

Law Enforcement Awards



Distinguished Law Enforcement Lifetime Achievement Award

Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert H. Jones (retired) Ohio State Highway Patrol

During his 31 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, retired Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert H. Jones — the second minority to graduate from the patrol's training academy, the first minority to hold a patrol supervisory position, and the first minority to be promoted to lieutenant colonel — served as a role model and mentor to others in law enforcement.

Colonel Thomas W. Rice, former patrol superintendent, is quoted as saying "Gilbert H. Jones, without a question, served as a pioneer in human and civil rights by advancing the goals of quality and inclusion in the Ohio State Highway Patrol."

Throughout his tenure, Jones held positions where he was able to make a difference in the lives of others. For six years, he oversaw recruitment and minority relations for the patrol, where he developed a recruitment plan that is still used today. Jones was instrumental in establishing the Ohio chapter of the National Central States Troopers Coalition, an organization that supports minorities in law enforcement. He also served as a mentor for the children of Buckeye Boys Ranch and Project Lighthouse, a program to improve the lives of children by providing youth activities.

Jones retired from the patrol in 1997 and became chief deputy at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, where he served until 2014.