Women in Law Enforcement Conference 2023, Presented by the Tennessee Highway Patrol


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Breaking the Brass Ceiling

WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE 2023
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
- PRESENTED BY THE TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL -
APRIL 24-26, 2023
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
Welcome .......................................................................................................................... 2

Agenda .................................................................................................................................. 4 - 5

Conference Hosts
• Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long .......... 5
• Tennessee Highway Patrol Colonel Matt Perry ................................................................. 6

Special Guests
• Conference Emcee Dorinda Carter ..................................................................................... 7
• All-Female Honor Guard ..................................................................................................... 8 - 9
• Musical Artist Grace Leer .................................................................................................. 10 - 11

Presenters (In Order of Appearance)
• Chief CJ Davis .................................................................................................................... 12 - 13
• Deputy Joan Kamholz, Retd. ............................................................................................... 14 - 15
• Major Cheryl Sanders, Retd. ............................................................................................... 16
• COO Brandon Gibson ......................................................................................................... 17
• Sara Sefried ........................................................................................................................ 18
• Master Trooper Toni Schuck ............................................................................................... 19 - 20
• Commissioner Amanda Ray, Retd. ................................................................................... 21
• Officer Julie Werhnyak ........................................................................................................ 22
• Colonel Anne Carpenter, Retd. .......................................................................................... 23-24
• Major Lynette Falzone ....................................................................................................... 25
• Retired Deputy Chief Kay Lokey, Retd. ............................................................................... 26

Conference Partners ......................................................................................................... 27 - 29

Conference Exhibitors ....................................................................................................... 30
Welcome to the 10th Anniversary Women in Law Enforcement Conference!

The Women in Law Enforcement Conference was created in 2013 to address issues specific to women in law enforcement and to provide a forum for women to network and share experiences while developing skills to manage both their careers and daily lives. We hope you embrace this unique training opportunity and leave with both valuable information and lasting friendships.

We would like to thank everyone who supports this conference and makes it possible: Commissioner Jeff Long, Colonel Matt Perry, the presenters, staff, volunteers, partners, and most importantly, the attendees. Your interest in the conference and your commitment to being here has kept this conference relevant and rewarding. Thanks to all the first-time attendees for joining the hundreds of other women who have made this conference part of their career development. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each participant for your support and making the 2023 Women in Law Enforcement Conference a success!

Captain Kim Ogle
Tennessee Highway Patrol

Captain Kim Ogle joined the Tennessee Highway Patrol in 1995 and was assigned to Jackson County in the Cookeville District. In 1997 she transferred to Knox County and worked the midnight shift until her promotion to Sergeant in 2002. In 2006 she transferred to Sevier County as a road Sergeant. She was promoted to Lieutenant in 2008 over the Commercial Vehicle Unit in Knox County. As Lieutenant, she also oversaw Strike Team 1 and was the FTO District Coordinator. In 2020 she was promoted to Captain and now oversees the Cookeville District.

Captain Ogle holds an Associate of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Walters State Community College. She is also a graduate of Marine Corp Leadership, Northwestern University Police Staff and Command, FBI National Academy-Session 255, IACP Women’s Leadership Institute, Commissioner’s Leadership Academy, and LEAD Tennessee.

Captain Ogle received the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and Life Saver Award for her actions during the Gatlinburg Wildfires. She is a two-time recipient for Trooper of The Year, Knoxville District.
### Sunday, April 23

2 – 5 p.m. Check-In/Registration

### Monday, April 24

7 – 10 a.m. Check-In/Registration

10 – 10:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony
   - Invocation: Captain Kim Ogle
   - Trooper Tara Lee
   - Presentation of Colors: All-Female Honor Guard
   - National Anthem: Grace Leer
   - Welcoming Remarks: Colonel Matt Perry, Commissioner Jeff Long

10:30 – 11 a.m. WLEC 10th Anniversary - *A Look Back* 
   - Lieutenant Traci Barrett

11 – Noon Leading in the Midst of a Storm
   - Chief CJ Davis

Noon – 1 p.m. Group Photo

1 – 2 p.m. Lunch - North Coast A-B

2 – 3 p.m. Never Give Up the Fight!
   - Deputy Joan Kamholz, Retd.

3 – 4 p.m. Caution: Curvy Road Ahead
   - Navigating Your Career Journey
   - Major Cheryl Sanders, Retd.

4 – 5 p.m. Leadership Q & A
   - COO Brandon Gibson

6 – 9 p.m. Networking Event at the Ole Smoky Distillery
Tuesday, April 25

6 – 8 a.m. Breakfast - North Coast A-B

8 – 9 a.m. Human Trafficking Sara Sefried

9 – 10 a.m. Dynamic Decision-Making Master Trooper Toni Schuck

10 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Breaking the Brass Ceiling Commissioner Amanda Ray, Retd.

