

**09-14-2010 Richmond VA – Trooper Mark D Barrett-Training Deep Heart-Update****Mark D Barrett**

<http://www.thediversassociation.com/index.php/sheets>

Aged 41, Died during a training dive in Lake Anna, reported as deep diver training with 16 other members of the Virginia State Police search and recovery team, ascending, seen to have difficulty breathing, assisted to surface, CPR, taken to hospital but died.

**Virginia State Police Mourn Loss of Trooper**

<http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-state-police-mourn-loss-091410,0,6638812.story>

September 14, 2010 Virginia State Police

**RICHMOND** - The Virginia State Police are mourning the line-of-duty death of one of their own this evening. Trooper Mark D. Barrett, 41, died Tuesday afternoon (Sept. 14, 2010) following a training exercise on Lake Anna. Trooper Barrett joined the state police in 2007 and graduated from the 114th Basic Session on July 3, 2008. He was assigned to patrol in Henrico County and the City of Richmond.

Trooper Barrett was also a member of the State Police Search and Recovery Team (SRT). He joined the specialty team in September 2009.

The SRT was conducting its annual in-service training this week and had spent the day in the southeastern portion of Lake Anna on the Louisa County side conducting deep-water dives. Shortly before 2 p.m., Trooper Barrett and his "dive buddy," a fellow trooper, were conducting a training dive. As they were ascending, the dive buddy noticed Trooper Barrett was having difficulty. The dive buddy aided Trooper Barrett to the surface and immediately signaled for help from the other divers.

The divers lifted Trooper Barrett onto the SRT boat and administered CPR as the boat returned to shore. The Louisa County Volunteer Rescue Squad met the boat at the Lake Anna Beach Marina and continued medical aid. Trooper Barrett was transported to Henrico Doctors' Hospital in Henrico County, where he died. His body has been transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for examination and autopsy.

"The entire Virginia State Police family is suffering from this tragic loss of such a hardworking and dedicated state trooper," said Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "Diving was a great passion of



**Trooper Mark D. Barrett During Training Exercise in Louisa County**

his, and he was respected for his skill and aptitude for safety. We hold his family, his fellow troopers, and SRT members in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time."

Trooper Barrett is survived by a wife and two children. He is a Chesterfield County native and graduate of Manchester High School. He also earned an associate's degree from John Tyler Community College.

## State police trooper dies after diving training

<http://hamptonroads.com/2010/09/state-police-trooper-dies-after-diving-training?cid=rltd>  
September 14, 2010 By [Lauren King](#) The Virginian-Pilot

RICHMOND: Virginia State Police trooper died this afternoon after a training exercise on Lake Anna in Louisa County.

Trooper Mark D. Barrett, a member of the State Police Search and Recovery Team was participating in the team's annual in-service training this week and conducting deep-water dives this afternoon, a state police news release said.

Shortly before 2 p.m., Barrett began having trouble during an ascent. His dive buddy, another trooper, saw he was having difficulty, helped him to the surface and signaled for help.

Barrett was lifted onto a boat and given CPR as the boat returned to shore. He was taken to a hospital where he died. An autopsy will determine his official cause of death.

The 41-year-old trooper is survived by his wife and two children. A Chesterfield County native, he joined the Search and Recovery Team in September 2009. He joined the state police in 2007 and was assigned to patrol in Henrico County and in Richmond.

## State trooper dies after training on Lake Anna Trooper Mark D. Barrett, 41, dies after training on Lake Anna.

<http://fredericksburg.com/News/Web/2010/092010/state-trooper-barrett9/14/2010>

A Virginia State Police trooper died after a training exercise Tuesday afternoon on Lake Anna, police say.

Trooper Mark D. Barrett, 41, joined the state police in 2007. He had been assigned to patrol Henrico County and Richmond.



**Trooper Mark D. Barrett, 41, died after a training exercise on Lake Anna.**

Trooper Barrett was also a member of the State Police Search and Recovery Team. He joined the specialty team in September 2009.

