



# GRAY RIDER STATE TROOPER MONUMENT





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Alfred P. O'Neill\*

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\* Retired NYSP

Δ Active NYSP

Dear Friend:

In April 1917, a law was enacted creating a "Department of State Police". Its first Superintendent was Colonel George Fletcher Chandler, a distinguished surgeon and former military officer. The Colonel designed the distinctive uniform of cloth woven of equal parts black and white threads, symbolic of the good and evil the Troopers would encounter, blended to a neutral gray. So began the name "Gray Rider" when people spoke of the Troopers on horseback.

Colonel Chandler drew upon the tradition of the Praetorian Guard of Imperial Rome in choosing the color purple, signifying loyalty and elite service, for the Troopers' tie and Stetson hatband. From their genesis down to the present day, the New York State Troopers have lived up to that symbolism.

On September 30, 1993, the unveiling and dedication of the "Gray Rider State Trooper Monument" was a happy and memorable event. That day, a dream came true — a monument in tribute to all whose honorable service as New York State Troopers — past, present and to come — has built the great tradition of the New York State Police. You, as a supporter and contributor, have every reason to feel pride and satisfaction for your part in creating the Gray Rider. The dream would never have become reality without your unselfish participation.

Of the approximately 1,200 contributors to the fund-raising effort, at least 75 percent were retired or former State Troopers. Their response played a significant role in the success of this project. This book lists all donors and tells the story of the Gray Rider project from the first meetings of the all volunteer Monument Committee to the joyous occasion of its unveiling. We hope that you and your family will treasure it as a keepsake.

On behalf of the Gray Rider State Trooper Monument Committee, I thank you for your encouragement, your support, your generosity and your participation in a project that has meant so much to all of us.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Richter  
Chairman



## The Trooper's Creed

*On Nov. 1, 1917, shortly after the founding of the New York State Police, Superintendent George Fletcher Chandler issued his personal view of the Trooper on the job. He entitled it simply as "Bulletin No. 1."*

A physician aims to save life and cure disease; a lawyer helps people out of trouble; a clergyman tries to make people better; a soldier fights for his country in time of war. These are fine professions, all of them. They are professions of service.

The service a State Trooper renders to his community is an auxiliary to all of these and his duty in a measure embraces the work of these four great professions.

You who wear the uniform of the State Troopers must be ready to render first aid pending the arrival of the doctor; you must maintain the law which the lawyer expounds; you must instruct people to do right, and if the need arises, you must fight.

You must have the confidence in yourself which comes from knowing you are a trained horseman, a good shot, and a judge of what is right and wrong in the matter of simple laws. You must be able to distinguish between an accident due to unavoidable circumstances and a willful misdemeanor.

Go about with the idea of helpfulness and a friendliness that wins the confidence of the people. Never permit a child to be afraid of you. If you hear a grown person say to a child, "Look out or I will have this man take you away," tell the child at once that if he goes with you that you will give him a good time, will teach him to ride and show him how to handle a gun. He will then become your friend. The parent, too, will learn from this that your attitude is one of friendliness to all.

Never hesitate to render assistance of any kind, and let nothing be too much trouble which you can do for the people you come in contact with.

Always be a gentleman, courteous, kind, gentle, fair, keep yourself clean and neat, you and your horse equally well-groomed, stand erect, put snap and vigor into your movements. Avoid the appearance of lounging. Keep your mind calm and free from excitement. Do not be carried away by rumors but investigate every story and hear both sides before you believe it.

Then you will find that the time of your enlistment will do you as much good as a course of study in school. The education you will get, the experience you will have, the careful and painstaking use of the authority which you exercise as well as your own obedience to those above you, will fit you for any career which you may choose later.

Remember that you represent the authority of the Governor, that you are an executive officer and a state official. Be proud of it, live up to it, work in harmony with your officers and the other Troopers for the good of the service and the honor of the great State of New York.



*Pencil sketch of Hy Rosen's original concept for the Gray Rider.*

## Origin of Monument campaign

In May, 1991, the State of New York dedicated the Police Officers Memorial at Empire State Plaza in Albany. The black granite wall stands in tribute to all police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty over the past century and a half. Former Zone Sergeant Paul A. Richter was there.

On September 30, 1973, Paul had been shot and disabled while conducting a traffic check near Lake Placid. During the ceremony, Paul thought of how close he had come to being one of the more than 900 names on that wall. Another Trooper — Investigator Bruce McCully — had died in the line of duty on that same September 30. His name was on the wall.