11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Lunch - North Coast A-B

12:30 – 4:30 p.m. It’s What You Do Next That Matters Officer Julie Werhnyak

Wednesday, April 26

6 – 8 a.m. Breakfast - North Coast A-B

8 – 9 a.m. Friday Is My Second Favorite F Word Colonel Anne Carpenter, Retd.

9 – 10 a.m. The Power of Mentorship Major Lynette Falzone Deputy Chief Kay Lokey, Retd.

10 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Changing the Narrative Women in Law Enforcement Deputy Chief Kay Lokey, Retd.

11:30 – Noon Closing Ceremony Captain Kim Ogle
Commissioner Jeff Long
Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security

Prior to being appointed Commissioner of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security and Governor’s Homeland Security Advisor, Jeff Long was elected Sheriff of Williamson County in August 2008. He is a graduate of the University of Memphis with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. He received a Doctorate of Jurisprudence Degree from Nashville School of Law. He has served in the criminal justice field for the past 46 years as an Assistant District Attorney for the 21st Judicial District, Special Agent in Charge with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Investigator for the 21st Judicial District, Arson Investigator with the Tennessee Fire Marshall’s Office, Captain with the Williamson County Sheriff’s Office and Federal Hospital Police Officer with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Throughout his career, Long has received special acknowledgements including the Task Force Against Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Award, John Marshall American Inns of Court, Master Hall of Fame Morris Heithcock Lodge 41 FOP award, and Commendation from FBI Director Williams S. Sessions. He was also awarded the Nashville Business Journal, Williamson County 2013 Impact Award, the 2013 Law Enforcement of the Year by the Williamson County Bar Association, the Sons of the American Revolution Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, and the 2013 Tennessee Sheriff of the Year Award.

Long also had the honor of serving on the Dignitary Protection Detail for Presidents Reagan, Clinton, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush and Princess Anne, daughter of Queen Elizabeth. He is past president of the Tennessee Sheriffs’ Association, a current member of the National Sheriffs’ Association and current member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). In 2014, Governor Bill Haslam appointed Sheriff Long to the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission.

Commissioner Long was appointed Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security by Governor Bill Lee and was sworn in immediately after the Governor in January 2019.

Commissioner Long resides in Williamson County with his wife, Dora. They have two children, Julie and Justin and five grandchildren.
Colonel Matt Perry  
Tennessee Highway Patrol

Prior to his promotion, Perry served as Colonel Stewart’s Executive Officer, supervising the Support Services Division. Perry worked as a deputy with the Williamson County Sheriff’s Department before joining the Tennessee Highway Patrol in 2004. Perry served as a road trooper before taking a position with the Critical Incident Response Team as a crash reconstructionist in 2007. In 2010, Perry was promoted to Sergeant over Davidson and Cheatham counties before being promoted to Lieutenant and Commander of the Interdiction Plus Team, liaison to the Tennessee Fusion Center, and coordinator of the license plate reader program in 2013. In 2015, Perry was promoted to Captain over the Nashville District, commanding nearly 100 commissioned personnel spanning 12 counties. In 2017, Perry was promoted to Major over the Administrative Bureau, then laterally transferred to Major over the Field Operations West Bureau. He oversaw all road trooper operations in THP’s Nashville, Lawrenceburg, Jackson, and Memphis Districts. In 2019, Perry was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He served in the capacity of Executive Officer/Lieutenant Colonel until his promotion to Colonel in December 2020.

Colonel Perry earned a bachelor’s degree from Middle Tennessee State University. He graduated from Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command and PERF’s Senior Management Institute for Police.

He currently serves as Southern Region Chair for the IACP State and Provincial Police Division.
Conference Emcee Dorinda Carter
Tennessee Department of Correction

Dorinda Carter serves as Communications Director for the Tennessee Department of Correction. Dorinda is an Emmy award-winning journalist who previously served as a general assignment reporter for television stations in Nashville, Indiana and Kentucky and as Communications Director and Chief of Staff for the Nashville District Attorney's Office.

Dorinda is founder of a prison reentry program for women who have survived lives of abuse, addiction, prostitution, and trafficking. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Broadcast Journalism from Western Kentucky University. A Master of Arts Degree in Civic Leadership from Lipscomb University and a Ph.D. in Leadership and Organizational Development from Carolina University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
Presentation of Colors
All-Female Honor Guard

This year’s historic all-female honor guard is comprised of THP Trooper Katie Bush, MNPD Lieutenant Misty Hobbs, Metro-Nashville Airport Police Sargent Joyce Page and MNPD Officer Darci Stechman, with Metro-Nashville Airport Police Officer Kayla Kimbro serving as alternate.