The search and recovery team was conducting its annual training this week on the southeaster portion of Lake Anna in Louisa County this week. Team members were conducting deep water dives.

Barrett and his diving buddy, another trooper, were ascending, police say, when the other trooper noticed Barrett was having difficulty.

The other trooper brought Barrett to the surface and signaled for help from other divers, police say.

Other divers performed CPR on Barrett as the boat returned to shore and the Louisa County Volunteer Rescue Squad continued to aid Barrett after the boat reached shore, police say.

Barrett was taken to Henrico Doctors Hospital, where he died. "The entire Virginia State Police family is suffering from this tragic loss of such a hardworking and dedicated state trooper," said Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "Diving was a great passion of his, and he was respected for his skill and aptitude for safety. We hold his family, his fellow troopers, and SRT members in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time."

Barrett is survived by a wife and two children.

He is a Chesterfield County native and graduate of Manchester High School. He also earned an associate's degree from John Tyler Community College.

### **Va. trooper dies in training**

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/crime-scene/virginia/va-trooper-dies-after-training.html>

September 15, 2010-- *Martin Weil* - Washington Post



A Virginia state police trooper died Tuesday after making a training dive in Lake Anna, the state police said.

Trooper Mark D. Barrett, 41, was part of a team making deep-water dives in the lake, which is about 70 miles southwest of Washington, the state police said.



**Barrett. (Va. State Police)**

As Barrett and a second trooper were ascending after a dive, the other trooper noticed that Barrett was having difficulty, according to the state police. The second trooper helped him reach the surface, and signaled for help.

CPR was administered, and Barrett was taken to a hospital, where he died, state police said. An autopsy is to be conducted. Barrett joined the state police in 2007 and was assigned to patrol in Richmond and in Henrico County. He was also a member of the state police search and recovery team.

The team was undergoing annual in-service training this week, the state police said.

The state police said in a statement that Barrett is survived by a wife and two children. "The entire Virginia State Police family is suffering from this tragic loss of such a hardworking and dedicated state trooper," said Col. W. Steven Flaherty, the superintendent of the state police.

## **State trooper drowned, had heart problem**

[http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/state-trooper-drowned-had-heart-problem/article\\_4cb56803-25f2-5b24-8e5c-ec265546e544.html](http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/state-trooper-drowned-had-heart-problem/article_4cb56803-25f2-5b24-8e5c-ec265546e544.html)

Sep 17, 2010 Daily Progress Staff Reports

RICHMOND — A state trooper who died Tuesday after being pulled from Lake Anna during a deep-water training exercise accidentally drowned, the state Medical Examiner's Office said Thursday.

Mark D. Barrett, 41, of Midlothian, died of drowning with "underlying heart disease contributing" to his death, a spokesman said.

Barrett, a member of the Virginia State Police Search and Recovery Team, was participating in routine diving exercises with 15 other divers at Lake Anna when the accident occurred.

He was returning to the surface with his "dive buddy" — a fellow trooper — from a depth of about 75 feet when he became unresponsive, police said.

Barrett had to be assisted to the surface and pulled into a boat. He died after being transported to Henrico Doctors' Hospital.

State police are still investigating the circumstances of his death. He was the first dive team member to die since the unit was established in 1962, and the 56th state police officer to die in the line of duty.

**UPDATE: Cause of death released for state police diver**

<http://www.nbc12.com/story/13161618/update-cause-of-death-released-for-state-police-diver>

By Laura Geller

LAKE ANNA, VA (WWBT) – Virginia State Police troopers are in mourning, grieving the loss of one of their own. We are uncovering more about 41-year old Trooper Mark Barrett, who died after a training dive in Lake Anna.



The medical examiner said Thursday that the cause of death for Barrett was found to be drowning, citing that an underlying heart disease contributed to the death. It has been termed an accidental death.

