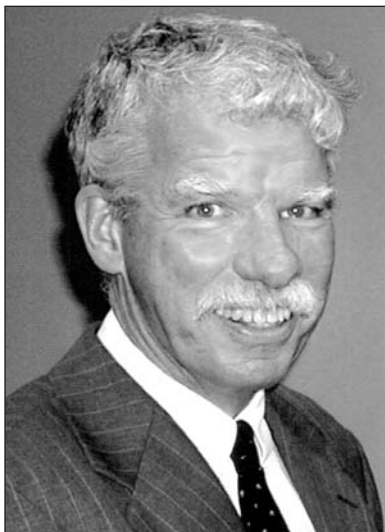


Information Technology Must Move into the 21st Century

By Kevin T. Kane, Chief State's Attorney



Right now in Connecticut, it may be easier for some police departments to send a package around the world than to send a simple report to the local prosecutor's office.

The information technology systems of our criminal justice system are woefully inadequate. In fact, as I stated in testimony last fall before the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Judiciary, these systems for the most part are non-existent.

It is time for the criminal justice system to come into the 21st century. Police departments must be able to communicate electronically with prosecutors, prosecutors with the courts and correctional systems, and so on and so on and vice versa. We need a truly integrated information technology system to serve the entire system.

The need for a sweeping modernization of the criminal justice information technology systems was underscored following the tragic and senseless slayings of a mother and her two daughters last July in Cheshire. While we have taken immediate action to address some of the shortcomings, it is apparent that much more can and must be done.

The criminal justice system recognizes this as does the Governor and the General Assembly. In the special session in January, the legislature passed An Act Concerning Criminal Justice Reform (P.A. 08-1, January Special Session). One of the most important elements of this law is an outline for the development and implementation of an integrated information technology system. The Governor's budget for this year includes \$8 million for this purpose.

Our job now is to bring together all components of the criminal justice system, both on the state and local levels, to work together in a collaborative effort to assure that this ambitious plan as enacted by the legislature becomes the working reality. □

Comptroller's Proposal Would Ensure Stability of Retiree Health Care

By State Comptroller Nancy Wyman



As administrator of the state employees' retirement system, ensuring the long-term fiscal stability of our retiree health care plan is a main priority of mine this legislative session.

A recent study estimated that the cost of providing health insurance to all retirees over the next 30 years will be approximately \$21 billion. That means Connecticut has the largest per-capita unpaid retiree health insurance bill of any state in the nation at \$6,186 for every resident.

I believe it is time for state government to address this enormous liability on behalf of all taxpayers. That is why I am renewing a proposal for a portion of the budget surplus to be used to reduce this \$21 billion unfunded liability.

My proposal calls for an initial contribution of \$100 million of budget surplus funds to be placed in an irrevocable trust that would be created specifically to address the liability. That would be followed by annual contributions of a fixed percentage of any future surpluses.

Had this recommendation been followed when I first proposed it last year, it would have immediately reduced annual contributions to the liability by over \$300 million, and lowered the overall 30-year liability by \$5 billion. These are significant savings as we deal with a slowing economy and upcoming difficult budget years.

Implementing this common-sense solution will reduce pressure on the state's bond rating and significantly lessen the potential for tax increases to fund this liability moving forward.

Given the state's long-term fiscal forecast - under-funded pension systems, increasing bonded debt, a growing retiree population and rising health care costs - it would be wise for state government to begin to deal with these important fiscal issues.

Taking the action I have outlined could be the single most important step that state government can make this legislative session to strengthen Connecticut's long-term economic health and stability. □

Boxing Renaissance Takes Shape in State

By Jim Amann, Speaker of the House



It has been over 10 years since I authored legislation creating a Connecticut Boxing Commission, and in 2006 I sponsored a bill empowering the Department of Public Safety with regulatory authority over all amateur and professional boxing in the state.

I am very proud to see this new approach to the 'sweet science' starting to pay dividends in the form of more professional sporting events adding to the state's economy, and a thriving amateur boxing scene offering our young people an option to the streets.

There is no question that boxing is going through a renaissance as a popular spectator sport, and here in Connecticut we can build upon our rich history of great world champions such as Willie Pep and Marlon Starling.

Last summer, both Hartford and Bridgeport hosted nationally televised world championship fights. In June, 4,000 fans packed the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford to see New Haven's Chad Dawson successfully defend his World Boxing Council light heavyweight belt.

It was the highest profile state boxing event held outside of the two casinos since the days of Pep in the 1950s. The last world championship fight in the state was held at the Hartford Civic Center in the mid 1980s when Starling defended his welterweight title.

Just a month after the Convention Center card, the world boxing spotlight shone on Bridgeport's Harbor Yards Arena as Travis Simms of Norwalk fought in front of a hometown crowd in defense of his World Boxing Association super welterweight title. Both events created a lot of economic activity at local restaurants and hotels, as well as wonderful exposure for Hartford and Bridgeport to international television audiences.

An equally exciting amateur boxing scene continues to grow around the state with over 20 gyms operating active programs for local youths. The boxing clubs not only help develop aspiring pugilists, but provide a great after school haven for kids looking for a positive option to street life.

In 2006, the Western New England Golden Gloves tournament relocated from Massachusetts to Connecticut. Wonderfully run by the Manchester Police Activities League, this premier event attracts sell out crowds and the best young boxers from the region. Undefeated professional Matt Remillard, who is on the verge of a world title shot in the featherweight division, is a proud alumnus of Manchester PAL and the Golden Gloves.

Boxing is in the midst of making a comeback from both a fan and participant perspective, and the Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the Boxing Commission deserve a lot of credit for the growing success the sport is having here in Connecticut. □

State Representative Jim Amann represents Milford's 118th Assembly District. He was elected House Majority Leader in 2003 and Speaker of the House in 2005.