Tennessee Highway Patrol Honor Guard
The Tennessee Highway Patrol Honor Guard was established in 1997 by Colonel Jerry Scott. Colonel Scott felt that there needed to be a dedicated guard to handle “In Line of Duty” deaths. This unit established and provided a more structured and military type protocol ceremony for these funerals. At the time that the Honor Guard was established, Sgt. Kendall Riley was selected as the Officer in Charge. Other members selected were Troopers John Mann, Michael Hamilton, Jon Officer, Bill Miller and Mark Dial. Shortly thereafter, Lt. Mike Walker was selected as the designated trumpet player.

Today the THP Honor Guard has participated in not only “In Line of Duty” funerals, but funerals for retired THP personnel, events for THP graduation ceremonies, promotion ceremonies, memorial services, parades, Tennessee Titans football games, Nashville Sounds baseball games, TACP conferences, and various other events.

Metropolitan Nashville Police Drill and Ceremony Team
The Metropolitan Nashville Police Drill and Ceremony Team was formed to honor and stand watch over law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The Drill and Ceremony Team represents the MNPD and the city of Nashville in formal ceremonies such as honor guards, color guards, parades, casket watches, funerals, police academy graduations, and civic events. The team also commits to honoring the service of retired MNPD officers who have passed by attending these officers’ funerals.

The Drill and Ceremony Team is comprised of highly trained members of the MNPD, specially selected for their dedication to the law enforcement profession and the department. Each member is selected and chosen specifically because of their dedication to maintain the highest professional appearance & skills. Each member is trained in basic rifle drills, police ceremonies, military ceremonies, and related tasks.
Nashville International Airport (BNA) Department of Public Safety Honor Guard
The Nashville International Airport Department of Public Safety is dedicated to building community partnerships with our passengers, residents and those within the community we serve. Our team is active within the community, and we embrace our community’s support. Officers work in cooperation with a number of local, state, and federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration, FBI, U.S. Customs Service, Federal Aviation Administration, IRS, Secret Service, State Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Postal Inspector, Metropolitan Nashville Police and Fire Departments, and the Metropolitan Nashville Office of Emergency Management.

The Honor Guard is a highly trained unit continuing a time-honored, ceremonial tradition of bearing our nation’s and state’s flags at times of special significance. They bring a dignified salute to our annual September 11 observance, tributes to fallen officers and other occasions.
For Grace Leer, country music has always been personal.

"When I was nine years old, I sang 'Wide Open Spaces' for a talent competition," she remembers. "I was practicing in the family room when my mom printed out the lyrics, sat me down, and said, 'Let's read this together, word by word, so you can understand the story you're telling.'"

That moment left a permanent impression on Grace. "It taught me that music is more than just singing; it's about telling stories that people can relate to," she adds. "As a songwriter, that's the biggest honor — to write my own stories and connect with the people who hear them."

Her debut self-titled EP, Grace Leer, is the newest chapter of that ongoing story. Recorded in the wake of her career-launching run on American Idol, it's a modern record inspired by the '90s country music that first captured her attention as a young California native.

"I grew up listening to female powerhouses of the '90s, like The Chicks, Jo Dee Messina, Martina McBride, LeAnn Rimes, and Faith Hill," she says. "I loved their music, but I also loved Whitney Houston, Selena, Aretha Franklin, and Mariah Carey. It was a mix of soul, pop, rock & roll, and country music, all playing on my boombox while I sang along at the top of my lungs."

Equally influential were the rigorous soccer matches that built Grace into an all-star athlete. She wholeheartedly committed herself to the sport, leading her high school team in scoring during back-to-back seasons. For an active musician who'd been participating in singing competitions since the age of six, Grace spent her teenage years in a whirl of activity, constantly bouncing between athletics and the arts. "I learned how to balance things like choir performances and state cup championship games with my friends' birthday parties and my home-work," she says. "It helped me become a very goal-oriented person. Learning about your strengths, your weaknesses, the ways you can grow stronger... that's going to help you whether you're an athlete or an artist. And I'm both."

Grace landed a D1 soccer scholarship to UC Berkeley. During her freshman year, an injury left her sidelined for much of the season, and she often found herself riding the bench. "During some games, I only played some five minutes," she remembers. "I learned to make the most of those five minutes. When you're performing a
song, you have less time than that to make an impression... and with American Idol, you only get a minute and a half to advance yourself to the next round.” Grace was honored to be elected captain of the Cal Women’s soccer team in her senior year.

When Grace auditioned for American Idol’s eighteenth season, she'd already graduated from UC Berkeley and moved to Nashville, TN. This was a songwriter’s town, and she got to work immediately, playing gigs at night and holding down a sales job during the day. "I remember crying my eyes out during the first audition," she says of her Idol experience, "because I knew it was going to change everything." And it did, broadcasting Grace’s warm, West Coast twang to national audiences. She finished the show in the Top 10, made a fan out of Katy Perry, quit her day job, and began working on her debut record.