Paul thought of all the men and women who have sworn the Trooper's oath and worn the purple and gray down through the years and who carry on today. Each one of them has shared the awful risk that at any time he or she might make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Paul thought that there should be a monument acknowledging their dedication to service.

Soon, he had gathered a group of like-minded individuals — Troopers, former Troopers, family and friends of the State Police — who were willing to volunteer their time, expertise and effort to create the Gray Rider.

Noted sculptor Hy Rosen was commissioned to help create the design for the monument and the project began.



*Sgt. John H. Leavitt models for an early study of the Gray Rider.*



*Staff Inspector Daniel M. Scribner (ret.) models as Undersheriff John S. Bates of Schoharie County, a former Trooper, inspects a small model of the Gray Rider called a maquette sculpted first in clay then cast in bronze.*

## Kickoff of Monument Campaign

On October 21, 1992, the Gray Rider campaign was formally launched at the New York State Police Academy. Hy Rosen's clay maquette was displayed. In attendance were leading members of the Capital District business community, civic groups, academia and public officials. Response was immediate, warm, enthusiastic and generous.

Fleet Financial Group Inc., represented by Executive Vice President John B. Robinson, Jr., had earlier contributed \$5000 in seed money enabling the committee to begin the campaign. Donations of printing by Price Chopper Supermarkets and public relations support by Ed Lewi Associates of Latham, New York got the committee off to a good start with its direct mail campaign. Albany philanthropist Irving Kirsch and the Veterans Monument Restoration Committee each made a \$5000 pledge on the spot.



John B. Robinson, Jr., Executive Vice President, Fleet Financial Group addresses the kickoff audience. Behind him, from left to right are sculptor Hy Rosen, Superintendent Thomas A. Constantine, Col. Edward Vanderwall, Campaign Chairman Paul A. Richter and, representing the Trooper Foundation Board of Directors, Board Member Richard Olson.



Ms. Dale M. Nelson of Westvaco, Envelope Division of Springfield, Massachusetts with her husband Joel and Paul Richter. Westvaco contributed all envelopes used in the campaign.



Hy Rosen, Paul Richter, Superintendent Constantine and John Robinson with maquette of the Gray Rider.



A capacity crowd representing the Capital District business community and members, former members, family and friends of the State Police filled the Academy library for the campaign kickoff. Seated in foreground (R. to L.) are Chapter President Lt. George Mills (ret.) and Z/Sgt Patrick O'Reilly, representing the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the Association of Former NY State Troopers and the Troopers PBA, respectively.



Work on the sculpture continues. From left to right: Sgt. John Lewitt, Lt. Alfred O'Neill (ret.), Hy Rosen, Lt. Alfred O'Neill (ret.) and Paul Richter.



From left to right: Tpr. Joseph M. Kanne, who served as consultant on organizing the project; Lt. Col. George L. Infante (ret.), Capt. George Blumenthal (ret.), Tpr. O'Neill and Paul Richter.



Exhibition Booth - Center at south gallery of Empire State Plaza Albany during Law Enforcement Training Week, 1993. From left to right: Tpr. Paul Richter, "Bump" Daley, former Deputy Commissioner, Commission of Correctional Services, Paul Richter, George Abare. Note all the signs - they were manufactured to order by Daley & Co., Ltd.



The Troops pitch in. From left to right: Sgt. Jamie Mills, Tpr. Raymond Santiago, Jr. and Kathleen M. Condon of Ed Levi Associates.

## Monument Committee at Work

After the successful kickoff, the volunteers of the Monument Committee were off to an encouraging start. Hy Rosen proceeded with the creation of the sculpture while a direct mail campaign was launched. Some 20,000 pieces of mail were ultimately posted. The committee met frequently to plan each phase of the campaign and to discuss the merits of a variety of fundraising strategies. On many occasions, the volunteers took the campaign directly to the public across the state, setting up displays at law enforcement gatherings, meeting with business leaders and passing out brochures at shopping malls. The contributions started to come in and gradually we inched toward our goal.



Paperwork: William C. Trigg, III, Executive Director, Trooper Foundation. The Foundation handled all funds, acknowledgements and record keeping for the campaign.



... and more paperwork. Seated, left: former First Deputy Superintendent Raymond M. Rasmussen. Standing: Frank "Sonny" Mortori, Albany restaurateur (Oceans II) a former Trooper.

## Committee Meets with Trooper Foundation Board of Directors in New York City

It was under the auspices of the Trooper Foundation - State of New York, Inc. that the Gray Rider campaign was conducted. The Trooper Foundation is a not-for-profit, charitable corporation dedicated to the advancement of policing in New York State through innovative programs and services of the New York State Police.

