

Trooper Chelsea Richard
End of Watch: Saturday, May 3, 2014



FHP Launches Awareness Campaign after Trooper's Death
Published on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, in the Tamarac Talk

As Florida mourns the loss of Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard, who lost her life in May in a deadly traffic crash on Interstate 75, the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Florida Police Benevolent Association and the Florida Sheriff's Association are designating June 2014 as "Move Over – Slow Down – Save a Life" month.

During the month-long safety campaign, law enforcement officers will work together to better educate the public about the law and the threat that ignoring it can pose to first responders.

"Our troopers are out there every day working traffic stops and crash scenes along busy highways with cars speeding past them, often just feet away," said Col. David Brierton, Director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "And every day they face the real possibility of never going home to their families because someone fails to obey the Move Over law."

Understanding Florida's Move Over law:

- The law protects law enforcement officers, emergency workers and tow truck drivers stopped along roadways while performing their jobs;
- It requires motorists to move over when a patrol car, emergency vehicle or tow truck/wrecker is stopped on the side of a road with lights flashing. If such movement cannot be safely accomplished, motorists shall slow down to a speed of 20 mph below the posted speed limit.
- Approach the emergency vehicle with caution;
- Violating the Move Over law puts motorists and public safety professionals at risk.

The phrase Move Over is more than just words. It is an action required on everyone's part in order to make Florida's busy roads safer for everyone—whether they are first responders

or stranded motorists waiting for assistance. If you see anyone on the side of the road, Move Over for their safety. A life depends on it!

**Chelsea Renee Richard, former Brookhaven public safety officer killed in Florida
Published on Sunday, May 25, 2014, in Newsday**

In the days after a crash on a Florida highway took the life of his daughter, Bruce Richard of Centereach wondered why it had happened.

The answers did not come easily after Chelsea Renee Richard, 30, a Florida state trooper and former Brookhaven Town public safety officer, was killed on May 3 while responding to an accident near Ocala, northwest of Orlando.

"When something like this happens, you try to figure out why," Richard said Thursday, after a ceremony honoring his daughter at Brookhaven Town Hall. A flag was lowered to half-staff in Chelsea Richard's honor while police, sheriff's deputies and correction officers saluted and a bugler played "Taps."

Chelsea Richard, a 2001 graduate of Patchogue-Medford High School, was a week short of her 31st birthday when she was killed. She had been divorced and was raising her 4-year-old son, Clayton Richard Valdes.

Bruce Richard found a measure of solace when Florida Gov. Rick Scott, after attending Richard's funeral, announced he would veto a controversial bill raising the state's speed limit from 70 to 75.

"If just one person was saved because the speed limit was not going to 75, then Chelsea did her job," Bruce Richard said.

Bruce Richard, 62, a retired Huntington Town public safety director, said his daughter had left Long Island for Florida to pursue her dream of working in law enforcement. She joined the Florida Highway Patrol in 2005 and rose to the rank of master trooper.

Her boyfriend, Jamie Mulverhill, a Florida highway patrol sergeant, had planned to propose to Richard on May 3, Bruce Richard said.

But that afternoon, Chelsea Richard responded to an accident on Interstate 75. While she spoke to a tow-truck driver and the father of a passenger involved in the accident, a pickup truck swerved to avoid a second collision that had occurred nearby.

The pickup struck Richard, the father and the tow truck driver, killing all three.

Scott was among thousands of mourners, including troopers and police from 10 states, who attended Richard's funeral on May 8 in Ocala, according to local news reports.

Days later, in an interview with the Miami Herald, Scott said he would veto the bill raising the speed limit "to stand with law enforcement. . . . I want everybody to be safe."

Bruce Richard was pleased with the veto. "She was doing what she loved," he said. "I guess if you're going to go, it's best to go doing what you love."

**'Move Over' law to be enforced after trooper killed
Published on Tuesday, May 13 2014, on WJXT**

[VIDEO](#) ~~ As Florida continues to mourn the loss of Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard, who lost her life earlier this month in a crash on Interstate 75, law enforcement agencies around the state announced Monday they're designating June as "Move Over - Slow Down - Save a Life" month.

**Law-enforcement groups remind motorists to move over for safety
Published on Tuesday, May 13 2014, in the Tallahassee Democrat**

Following the roadside death of Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard, law enforcement officials are again warning motorists to follow state law with the reminder to "Move over, slow down, save a life."

Richard and a tow truck driver were killed when another vehicle crashed into them during a traffic stop last week.

Their death is an example of why the law is so important, said FHP spokeswoman Capt. Nancy Rasmussen.

"We're out there helping people on the side of the road and putting ourselves in the line of danger," Rasmussen said. "People aren't pulling over."

A 2013 Florida law makes it a moving violation not to yield to an emergency vehicle on the side of the road.

The law says that on two-lane roads, motorists should slow to 20 mph below the posted speed limit; if the speed limit is less than 20 mph, slow to 5 mph and on interstates or roadways with multiple lanes traveling in the same direction, drivers should change to the lane farthest away from the emergency vehicle. If unable to do so, motorists should slow to 20 mph below the speed limit.

June has been designated as "Move over — Slow down — Save a Life" month and FHP, and other organizations, are continuing to educate the public about the importance of giving emergency vehicles space.

Rasmussen said giving officers a safe working environment while driving is as simple as paying attention.

"People just need to know to pull over," Rasmussen said.

FHP patrol cruisers are being outfitted with reflective red and yellow tape on the back of the vehicles to increase visibility while parked on the side of the road, but educating motorists can have the most influence.