Produced by Dan Fernandez and Jared Hampton (LANCO), the Grace Leer EP balances itself between modern melodies and the timeless influence of Grace's childhood favorites. She nods to her '90s roots with a reimagined version of Dwight Yoakam's "A Thousand Miles From Nowhere," then tells her own story with songs like the swaggering, fiddle-fueled "Brought A Girl" and the breakup ballad "Meant To Be." "Ones Before Me" salutes the Nashville icons who paved the way for 21st century torchbearers like Grace, while "Nothing With You" — a duet with Logan Mize, who handpicked Grace as the opening act on his It’s About Time Tour — simmers with countrified chemistry. Together, these songs weave heartbreak, honky-tonk attitude, self-reflection, and empowerment into a tapestry of twang, glued together by a larger-than-life songwriter whose work ethic matches her talent.

"I didn't grow up driving down dirt roads or running through corn fields," Grace says. "That's not my experience, and I can't write about something I haven't lived. I know what it's like to have your heart broken, though. I know what it's like to work hard. These songs are real — they're played on real instruments, they're based on real experiences — and that's something I'm proud of. This EP is me, and that's why I called it Grace Leer.”

Leer is signed with Red Light Management, UTA, and 19 Recordings
Chief Cerelyn “CJ” Davis
Memphis Police Department

Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn “CJ” Davis has over 35 years of experience in the law enforcement profession. Being focused on holistic interagency wraparound services and transformational policing for crime reduction, Davis’ research-driven work is strongly influenced by the practical application of the latest tools in technology, predictive policing, leadership development, and all-important community engagement.

She began her career with the City of Atlanta Police Department where she learned the importance of forging relationships with Atlanta’s diverse community. She was assigned to a variety of specialized assignments as a young patrol officer and quickly moved through the ranks working as an Investigator in Licenses & Permits, supervisor in Background & Recruitment, Special Victims, Executive Officer to the Chief, Public Affairs, Homeland Security & Organized Crime. As a Commander she led the Special Operations Section, which included SWAT, Mounted Patrol, Motors, Helicopter Unit, Vice & Narcotics, REDDOG Unit, all Federal Task Force Officers, HIDTA Task Force, Cyber Crimes, Gangs & Guns and the Surveillance Unit. In addition, she was the Internal Affairs Commander, Airport Section Asst. Commander, and served on Executive Loan as a Project Manager to the Mayor’s Office. After her promotion to Deputy Chief, she led the Strategies & Special Projects Division, overseeing the Department’s new Video Integration Center (VIC), a real time crime center where she ensured more than 3000 public and private sector cameras were included in the citywide network. Also, under her leadership was Planning & Research, Accreditation (CALEA), the Atlanta Police Leadership Institute (APLI), capital projects, facility improvements and more. Davis retired in June 2016 to accept the position of Chief of Police for the City of Durham, NC.

As the Chief of Police, Davis made great strides towards improving the Durham Police Department’s outreach and crime reduction efforts by building trust between citizens and law enforcement and fostering sustainable partnerships with key stakeholders.

In April of 2021, Chief Davis was selected by Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland as the first female police chief for the Memphis Police Department. She was later confirmed by Memphis City Council in May and began her career as the Chief of Police for the Memphis Police Department on June 14, 2021.

Chief Davis is a graduate of the 225th Session of the National FBI Academy, and completed senior management training at the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) in Boston, MA. Chief Davis has
experienced training opportunities abroad at the Emergency Preparedness College in York, England, and as a participant in a leadership exchange session with the Israel National Police. She is a past President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and recently testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on the matter of Police Reform, in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd. She has since been featured on Good Morning America, CNN, and other networks as a subject matter expert on this important topic. She serves on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and was appointed to North Carolina Governor, Roy Cooper’s Racial Equity in Criminal Justice Task Force. Throughout her career, she has received numerous awards and commendations, to include Atlanta Police Supervisor of the Year, and featured in OPRAH ‘O’ Magazine as winner of the “Women Rule” competition, where she was recognized for establishing a women’s mentoring initiative entitled, “Sisters-In-Law.” In 2013, she was featured in Atlanta’s Women Looking Ahead Magazine as one of Georgia’s 100 Most Influential Women.

Davis has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a Master’s degree in General Administration. She is the proud wife of a very supportive husband (retired law enforcement) for 27 years, and mother of one daughter.
Deputy Sheriff Joan M. Kamholz, Retd.
Dane County Sheriff’s Office

Joan M. Kamholz is a retired Deputy Sheriff from Dane County Sheriff’s Office, in Madison, WI.

In 2007, as she was planning her retirement from 30 years of law enforcement, she learned she had breast cancer.