Trooper Barrett was returning to the surface of Lake Anna during a routine training exercise when his dive buddy noticed the 41-year old was having difficulty. He stopped responding.

The buddy helped Barrett to the surface and the team performed CPR as they raced for the shore. Lake Anna resident Bob Juza watched from his yard. "There must have been 50 police over there: Louisa sheriffs, Fish and Game Commission," he described.

According to State Police, EMS workers were able to revive Barrett at the Lake Anna Beach Marina, but the former funeral home worker later died at Henrico Doctor's Hospital.

Now investigators are trying to figure out what went wrong.

The dive was standard: 77 feet down, cross a search line and ascend to the surface. Team supervisor Sgt. Mitchell Smith said Barrett passed a physical earlier in the year and was in great shape as he trained for a marathon.

"I noticed a marked improvement in his physical activity," he said. "He started seriously considering his diet and his general good health."

When State Police examined the equipment used in the incident, they found nothing wrong. It is now with an independent lab.

The agency is looking for ways to honor the first diver to have lost his life in the line of duty, since the squad was established back in 1962.

"There was no quit in Mark," said Sgt. Smith. "If the sun went down, that wasn't a marked sign for us to quit. We stayed there until the job was done."

Trooper Barrett will be laid to rest on Friday.

There will be a visitation Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Church of the Epiphany at 11000 Smoketree Drive in Chesterfield County. The funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Friday morning, at the same church.

## **Virginia State Police Pay Tribute to Trooper Mark D. Barrett with Full Honors**

[http://www.vachiefs.org/index.php/news/item/virginia\\_state\\_police\\_pay\\_tribute\\_to\\_trooper\\_mark\\_d\\_barrett\\_with\\_full\\_hono](http://www.vachiefs.org/index.php/news/item/virginia_state_police_pay_tribute_to_trooper_mark_d_barrett_with_full_hono)

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September 17, 2010 | **Virginia News**

**RICHMOND – The Virginia State Police paid homage to the life, service and sacrifice of Trooper Mark D. Barrett Friday morning, Sept. 17, 2010, in Chesterfield County.**



More than one thousand family, friends and first responders gathered at the Church of the Epiphany to honor the Chesterfield County native. Police officers, deputy sheriffs and firefighters from across the Commonwealth joined representatives from the New York State Police, California Highway Patrol and Texas Department of Public Safety to pay their respects to the Virginia State Police trooper. During the service, Governor Bob McDonnell presented Trooper Barrett's wife and family with a Virginia flag flown over the state Capitol this week in the trooper's honor.

Trooper Barrett died during a routine training exercise at Lake Anna on Sept. 14, 2010. Assigned to patrol in Henrico County and the City of Richmond since graduating from the state police Academy in 2008, Trooper Barrett was a member of the State Police Search and Recovery Team. He was participating in the dive team's annual training when he lost his life. The cause of his death is still under investigation by the Virginia State Police and Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Trooper Barrett joined the State Police Search and Recovery Team (SRT) in September 2009. He was one of 20 troopers and supervisors statewide participating in the specialty team that is recognized throughout the East Coast for its superior training and certifications in diving, swift water rescue and evidence recovery. The state police established its first dive team in 1962.

In recent months, the SRT has had remarkable success in a series of underwater recoveries related to state and local law-enforcement investigations:

- On June 23, 2010, and July 24, 2010, the SRT responded to Lake Anna to assist the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office with the recovery of two drowning victims.
- In July 2010, the SRT located and recovered a murder weapon involved in an ongoing state police homicide investigation. Despite zero visibility and limited air supply in 30-foot murky, debris-filled waters, the dive team persevered through five hours of grid searching and successfully recovered the weapon, which is a key piece of evidence needed to resolve the case.
- On July 6, 2010, the SRT responded to Middlesex County to assist Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) with recovering the body of woman killed in a tragic boating accident on the Rappahannock River.
- On July 17, 2010, SRT members responded to Lake Moomaw in Alleghany and Bath counties at the request of DGIF to recover a drowning victim.
- On July 22, 2010, SRT members responded to the Clinch River in Scott County to successfully locate and recover a drowning victim.