Foundation staff received, recorded and banked all donations to the project, handled mail and provided much practical advice on how to conduct a fundraising campaign that was both effective and consistent with the highest ethical standards.

On July 20, 1993, the Committee traveled to New York City to meet with the Board of Directors of the Foundation to report on the progress of the campaign. The Board meeting was held on the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid, courtesy of Foundation trustee Larry Fisher and his brother Zachary, who was responsible for the conversion of the Intrepid into a military museum. It was during this meeting that the committee proposed the distinctive and meaningful octagonal design for the base of the Gray Rider, noting that it would be more costly than the initial, rectangular design.

The Fisher brothers responded on the spot, with a generous contribution. The Committee proceeded to design a base in the shape of the eight-sided Trooper's shield.



*All hands on deck. Committee members on the USS Intrepid displaying the bronze maquette. From left to right: William Trigg, Terry O'Neill, Cynthia Knights, Director of Marketing, Trooper Foundation, J. Bruce Stauffer, Trooper Foundation Board Member, Francis "Bump" Daley, Richard Olson, Hy Rosen, Paul Richter and George Infante.*



*Paul Richter introduces the proposed octagonal design for the monument base to the Board of Directors of the Trooper Foundation.*



*Intrepid or what? With the visitors' elevator out of commission and no skyworthy aircraft available, committee members Paul Richter, Terry O'Neill and Richard Olson were hoisted aboard the USS Intrepid.*





Francis "Bump" Daley and his lovely wife Ruth stuffing envelopes. With over 17,000 brochures to mail, a seemingly endless task. Mr. & Mrs. Daley are the parents of Intv. John E. Daley.



Members of the Monument Committee at one of many working meetings. Here they examined an artist's rendering of the Gray Rider on site. Sitting, from left to right: George Infante, George Abare and Sam Cramer, former Public Relations Director for the Police Conference of New York. Standing: from left to right, Terry O'Neill, Paul Richter, Albert M. Donzig, former Department of Motor Vehicles Deputy Commissioner, and Francis "Bump" Daley.



Former Troopers weigh in. At the May 1993 meeting of the Adirondack Chapter, a spirited debate on the amount of the Chapter's gift was cut short when Kenneth Goodspeed (ret.) (right) pulled out his toilet and took them over the top. At left, looking not at all surprised, is Chapter President Russell Slingerland (ret.) and seated (middle) Richard E. Babcock, Chapter Secretary.

## The Committee at Work

Throughout the Summer of 1993, the committee continued its direct mail campaign and met with civic groups and many business and philanthropic leaders throughout the state seeking support for the Gray Rider. Chapters of the Association of Former NY State Troopers got involved. Donations continued to flow. The volunteers were committed. Through hard and persistent work, they came closer and closer to a successful completion.



Paul Richter in front of the State Police Academy with Richard O. Arther, A.C.P., President of the National Center of Polygraph Science, visiting polygraph instructor, holding decals manufactured by Corcraft for the Academy marquee.

## Site Preparation

In early September, 1993, as work on the statue had advanced to the foundry stage, ground was broken at the monument site in front of the State Police Academy. The foundation was poured and finally, the 12,000 pound block of "Mountain Green" granite, quarried in Ausable Forks, New York by the Cold Springs Granite Company of Lake Placid, and cut into the distinctive octagonal shape of the Trooper's shield, was lifted into place.



Ground is broken for the foundation and base of the Gray Rider. From left to right: Col. J. Michael Hullivan, Lt. Scott W. Curtis, Nick Cornell of the Office of General Services; Sgt. Kirk J. Lee, Superintendent Constantine, Francis "Bump" Daley, Tpr. Richard C. Smith, Jr., Paul A. Richter (in white shirt), Insp. James A. Young, Robert Sweeney, Z/Sgt. Vincent J. Martinez (ret.), Sgt. John Everhardt (ret.), Capt. Geoffrey W. Calkin; 1st Deputy Supt. David M. Luitweiler, Sam Cramer, Al Danzig and Terry O'Neill. Kneeling is James Pigliavento of Colonie Masonry of Albany, Inc.



Clemente-Latham Concrete Corp. pours the footing for monument and base.



The 12,000 pound base is set into place by Flach Crane & Rigging Co.