Those words “you have cancer” changed her life forever. Because of her cancer she has made it her mission to help fight the fight and do whatever she can to educate, help and support others going through their cancer journey, along with raising funds to support the badly needed research to find a cure for ALL cancer.

She is the founder and president of a non-profit 501(c)(3) cancer organization, “Justice for a Cure”, that she describes as “The law enforcement family doing their part to SERVE & PROTECT, in the fight against cancer”. It’s a program to get the law enforcement family working together with the community to educate, raise awareness, support cancer research and cancer support programs, support those going through their cancer journey, support the caregivers, and remember and honor those taken.

What she started at the Dane County Sheriff’s Office has grown from a single agency, to agencies participating across the Country. Her law enforcement commitment carries on, “to serve and protect”. Her commitment and passion are endless in an effort to reach out to help those going through their cancer journey, and to encourage more law enforcement participation within local communities, and the benefits of such.

She has served on several Susan G. Komen committees in Madison, WI. In 2009 she was named the RACE for the Cure Co-Honorary Chair for Susan G. Komen. In 2010 she was named as one of the 31 breast cancer survivor ambassadors for Susan G. Komen. In 2011 she was nominated as an Honorary member of Team New Balance for Susan G. Komen. In May 2011 she was selected Honorary Bat Girl for Major League Baseball-Milwaukee Brewers for Susan G. Komen. In 2013 she was awarded the “Ann Haney” award for Susan G. Komen.

She also serves as a volunteer with Breast Cancer Recovery, Madison WI. as a facilitator at Infinite Boundaries Retreats. She was very instrumental in establishing the first Celebration of Survivorship reunion in 2016. In 2019 she was awarded the “Ann Haney” award a by Breast Cancer Recovery.
In February 2016, she began an annual event to recognize World Cancer Day on February 4th. It involves local school children making color ribbons of different sizes and different colors (representing the different cancers) and get well note cards. The ribbons are shared at all Justice for a Cure events for those in need of support, as well as placed on display at GILDA’s, Agrace Hospice, local businesses, Police Depts., Sheriff’s Office, Fire Depts., Susan G. Komen, Choose Hope, Breast cancer Recovery, etc. These ribbons and get well note cards are also mailed out in our “Care Packages”, across the United States to anyone going through cancer that is in need of cheering up and a smile.

Also in 2016, she started the “Heaven Can Wait” Program. We all have wishes, hopes and dreams, but those can change if you are a person fighting for your life. The “Heaven Can Wait” program was designed to help make those final wishes of our fellow brothers and sisters come true.

In 2017, she established the “Squad Car Project”. What started out with a toy squad car purchased at a garage sale to be used as JFAC paper weight at Law Enforcement National Nights Out, turned into a squad car donation to children touched by cancer as a way to “light up” their spirits and take their mind off of cancer if only for a little while.

In May 2018, she established a Cancer Support Group, called the DAWN LENGEL MEMORIAL Cancer Support Group for ALL CANCER SURVIVORS, and for CAREGIVERS. The mission is to connect people touched by cancer while offering emotional support and healing, as well as coping skills to strengthen their wellbeing by forming a partnership with a local Counselor/Psychotherapist and the Monroe Emergency Medical Services for the meeting site.

In 2019, she established the first “Sandy Bowen Memorial Retreat” for those women living with Metastatic Breast. Most recently the Retreat was re-named, “The Sandy Bowen – Tonya Whitney” Memorial retreat, held yearly for these special women.

Joan’s passion and mission has spread, Justice for a Cure has been endorsed and supported by local and national police organizations such as: Badger State Sheriff’s Association, Wisconsin Professional Police Association, Dane County Deputy Sheriff’s Association, National Sheriff’s Association, Wisconsin Association of Women Police, and the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives.
Major Cheryl Sanders, Retd.
Tennessee Highway Patrol

Cheryl Sanders was the East Bureau Field Operations Major of the Tennessee Highway Patrol prior to her retirement, June 30, 2020. Sanders was promoted in February 2013 from Captain to Major and was the 2nd woman in the history of THP to be promoted to the rank of Major. Major Sanders oversaw the Field Operations of the Knoxville, Chattanooga, Fall Branch and Cookeville Districts, which consisted of over 350 employees.

Commissioned as a Road Trooper in 1983, Sanders first worked as a road trooper in Knox County and was also selected as the first female to ever serve on a THP district Tactical Squad. In 1986, Sanders was elected by her peers as the first female to hold the office of President of the local Fraternal Order of Police lodge. Sanders was assigned to the CID Division in undercover narcotics enforcement in 1988. Sanders also served as an adjunct instructor at the THP training center, as a traffic crash reconstructionist, and as a member of the Knoxville District Executive Protection Detail. In 1996, Sanders was promoted to Sergeant in the Knoxville District Safety Education division. In 1998, Sanders was reassigned to Road Sergeant over Roane and Morgan County and was the first female in THP to serve as a supervisor over field personnel. In 2002, Sanders became the first female promoted to Lieutenant in the history of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, where she was the road lieutenant over Troop B (Roane, Morgan, and Loudon Counties) in the Knoxville District. In 2006, she became the first female promoted to Captain in THP overseeing the Chattanooga district. In 2008, Sanders was reassigned as Captain over the Knoxville district.