Remarks from Commissioner Danaher

By Commissioner John A. Danaher III



I appreciate this opportunity to appear, for the first time, in the CONNECTICUT TROOPER, as I approach my first anniversary with the Department of Public Safety.

Much has happened since I was sworn in on March 5, 2007. In July of 2007, I had the honor to participate in the graduation of the 118th Training Troop. In November 2007, the 119th Training Troop entered the Academy under the supervision of its newly-appointed Commandant, Lieutenant Mark Newland.

The training troops are, and will continue to be, a significant focus of my attention. I am committed to achieving greater diversity in the Department, and the key to doing so is in the makeup of the recruit classes. I have worked with Governor Rell to encourage the initiation of smaller, but more frequent Academy classes. Equally important, the Governor has agreed to increase the number of Troopers, by a total of 100 additional Troopers over the next five years.

We have also had occasion to focus heavily on the need for leadership and team building training within the Department. We have reinvigorated a Leadership Training course that operated successfully a number of years ago. We have established a schedule that will result in this course being run on four separate occasions in 2008. We will also work to establish a second, "graduate" phase of this Leadership Program. We have moved rapidly forward with the STOPS Program which has already shown its effectiveness. We are in the midst of establishing a Chaplaincy Program, a program for deployed DPS employees, and other, similar programs, all of which are intended to meet the goal of establishing a Department that recognizes the needs of its membership and supports those needs.

We have also been working to address critical infrastructure and information technology needs. The Governor has supported a wide variety of projects, and we are in the process of obtaining funding for rebuilding the range that was heavily damaged in the April 2007 flood, funding for the construction for the Emergency Services Unit facility in Cheshire, and funding for a Troop Study that should ultimately lead to the rebuilding and relocation of a number of Troops in the state.

I cannot close without recognizing the outstanding work done by so many Troopers, as reflected in the daily reports that I see. I have also had the honor of appearing at two awards ceremonies in my first year. At those ceremonies, we recognized acts of unparalleled heroism and commitment. And finally, it was the Connecticut State Police that stepped forward to respond to the heinous crimes that were committed in Cheshire.

It has been a remarkable year. I look forward to making further strides, with you, in the year to come. □

A Tribute to Our Military Personnel

Recently Away From Home:

PHOTOS BY CSP FORENSIC LABORATORY, PHOTO UNIT



*TFC Kevin Anderson
U.S. Army Reserves
Troop L*



*TFC Alain Bisson
Homeland Security*



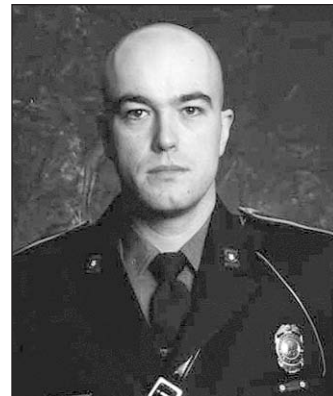
*TFC David Bland
Troop L*



*TFC Scott Meyer
Troop L*



*TFC Mary Muzzulin
Troop I*



*TFC Timothy LeHane
Troop K*

Emails from our Troopers

Greetings from Iraq

The weather here has started to cool down, this Friday the temperature will drop to a high of 105, what a relief. Things are good, I am at Camp Bucca and my unit is performing Detainee Operations. There are incredible things going on here. The living conditions are somewhere between Fred Flintstone and living in a trailer park.

I should be home in Connecticut by mid winter. I had military duty for three weeks in April and the beginning of May. I came back for two weeks in May then I left for training in June and continued to Iraq.

TFC Tim LeHane #818

Recognition for Service to the Nation

Connecticut Department of Public Safety Personnel Awarded Connecticut Wartime Veterans Service Medal

Information from the Department of Public Safety Photos by Joseph Weronik and Mark A. Newth, CSP Forensic Lab

Connecticut Wartime Veterans Service Medals were presented to personnel from the Connecticut Department of Public Safety during a formal ceremony at the Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill.



John A. Danaher III, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, and Colonel Thomas Davoren, Commander of the State Police, were on hand as the state Department of Veterans Affairs awarded the distinguished Connecticut Wartime Veterans Medal to DPS civilian and sworn personnel who served in the military during wartime. Approximately 100 members of the agency received the award.

This ceremony, which also included members of the Connecticut Department of Corrections, is the first large presentation of these medals to state employees.

The Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal was established by Governor M. Jodi Rell and the Connecticut General Assembly in 2005.

Connecticut has a rich history of honoring returning veterans from war, dating back to the Civil War when the state struck and issued its first veterans medal. State veterans medals were also issued to Connecticut citizens who returned from service in the Spanish-American War and World War I. After World War I, the tradition of presenting medals to returning state veterans fell off until it was restored in 2005 through this latest medal. The new Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal is patterned closely after the medal issued following World War I, including its distinctive three colors – red, white and blue. The medal contains the official seals of each branch of the U. S. Armed Services and the words “for service.”

The following State Police personnel received the medal: **Sergeant John Albanese** (Troop A), **Sergeant Troy Anderson** (Peer Support Coordinator), **TFC Eric Basak** (Troop D), **Trooper Matthew Bell** (Troop A), **Trooper Vincent Bellizzi** (Troop H), **TFC Timothy Brezniak** (Troop D), **Trooper Timothy Brink** (Troop D), **Trooper Thomas Calo** (Troop B), **TFC John Carter** (Polygraph), **TFC John Ceruti** (Troop K), **TFC Daryll Christensen** (Forensic Investigations), **TFC Gary Cipolletta** (Troop D), **TFC Neverill Coleman** (Forensic Investigations), **TFC Jose Colon**