*The armature — the sturdy steel “skeleton” over which the artist creates a sculpture in clay weighing several hundred pounds.*



*A rough clay foundation is built over the armature. The next step is for the sculptor to shape it into a work of art — a long, laborious and very detailed process.*



*Almost there. A wax model of the Gray Rider is prepared for the casting process. Hy Rosen explains the process to William Trigg while Vincent Nardone, Tallix Casting Engineering Manager and his assistant Amy E. Montegari, Wax Chasing Dept., look on.*

## Meanwhile, the Gray Rider Emerges

From the time he accepted the committee's charge, Hy Rosen worked to achieve a balance between artistic expression and authenticity of detail. The Committee had decided it essential that the sculpture evoke the mounted tradition and roots of the State Police. This was achieved through a design that incorporated a saddle and an outdoor setting suggested by the fencepost and railing. The statue equipment parts have been cast from real items. The Gray Rider's dramatic pose, looking into the distance, links the spirit of the founding era to the present and future. The Troop collar ornament is lettered "ST" designating "State Trooper". By not indicating any particular Troop, the committee felt that all would be equally honored.

At every step, the sculptor subjected his work to the committee's inspection for approval. The work was intensive and highly detailed.

On June 1, 1993, the clay statue was transported to Beacon, New York where it would be cast at the world famous Tallix Foundry. There a sophisticated chemical patination process was employed that allows the artist to create works in bronze that are permanently colored. This technique enabled Mr. Rosen to use the familiar but symbolically meaningful colors of the uniform to emphasize the continuity — linking past, present and future — of the State Police tradition.



*Master of Ceremonies Col. Edward Vanderwall opens the dedication ceremony.*

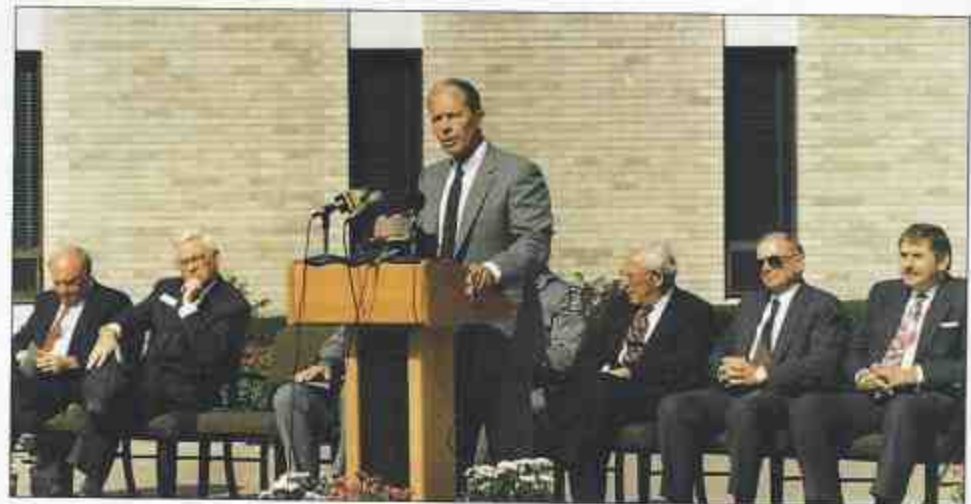
## Dedication Day

September 30, 1993 began with wind and chill, but soon developed into a beautiful, sunny Autumn day. Guests began to arrive. The committee and Major Fred Aron and the staff of the Academy had planned well. Some 700 guests arrived, and were directed into parking spaces, guided to the Academy, seated and after the ceremony treated to lunch in typical recruit style, courtesy of the State Troopers' PBA.

The dedication program began at 11:00 AM with stirring music provided by the Shaker High School Band, directed by Mr. Michael Patrizio. The color guard paraded out followed by the honored guests. Deputy Superintendent Edward Vanderwall served as Master of Ceremonies. Sgt. Richard Kubricky (ret.), an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, gave the invocation. Chairman Paul Richter spoke of the meaning of the Gray Rider and introduced the members of the Monument Committee. Former President and CEO of Fleet Bank Robert Macfarland, Superintendent Thomas Constantine, Major Raymond M. Kisor (ret.), Trooper Foundation President Daniel Walsh and Hy Rosen all spoke. Mr. Kisor gave the keynote address.



*Thomas A. Constantine, 10th Superintendent of State Police, addressing the audience.*



*Keynote Speaker Raymond M. Kisor. Behind him, from left to right: Robert Macfarland representing Fleet Bank of New York, Daniel Walsh, President, Trooper Foundation, Hy Rosen, Elder Richard Kubricky and Paul Richter.*



*Dedication guests watching the ceremony. In the foreground are the members of the Monument Committee.*