"Our divers are incredibly skilled and of great value to our law enforcement community across the Commonwealth," said Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "Trooper Barrett's enthusiasm and proficiency as a diver made him a genuine asset to the team."

"Mark had a passion for serving and helping others. Even though he was only with the state police for a few years, his contributions, professionalism, and positive attitude have had a lasting impact on all those who knew and worked with him," continued Colonel Flaherty. "Trooper Mark D. Barrett was and always will be one of Virginia's finest. Forever to be missed. Never to be forgotten."

Trooper Barrett is the Department's 56th member to give his life in the line of duty for the Commonwealth of Virginia. In May 2010, the Department will dedicate a portrait of Trooper Barrett to the Colonel C.W. Woodson Memorial Gallery at the state police Academy in Richmond.

The last Department member to die in the line of duty was Motorist Assistance Aide (MA) Horace Jarratt. On April



**VIDEO: [Funeral Procession for Trooper Mark D. Barrett](#)**

*(Source: Richmond Police Department)*

25, 2007, Motorist Assistance Aide Jarratt was removing debris from Interstate 95 in Chesterfield County when he was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer.

## **Public Safety Diver Dies in Training**

<http://lafddive.blogspot.com/2010/12/public-safety-diver-dies-in-training.html>

December 28, 2010

A Virginia State Police trooper who died Tuesday after a deep-water training exercise in Lake Anna was one of the newest members of the department's Search and Recovery Team but was considered a skilled diver with no known health problems, authorities said. Since joining the 20-officer specialty team about a year ago, trooper Mark D. Barrett, 41, of Midlothian had participated in several dive and rescue operations, in addition to completing regular training exercises three days a month and a full week once every quarter, said Sgt. Mitchell Smith, his supervisor.

After Barrett expressed interest in the assignment, "we brought him over to the training academy, took him to the pool and gave him some experience prior to even testing for the team," Smith said yesterday during a media briefing. "We realized he had the skills, knowledge and ability to do a great job."

On Tuesday, Barrett was among 16 Search and Recovery Team members participating in routine diving exercises in 75 feet of water in the southeastern portion of Lake Anna on the Louisa County side. "They were tasked with just a very simple [maneuver]," Smith said.

They followed a line to the bottom of the lake, made one pass on a search line below and resurfaced following another line to the top. "The whole training evolution would have taken less than 10 minutes," Smith said.

Barrett was resurfacing with his "dive buddy" -- a fellow trooper -- when Barrett became unresponsive, said state police spokeswoman Corinne Geller. Barrett's dive buddy immediately helped him rise to the surface and signaled for help from other divers. They lifted Barrett onto the team boat and began administering CPR as the boat returned to shore. The Louisa County Volunteer Rescue Squad continued aid as they transported Barrett to Henrico Doctors' Hospital, where he died.

Barrett is the department's first dive team member to die in the line of duty since the unit was established in 1962, Geller said. An autopsy is being conducted to determine his cause of death.

Barrett's diving equipment appeared to be functioning properly after being examined by investigators. "We have no reason to believe there was any malfunction on the part of the equipment," Geller said. The equipment is being sent to an independent lab for further testing, she added.

Smith said Barrett had dived at that same location and at a similar depth on other occasions.

The trooper was physically active and appeared to be in good health, Smith added. He participated in an off-duty, indoor soccer team and had started training to run a marathon, Smith said. "I noticed a marked improvement in his physical abilities," Smith said. "He started to seriously consider his diet and his general good health."

Barrett was assigned to patrol in the Richmond/Henrico County area. His survivors include a wife, a 16-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old son.

"He was a good trooper, a very devoted father," Smith said. "Mark was the type of guy if you had a special assignment you needed to get done, he would do the assignment. He would do exactly what you asked him, and he would do the job well."