Sanders earned an associate degree in Police Science and Criminal Justice from Roane State Community College. Sanders is a 1997 graduate of the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command. Sanders is a graduate of the FBI Tennessee Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, a 2012 graduate of the State of Tennessee LEAD program, and a graduate of the 2017 Tennessee Government Executive Institute. She is still a member of several professional law enforcement organizations, including Fraternal Order of Police, Tennessee State Troopers Association, and the American Association of State Troopers. She also served as a member of the Tennessee Women in Criminal Justice Steering Committee and was responsible for organizing and hosting the National Women In Law Enforcement conference in 2017 and 2019. Sanders was also a critical incident stress debriefer. Since retirement, Sanders works part time with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security by overseeing the TN Department of Safety Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Program, the Peer Support Program, and the Mentoring Program.
Chief Operating Officer Brandon O. Gibson
Office of Tennessee Governor Bill Lee

Brandon O. Gibson is Chief Operating Officer in Governor Bill Lee’s office. In that role, Brandon manages the operations of the State’s twenty-three departments, driving cross-department collaboration to best serve Tennessee’s citizens. Prior to serving as COO, she served as Governor Lee’s Senior Advisor, focusing primarily on criminal justice issue and rural issues, as well as a variety of other subjects.

A native of West Tennessee, Brandon graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and Master’s degree in Agribusiness Management. She graduated from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 2000, practiced law in Texas for a year, and felt the pull back to West Tennessee, where she began practicing law in Jackson. In private practice, Brandon was a partner at Pentecost & Glenn, PLLC, where she primarily handled employment and civil rights defense cases. In 2013, Brandon was appointed by then-Governor Bill Haslam to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, where she served for over four years before joining Governor Lee’s cabinet in January 2019.

Brandon has been active in her local community, the legal community, and the state as a whole. Brandon is a graduate of Class IV of Leadership Tennessee and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Leadership Tennessee. She also serves on the Board of the Governor’s Early Literacy Foundation, formerly known as the Governor’s Books from Birth Foundation. She is a former Chair of the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct and was active in the Tennessee Judicial Conference during her time on the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Brandon and her family live on a farm in Crockett County.
Sara Sefried
Truckers Against Trafficking

Sara Sefried is the director of strategic partnerships for Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), a non-profit organization that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking, bus and energy industries to combat human trafficking. In her role, Sara builds public-private partnerships across North America.

Prior to working with TAT, Sara led statewide anti-trafficking efforts in Illinois for the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center through the Illinois State Police/Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. Sara is a relationship builder at heart, with over 20 years of experience implementing and strengthening programs for survivors of interpersonal violence.

Sara is a nationally recognized speaker, who educates leaders and organizations about the realities of human trafficking so they can be activated to make real change in their communities.
Trooper Toni Schuck
Florida Highway Patrol

Trooper Toni Schuck began her career with the Florida Highway Patrol in 1995 as a member of the 89th academy recruit class. Upon completion of Recruit School, she was assigned to Troop C – Pasco County where she served the citizens of the State, and specifically Pasco County for eight years. While there, she was a field training officer and also volunteered her time in local elementary schools as a reading mentor.

In 2004, Trooper Schuck was promoted to the rank of Corporal in Troop C – Pinellas County for two years before she transferred back to Pasco County. As a Corporal, she investigated hundreds of fatal traffic crashes and continued to serve in this role until 2015. Trooper Shuck received the West Pasco Bar Association Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 2008 for her hard work in this role.

In 2015, Trooper Schuck made another career move and joined FHP’s Bureau of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, where she would enforce State and Federal commercial vehicle laws and regulations. In 2019, Trooper Schuck was appointed as a Commercial Motor Vehicle Hazardous Materials Specialist, an even more highly specialized position, tasked with conducting hazardous material enforcement. Trooper Schuck is also a member of the Preventative Radiological and Nuclear Detection team, which travels to special events all over the State to attempt to detect or deter possible radioactive or nuclear threats. Trooper Schuck conducts industry outreach events, speaking to carriers and truck drivers all throughout the year, stressing safety while on our roadways.

