



\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

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## **100th Anniversary of Service and International Recognition**

The Washington State Patrol Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Agency's First Day of Service and Recent International Recognition with Symbolic Reenactment of Olympia Departure from Capitol Steps on Wednesday, September 1 at Noon

Olympia, WA - Wednesday, September 1 is the Centennial Anniversary of WSP's first day of road service. Legend has it that on September 1, 1921, a handful of brave young patrolmen hopped on their Indian motorcycles at the base of the Capitol steps in the still developing Capitol Campus in Olympia, checked their side-cars filled with provisions for what could be months-long deployments across a vast state with still limited paved roadways, and rode into history.

At noon on September 1, 2021, WSP will have a symbolic recreation of that event with a number of vintage and current vehicles departing from the iconic steps of the Legislative Building in Olympia. There will be ample visual and audio opportunities for media including remarks and media availability by WSP Chief John R. Batiste and a staged traffic stop of a Model T pickup truck by officers in vintage uniforms. Some of those same vehicles will then be transported to the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup where they will be on display inside our new WSP Centennial Exhibit Hall throughout the 23-day run of this year's Fair.

The transfer of vehicles into the Puyallup Fairgrounds will occur at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 2, in advance of the fair's opening the following day. Media representatives that would like a behind the scenes look at the new exhibit hall and fair preparations should contact Chris Loftis at (360) 485-3983 or [chris.loftis@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:chris.loftis@wsp.wa.gov)

Chief Batiste will also announce on Wednesday that WSP has recently received notification from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) that the agency has officially become the 27th law enforcement agency in the world to hold the title of a "Tri-Arc" Agency - the premier accreditation level in law enforcement operations, training and communications. This is the highest level of law enforcement accreditation available anywhere in the world and WSP is only the sixth state agency to receive the recognition in US history.

The award will be on display in the new Centennial Exhibit Hall at the fair beginning on Friday, September 3.

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