



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Photo: Trooper Richard W. Albert, New York State Police

New York State Police Trooper named American Association of State Troopers 2024 Trooper of the Year

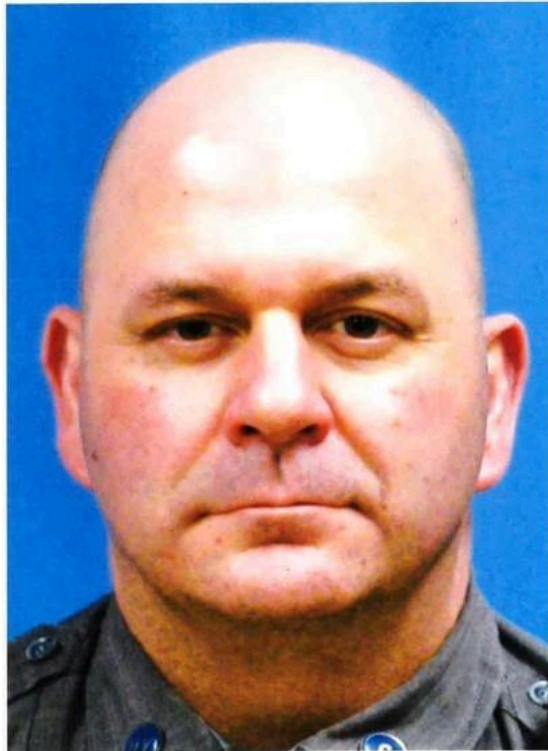
The American Association of State Troopers is nationally recognizing Trooper Richard W. Albert of the New York State Police as its 2024 Trooper of the Year. Trooper Albert exhibited bravery and courage while serving the citizens of the state of New York. His courageous actions prevented any further threat to the public without concern for his own safety.

The heroic incident occurred on June 16, 2023, as Trooper Albert was making a driver side approach on a traffic stop of a recklessly speeding vehicle at 112 miles per hour. As Trooper Albert was approaching, he immediately came under fire and was struck by a 9mm round in the left shoulder. Without hesitation, he reacted tactically and instinctively, just as he had been trained, retreating to cover while returning fire. From a position of cover at the rear of his patrol car, he notified the State Police Communications Section for assistance and calmly and clearly made numerous radio transmissions keeping responding troopers updated. Although wounded and still receiving fire, he remained engaged with the suspect and continued to return fire.

The suspect, who was the passenger, and the operator attempted to flee the scene but a passing tractor-trailer driver who witnessed the shooting, heroically turned his tractor-trailer into the path of the fleeing suspect vehicle, successfully disabling it. The suspect and driver again attempted to flee by carjacking a disabled pick-up truck at gunpoint. Utilizing the terrain of the grassy median as cover, Trooper Albert continued his pursuit of the suspects, all the while exchanging gunfire and conducting magazine exchanges. He remained engaged until the shooter had no choice but to flee into the wood line.

After an agonizing long twelve minutes, the first back up began to arrive. Once numerous law enforcement officers were on scene and Trooper Albert was secured, the driver was taken into custody, and Trooper Albert was transported to the hospital. A search for the shooter was initiated by responding troopers, who located him deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot.

This incident showcased Trooper Albert's bravery under extreme circumstances. Despite being under almost continuous gunfire, he remained engaged and committed to ensuring the public's safety. Trooper Albert's heroic actions reflect the highest ideals of courage and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the New York State Police.



AAST would like to acknowledge and congratulate the other very worthy nominees for the 2024 AAST Trooper of the Year.

Corporal Jeremy Alford	Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Highway Patrol
Trooper Trevor Ratliff	Arizona Department of Public Safety
Senior Corporal Smothers & Special Agent Foster	Arkansas State Police
Officer Jason Thinnes	California Highway Patrol
Sergeant Ashley Harkins	Connecticut State Police
S/Cpl. Thomas Macauley Jr	Delaware State Police
Trooper Steven Turner	Florida Highway Patrol
Corporal Jerry Parrish	Georgia State Patrol
Special Agent Chad Carlson	Illinois State Police
Trooper Stanislaw Smalec	Illinois State Police
Sergeant Wendy Westfall	Illinois State Police
Trooper Derek Kyser	Kansas Highway Patrol
Trooper First Class Christopher Castro	Louisiana State Police
Trooper Ethan Sigman	Maryland State Police
Trooper Keegan Taylor	Michigan State Police
Trooper Dylan Bert	Missouri State Highway Patrol
Sergeant Michael Abbate	Nevada State Police
Trooper Alberto Felix	Nevada State Police

Trooper Martin Moran	Nevada State Police
Trooper Nathan Sleight	New Hampshire State Police
Detective Sergeant Michael V. Savnik	New Jersey State Police
Trooper Jacob I. Strickland	North Carolina State Highway Patrol
Trooper Seth T. Stevenson	North Carolina State Highway Patrol
Trooper Ryan P. Lambert	North Carolina State Highway Patrol
First Sergeant Brent E. Hipp	North Carolina State Highway Patrol
Trooper Shawn D. Grim	Ohio State Highway Patrol
Sergeant William "Billy" Bush	Oregon State Police
Lieutenant James Wagner	Pennsylvania State Police
Lance Corporal Bentrice Frazier	South Carolina Highway Patrol
Trooper John Berndt	South Dakota Highway Patrol
Corporal Jesus Rios	Texas Department of Public Safety
Trooper Michelle Archer	Vermont State Police
Trooper Nicolas E. McDougal	West Virginia State Police
Senior Trooper Joseph L. Anglin	West Virginia State Police
Trooper Isaiah L. Bowman	West Virginia State Police
Senior Trooper Stephen W. Morris	West Virginia State Police
Corporal Eric M. McFarland	West Virginia State Police

A presentation ceremony will take place later this year. We would like to thank SIG-SAUER our sponsor for the Trooper of the Year event along with our other marquee sponsors; AT&T FIRSTNET, Henry USA, Homes for Heroes, Sig Sauer, TREMCO Police Products, AXON, Federal Signal Corp, Walmart & Motorola.

