

For Immediate Release

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Steven Lee Frink

Commissioned – December 20, 1985
End of Watch – March 22, 1993



The Washington State Patrol's twenty-fifth member to lose his life in the line of duty was Trooper Steven L. Frink. Trooper Frink was gravely injured during a motorcycle pursuit of a speeding driver on March 18, 1993. He died in a Bellevue hospital four days later on March 22, just two days after his 39th birthday.

Trooper Frink was a trained forester, an Army veteran, and a veteran police officer having also served with the Bellevue Police Department prior to joining the Washington State Patrol in 1985. He left behind a wife, a daughter and son, grieving parents, and a brother who also served in the Patrol. He also left behind a state and agency honored by his service and his friendship. We remember...

BIO

Steven Lee Frink was born to Gordon V. Frink and Lorene Marie Derrick on March 20, 1954, in Norfolk, Nebraska. The family moved to Washington State where Frink graduated from Kentridge High School in 1972. He was active in football, basketball, and baseball, but his sport of choice was baseball, playing 3rd base and shortstop for the Chargers. He continued his education at Green River Community College, receiving his Associate of Arts Degree in Forestry in 1975 and was employed by the U.S. Forest Service from 1975 to 1978.

Frink joined the United States Army, serving as a military policeman stationed in Germany and reservist in the Criminal Investigation Division from 1979 to 1983. After his military service, his interest in law enforcement continued and he served the Bellevue Police Department as a support officer beginning in January of 1984. He retained the position until being hired as a trooper cadet by the Washington State Patrol on June 28, 1985.

Cadet Frink became a member of the 62nd Trooper Basic Training Class and was commissioned Dec. 20, 1985, assigned to Bellevue. Trooper Frink joined the Bellevue motorcycle unit two years later.

Still an Army reservist, Frink was called to active duty during Desert Storm from Feb. 26, 1991 to June 27, 1991. He returned to his WSP road duties after his tour was complete.

END OF WATCH

Washington State Trooper Steven L. Frink died on Monday, March 22, 1993 from injuries sustained in a pursuit four days prior. The 8-year WSP veteran attempted to stop a speeding 15-year-old Bellevue High School student traveling on I-90 on March 18, 1993. The driver failed to yield and exited to Island Crest Way. The 15-year-old collided with a jersey barrier and lost control, coming to rest facing the wrong way in the tunnel. Frink followed the fleeing vehicle into the tunnel and was forced to drive his motorcycle up onto the tunnel wall, striking a barrier to avoid the crashed car.

The 15-year-old fled the scene and was later taken into custody by the Mercer Island Police Department. Trooper Frink was taken to Overlake Hospital in Bellevue, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Trooper Steven L. Frink was posthumously awarded the Washington Law Enforcement Medal of Honor on May 17, 1996. He was survived by his wife, Gayle; daughter, Kari; son, Christian; his parents and his brother, Stuart who is now himself retired from the Washington State Patrol.

The Washington State Patrol holds the memory of Steven Frink dear as we do each of the 31 men and women who have died in the line of duty during our 100 years of service to the State of Washington. As many have before him and since, he was a veteran who served his country in a time of war. As many before him and since, he was a lover of the outdoors and committed to the stewardship of our state's beautiful natural resources. As many before him and since, he was a family man - a father, son, brother, and husband who loved and was loved by his family and friends.

Though his pathway was common to many, his journey was unique and important. He took on many challenges, fought for many causes, and touched many lives. We hold his sacrifice in honor and appreciate the service he so courageously provided. We remember...



Washington State Trooper Steven L. Frink

End of Watch – March 22, 1993

Gone But Never Forgotten

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