While this impressive 26-year law enforcement career stands upon its own merits, Trooper Schuck’s actions occurring on March 6, 2022, truly stand out and have gained national attention. While providing traffic control and security for the Armed Forces Family Skyway 10K race, she was assigned to the south end rest area to close Interstate 275 and protect over 8,000 runners crossing the northbound span of the iconic Skyway Bridge. Just before 9 a.m. on that morning, officers manning traffic posts south of Trooper Schuck radioed that a female driving a BMW had driven through the barricades and traffic cones at US-41 at an estimated 100 MPH. Efforts to overtake and stop the erratic driver by other officers were unsuccessful. Continuing northbound on I-275, nearing the starting line of the race and drop off point for thousands of runners, the driver still refused to stop. Acting with bravery and selflessness, realizing that nothing stood between the erratic driver and the many unaware runners, Trooper Schuck positioned her FHP patrol vehicle directly in the path of the BMW. With less than ½ mile left between her and the runners, the BMW collided head-on with
Trooper Schuck, ending the threat to all and leading to the DUI arrest of the driver who was determined to be heavily impaired. It is no doubt that Trooper Schuck’s heroic actions that day saved countless lives.

In addition to being a devoted commercial vehicle enforcement Trooper, Toni is a mother, wife and horsewoman. Her entire family has chosen careers in public service. Her eldest son, Ryan, is a Senior Airman in the United States Air Force, currently stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. Her youngest son, Travis, has just started a law enforcement career as a Deputy at the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office and her husband, Scott, is a Pasco County Sheriff’s Office Sergeant. When not spending time with her family, Trooper Schuck’s time is devoted to her horses. She has been riding horses since she was a child, and absolutely loves getting to enjoy that hobby.
Commissioner Amanda L. Ray, Retd.
California Highway Patrol

On Nov. 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Amanda L. Ray as the 16th Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol (CHP); the first woman to lead the Department of approximately 11,000 members. Prior to her appointment to Commissioner, she served as the Deputy Commissioner and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CHP.

Commissioner Ray is a 32-year veteran of the CHP and has earned numerous awards and commendations in her personal life and during her professional career with the Department. Commissioner Ray has been a pioneer for women in law enforcement as the first African American female in the CHP’s 93-year history to hold the position of Deputy Commissioner for the nation’s largest state police agency.

Commissioner Ray served an integral role as the Department’s first female to be assigned as the Special Response Team Tactical Commander during Super Bowl 50 held at Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, CA. Her vast field experience has allowed her to effectively serve as incident commander during a variety of other high-profile events including the Department’s response to COVID-19, civil unrest, and wildfires.

In 2020, Commissioner Ray was selected to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Executive Institute executive training program where she enhanced her knowledge in national and international political, economic, and social trends affecting law enforcement.

As a leader in law enforcement, Commissioner Ray holds firm to the values set forth by the CHP’s Public Trust Long-Range Plan to serve and safeguard our communities with compassion and understanding. Throughout her career, Commissioner Ray has actively engaged with the communities she serves, seeking every opportunity to participate in outreach events, and active involvement in departmental programs to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security to the people of California.

Commissioner Ray holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, and she is the first female in the history of the CHP to hold the rank of Commissioner.
Officer Julie Werhnyak  
**Tempe Police Department**

On March 3, 2015, a 911 call suddenly became a life and death encounter for then 19-year Veteran Officer Julie Werhnyak of the Tempe, Arizona Police Department.

Julie and other officers responded to a check welfare call and upon arrival, a domestic violence victim was heard screaming for help from inside her residence. Officers forced entry and Julie was the first through the door. She was subsequently ambushed in the dark, by the suspect who stabbed her in the neck with a large hunting knife - narrowly missing her carotid artery by less than an inch! Julie and other officers shot and killed the suspect and rescued the victim who was found bound, beaten and stabbed multiple times.

During this presentation, Julie tells her riveting story and shares real time audio from the radio traffic and actual crime scene photos. She also includes how her prior mental, physical and tactical training prepared her to survive this lethal encounter.

Julie will discuss actions taken during the incident and identify lessons learned in the aftermath. In addition, she will provide her perspective for understanding and helping colleagues in dealing with traumatic events.
Colonel Anne K. Carpenter, Retd.
Nevada Department of Public Safety

Anne K. Carpenter joined the Nevada Department of Public Safety in March 1995 and attended the law enforcement academy in Carson City. After graduating from the academy, she started her career with the Nevada Parole and Probation Division and was promoted to Sergeant in 2001. In December 2005, she was promoted to Lieutenant with the Nevada Highway Patrol, which was unconventional but forever changed her career trajectory.

In January 2012, she was promoted to Captain at the Nevada Highway Patrol. During her time as Captain, Anne was awarded the NHTSA Public Service Award for her leadership in developing a distracted driving program entitled “IT CAN WAIT FOR 28 Challenge” at the 33rd Annual Lifesavers Conference in 2015. She also won the Office of Traffic Safety’s Safety Communications Award.

