

State Of Florida

Resolution

WHEREAS the Troopers of the Florida Highway Patrol daily demonstrate the core values of courtesy, service and protection and during their tenure will encounter situations to distinguish themselves by executing actions honed through rigorous training, making instantaneous decisions informed through experience, and demonstrating bravery innate to the Troopers during the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Trooper David "Shack" Cox has patrolled the State of Florida for 16 years with his primary assignment in the Marianna area; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2021, Trooper Cox, while patrolling the Jackson and Washington County area, overheard a BOLO (Be On the Look Out) for a dark colored Ford Fusion with a Missouri tag and dark window tint involved in an armed child abduction of a 5-month-old female child; and

WHEREAS, one of the suspect's phone was being tracked, and the suspect vehicle was reportedly traveling northbound from Bay County towards the Jackson and Washington County area to possibly travel out of state via Interstate 10; and

WHEREAS, after canvassing the area of State Road 77 and I-10 in Washington County, Trooper Cox spotted the suspect vehicle at a Murphy Gas Station in a Walmart parking lot and further observed the driver matching the description in the BOLO exit the driver's side door; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Cox was highly cognizant and sensitive to the potential danger to the child resulting from a shoot-out with the armed suspects or a high-speed vehicular pursuit, recognized that a nonconventional approach was necessary and had the experience to quickly formulate a plan; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Cox used the element of surprise by stealthily approaching the back of the suspect vehicle in his unmarked patrol car without activating emergency lights and sirens to apprehend the driver and subdue a female accomplice while, most importantly, protecting the five-month-old child who was located unrestrained in a car seat; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Cox clearly demonstrated "service" and "protection" by employing an innovative approach to a potentially volatile situation to safely reunite the five-month-old child and mother; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida recognizes

SERGEANT DAVID COX - 2021 Trooper of the Year

for his heroic actions in service and protection leading to the safety and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the State of Florida.

WHEREFORE, the Governor and the Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on this 17th day of January, 2023.





RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR



ASHLEY MOODY
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JIMMY PATRONIS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE