

COVER PAGE:

Courage.

Integrity.

Commitment.

Compassion.

Fairness.

Judgment.

Respect.

Professionalism.

GRIT.



simple graphic suggesting the nobility of the DPS officer

These are defining characteristics of commissioned officers of the Texas Department of Public Safety – the men and women who are the face of one of Texas’ oldest and most venerable law enforcement agencies.

These individuals have answered a higher calling, selflessly dedicating their lives to maintaining the safety and well-being of their fellow citizens.

They are in harm’s way, every day – enforcing traffic laws, pursuing criminals, and supporting local law enforcement in every corner of the state. Solving problems, so Texans can live their lives freely, peacefully, and securely.

For more than three decades, the Texas State Troopers Association has been committed to enhancing the lives and careers of commissioned Texas DPS officers and their families.

The Texas State Troopers Association

Serving and Protecting the Men and Women Who Serve and Protect

Our members are Texas' first line of defense

The Texas State Troopers Association (**TSTA**) is the largest organization in Texas consisting solely of active and retired state-commissioned law enforcement officers of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). Its 1,000-plus members encompass commissioned officers of every division of the DPS, from troopers to commanding officers.

Established in 1984, TSTA is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(5) organization that receives no state funding. It is not part of the Texas Department of Public Safety or an entity of state government, and relies solely on the contributions of citizens. The Texas State Troopers Association strives to improve the standards of employment, training, and education for Texas DPS officers through legislative advocacy. In doing so, TSTA plays a crucial role in improving the effectiveness of law enforcement not just for DPS officers, but in law enforcement statewide.

THE MISSION OF TSTA

***Improve and enhance the
lives and careers
of TSTA members
and all commissioned law
enforcement officers.***

DPS-commissioned officers are fully empowered police officers with state authority to enforce all laws, both traffic and criminal, anywhere in the state of Texas. Increasingly, they use highly sophisticated technology to conduct their duties, which include:

- Enforcing state traffic laws by patrolling the highways;
- Enforcing all traffic and criminal laws, investigating traffic accidents, criminal interdiction, fugitive arrests, and stolen vehicle recovery;
- Responding to and investigating traffic accidents in rural areas;
- Providing executive security for the governor, state officials, as well as security and safety at the State Capitol Complex;
- Enforcing all commercial vehicle laws, both state and federal, to ensure the safety of commercial vehicle traffic and drivers;
- Conducting all levels of criminal investigations, both misdemeanor and felony – such as narcotics smuggling, sex offenses, human trafficking, street and prison gang activity, organized crime, public corruption, and homicide – and other common criminal investigations, working in conjunction with local, state, and federal agencies;
- Providing statewide criminal law enforcement, especially in rural areas where local police are limited;
- Participating in selective specialized units, such as DPS regional S.W.A.T. teams, marine patrol, and dive recovery, as well as operations involving fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and evolving technology such as drones;
- Conducting Special Emphasis Operations in known areas of high criminal activity;
- Providing rescue and recovery operations during major catastrophes and disasters; and
- Educating citizens on traffic safety practices, such as child safety seats and proper vehicle maintenance.

Giving Back to Those Who Have Given So Much ...

Every day, commissioned DPS officers lay their lives on the line for the people of Texas. They are never truly off duty. They are sworn to protect the public safety – any time, any place, and any way the peace is threatened. Their commitment, loyalty, and heroism deserve respect and gratitude. The Texas State Troopers Association joins with the Texas Department of Public Safety in honoring all DPS troopers, criminal investigators, and Texas Rangers who have fallen in the line of duty.

**Blue Badge Symbol
for Fallen Officers**

Through its programs and benefits, TSTA strives to give back in some measure to the steadfast men and women who are the backbone of Texas law enforcement. We constantly evaluate our members' needs and strive to develop ways to address them.

Current Programs and Benefits

Death and Disaster Assistance

- Direct financial assistance to members and their families affected by a natural disaster, critical incident in the line of duty, a family crisis, or extraordinary need; and
- Free accidental death and dismemberment benefits.

Legal Representation

Texas State Troopers Association members receive free legal representation:

- In situations arising out of the good-faith performance of their duties; and
- For unreasonable administrative acts against them while employed by the Texas DPS.

Last Will and Testament

Tragedy is a daily possibility for a commissioned DPS officer due to the dangers inherent in their jobs. To protect their families and preserve their own peace of mind, the Texas State Troopers Association offers free legal assistance in preparing or updating their last will and testament.

Legislative Representation

The Texas State Troopers Association engages a legislative consultant who proactively works with Texas legislators and their staffs to promote TSTA members' interests. Through these activities, we directly impact the employment standards, training, and education of commissioned DPS officers by:

- Monitoring legislation that may impact commissioned DPS officers and their families;
- Analyzing proposed legislation and suggesting changes, where appropriate;
- Presenting written and oral testimony in committee hearings; and
- Reporting to the Texas State Troopers Association and its members on legislative outcomes.

Preparing for the Dangers of 21st Century Law Enforcement

Every day, all commissioned DPS officers face the unthinkable. Every day, they go to work, knowing they may encounter the darkest elements of the world around them. Most days, they come home to their loved ones unscathed. On some, they do not.

Today, the risks to law enforcement officers are greater than at perhaps any other time in our history. Domestic and international terrorism, gangs, illegal narcotics, gun violence, cyber-crimes, and highway safety issues due to increasing populations challenge law enforcement at all levels. That list of modern security threats is far from conclusive.

These 21st century dangers are complicated by negative attitudes toward peace officers among some elements of society. Seemingly every day, you read or hear a news report about officers being shot while sitting in their patrol car, in a café, or engaged in some other benign activity. Violent offenders often aggressively seek out law officers, not the other way around.

***Bravery is not the absence of fear,
but action in the face of fear.***

— Mark Messier

Now, more than ever, commissioned DPS officers literally put their lives on the line every time they go to work. When danger arises, they run toward it, concerns about their own safety aside.

The backbone of our nation's domestic defense against terrorist attacks will continue to be the men and women in local law enforcement and emergency services.

— Saxby Chambliss

Protect and serve. Commissioned DPS officers are serious about that commitment.

We cannot take that kind of dedication lightly. We cannot let these officers or their families down.

As a member of the Texas Legislature, you must shoulder enormous burdens. You must make decisions that directly impact Texans from all walks of life, and you are entrusted by your constituents to weigh those decisions wisely.

Please consider the Texas State Troopers Association a trusted resource when debating issues impacting law enforcement. Our mission is selfless. Our heroes are those who risk their lives every day to protect and serve the people of the great state of Texas.



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