance.

"I couldn't believe my own ears," Digh said. "They nailed it."

He spends as much time with his sons as he can and tells them that pride starts within yourself. He says there's a thin line between being proud of what you do and being haughty about what you do.

"I'm just as proud of other people who hold themselves to a certain degree and don't quit," Digh said. "I've gained more in life doing things with a sense of pride – to the best of my ability."

Digh lives in Clayton with his wife, Kimberly, their Chihuahua, Emmi and two cats, Sadie and Abby

CCPS employees can hear Digh sing the national anthem at the upcoming Employee Appreciation Day picnic at the State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, on May 6. He will sing at 11:30 a.m.

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The *All-Points Bulletin* is your newsletter! If you have information you would like included, please contact the Public Affairs Office at (919) 733-5027 or send e-mail to pmmcquillan@nccrimecontrol.org before the 15th of each month.