In March 2016, Anne was promoted to Deputy Chief and returned to the Nevada Parole and Probation Division. She challenged the status quo and found creative solutions to ongoing problems that had plagued the Division for years. She also created valuable relationships with community partners and maintained those relationships throughout her career.

Then in June 2019, Anne was appointed as the Chief of the Nevada Parole and Probation, responsible for nearly 700 sworn and professional staff and all executive-level functions. She not only led by example, but she streamlined statewide antiquated processes, instilled unity, vision, leadership, and expected employee accountability. Chief Carpenter served on the Nevada Sentencing Commission, the Clark County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice. As a member of these Commissions, she educated legislators and the community about the importance of the Division of Parole and Probation’s mission. She introduced a balance between law enforcement and social responsibility, improving services and success rates for justice-involved individuals.

In October 2020, Anne was appointed as the Chief of the Nevada Highway Patrol, making history as the first woman to hold the position of Colonel in its over 100-year history. As Colonel, Anne was responsible for over 600 sworn officers and professional staff located in thirty-three offices throughout the state. Colonel Carpenter served on the Nevada Advisory Commission on Traffic Safety, continued to maintain valuable
relationships with state legislators as well as her law enforcement peers, and brought leadership to the Division by focusing on accountability, innovation, and process improvement.

In November 2021, Colonel Carpenter was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for her steadfast commitment and passion for public safety. She honorably retired after serving the State of Nevada for 27 years with great pride and humility.

While working full-time and managing a new career, Anne was an adjunct professor for the College of Southern Nevada, instructing Political Science from 1998-2005. Colonel Carpenter graduated from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department’s Leadership Series and the 244th class of the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command. She is also a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, with a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. Anne was awarded the Executive and Management Certifications from the Nevada State Peace Officer’s Standards and Training Commission (POST), the highest certification awarded to sworn personnel.

In April 2022, Anne joined FirstNet as a Lead Strategist. She manages strategic planning and marketing activities to improve products and services for law enforcement, corrections, and transportation for the United States. Anne is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA), the Nevada Sheriffs’ and Chiefs’ Association, and the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE). Anne is also a member of the National Charity League (NCL), a philanthropic organization where Mothers and Daughters serve communities together.
Major Lynette Falzone  
**Fort Lauderdale Police Department**

Lynette Falzone is currently a Major with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. She is assigned to the Investigations Bureau. Lynette teaches various mental health and leadership topics and still coordinates the department’s Peer Support Team.

Prior to her promotion, Lynette was assigned to the Support Services Bureau where she assisted in building the Psychological Services Program. Lynette has been instrumental with developing wellness resources for all employees of her agency, as well as

Lynette obtained her Master’s degree in Administration with a Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management and Planning from Lynn University (graduated magna cum laude with honors) and a certificate from Florida Atlantic University in Human Resources Management. Professional education includes graduating from the FBI National Academy, Session 283, Command Officer Development Course (Southern Police Institute) and the Executive Leadership Program (ELP1801) from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Naval Post Graduate School.
Deputy Chief Natalie Kay Lokey, Retd.
Metro Nashville Police Department

During her 25-year career with Metro Nashville Police Department, Deputy Chief Natalie Kay Lokey has served in many roles within the police department. Deputy Lokey began her career as a School Resource Officer. In 2004, she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned to the Police Training Academy. In 2008, she was promoted to Lieutenant where she was assigned to the Hermitage Precinct evening shifting patrol, but quickly moved to assume the duties in the Background and Recruitment Division. In 2010 she was promoted to Captain serving the Central Records Division until her appointment to the Domestic Violence Division in 2012. She was made the Commander of the Midtown Hill Police Precinct in 2014. In 2020 she was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police and assigned to the Administrative Services Bureau.

Deputy Chief Lokey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management and a Master of Science in Public Service Management. She has completed dozens of leadership programs during her 25 years with the department. A few of those include the Police Supervision and Leadership program (2004), the International Association of Chiefs of Leadership in Policing Organizations training program (2009), the Police Executive Research Forum’s Senior Management Institute for Police (2011), and the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (2011).

Deputy Chief Lokey has received awards and has a publication to her credit as well. Deputy Chief Lokey contributed to the publication, Investigating Domestic Violence Cases, Aspatore, which was published in 2012. She received the Cumberland University Distinguished Alumni Award of Excellence from The Oakley School of Humanities, Arts & Education in 2022.

In addition, Deputy Chief Lokey serves on several boards and committees. She serves on the Vanderbilt University Medical Center LifeFlight Diversity Board. In 2021 she served as a Steering Committee Member for the 30 by 30 Initiative. Deputy Chief Lokey has been a member of NAWLEE since 2010, and she is currently serving as the 1st Vice President for the organization.

Deputy Chief Lokey retired from the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department in April 2022.
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