The penalty for not changing lanes or slowing down when passing an emergency vehicle can result in a traffic citation, points against a drivers license and a fine.

Fraternal Order of Police President James Preston said moving over is a common-sense solution to save lives of those whose job is to protect lives themselves.

“One of the most dangerous things you can do is stepping out on the interstate with cars speeding by at 75 miles an hour” Preston said. “There’s so many distractions that sometimes people don’t see the lights.”

Preston said he hears about the dangers of roadside stops from officers who face the danger themselves.

“The troopers will tell you that’s the most dangerous part of their job,” he said.

**Law enforcement agencies unite for "Move Over" law
Published on Monday, May 12, 2014, on the First Coast News**

"Failing to move over is a deadly choice, not only for you, but for those of us who are out protecting you."

[VIDEO](#) ~~ "Move Over - Slow Down - Save a Life" - that's the message Florida law enforcers want you to hear as National Police Week begins Monday. It's a time when law enforcement officers honor and remember colleagues who paid the ultimate sacrifice serving their communities.

Just a week ago, Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard, passed away as a result of a deadly crash on Interstate 75.

As Florida mourns the lost of Richard, these agencies are uniting in their support of the 'Move Over' law: the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Florida Police Benevolent Association, the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and the Florida Sheriff's Association.

RELATED: [FHP trooper among 3 killed in I-75 crash](#)

RELATED: [Katie Jeffries reports on the deaths, hits and near misses behind need for "Move Over" \(Jan 9, 2014\)](#)

DETAILS: [Move Over, It's the Law](#) □

"Failing to move over is a deadly choice, not only for you, but for those of us who are out protecting you," said Colonel David Brierton, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "We lost a hero on May 3rd, Trooper Chelsea Richard and her death was preventable. Be responsible; make the right choices, move-over, slow down."

Law enforcement officers working on Florida's roadways face great danger from distracted drivers.

To better protect Florida's law enforcement officers, the statewide law enforcement organizations call upon all law enforcement officers in the state to actively educate the public and enforce the Move Over law throughout the state. Florida's Move Over law, FS. 316.126, requires drivers to:

- On a two-lane roadway, slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit;
- On a two-lane roadway, slow to five miles per hour if the speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less; and
- On an interstate or roadway with multiple lanes of travel in the same direction, you must vacate the lane closest to any emergency or law enforcement vehicle parked along the roadway as soon as it is safe to do so. If you are not able to safely move over, slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit unless directed otherwise by a law enforcement officer.

"As the summer travel season gets fully underway, please remember to slow down and move over for our public safety personnel working along our roadways. This simple act will save many lives. Thank you and be safe." - President John Rivera, Florida PBA.

**Florida Law Enforcement Urges Drivers To Move Over-Slow Down-Save A Life
Published on Monday, May 12, 2014, in The Daily Ridge**



As National Police Week starts today, law enforcement officers across the nation remember and honor our fallen heroes – those officers who in the service of their communities have given the ultimate sacrifice are remembered. As Florida mourns the loss of Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard, who lost her life barely a week ago in a deadly traffic crash on Interstate 75, the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order

of Police, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Florida Police Benevolent Association and the Florida Sheriff’s Association are designating June 2014 as “Move Over – Slow Down – Save a Life” month.

**FHP Trooper Remembered By Family At Funeral
Published on Thursday, May 8, 2014, on WCJB**

[VIDEO](#) ~~ North Central Florida gathered to mourn the loss of a state trooper who was killed in the line of duty. She was killed as a result of the tragic crash on I-75 in Marion County Saturday afternoon. The crash, near the dunnellon/ belleview exit, took the lives of a Florida Highway Patrol trooper, a tow truck driver and a pedestrian.

Sergeant Tracy Hisler-Pace with FHP said, "Trooper chelsea richard was a phenomenal trooper. She did her job with a smile and she had the most beautiful smile. Honestly even on the cloudiest, darkest day her smile brought sunshine."

Florida Highway Patrol, family and friends are gathered today for the funeral of trooper Chelsea Richard, at the First Baptist Church of Ocala. Richard was killed while working a car crash on I-75 near mile marker 341, going Southbound last weekend, when a multiple car pile-up occurred. One of the pick-up trucks in that pile-up traveled into the east shoulder where trooper Richard, a tow truck driver and pedestrian were killed.

"This is a very sad day for our agency and for Chelsea's family... we are heartbroken but we will continue our mission in her honor," Sergeant Pace said.

Richard began her career in 2005 with the 111th recruit class. She later became a field training officer and provided guidance to the new troopers. She was transferred to Troop B in the Ocala district on April of last year. It's a job her family says she was destined to do.

Sergeant Richard's father, Bruce Richard said, "Chelsea was happy to be a trooper with Florida Highway Patrol... she was no longer the shy little girl from New York but an FHP trooper. She was confident and strong yet passionate and loving."

But before her job came one individual that meant everything to Richard. "Chelsea you don't have to worry because each of us will be here for Clayton. He will know his mother was a great woman and a hero and would never leave him if she had any choice," Bruce Richard said. A hero for her son and everyone else at the funeral.

Hundreds of Florida Law Enforcement Officers Honor Fallen Trooper, Chelsea Richard Published on Thursday, May 8, 2014, on GTN News

Hundreds of law enforcement officials, family and friends gather to honor a trooper killed in the line of duty. FHP Master Trooper Chelsea Richard was killed Saturday afternoon.

GTN's Hailey Holloway was at the funeral this afternoon and has more on the moving ceremony.

"When you hear about a law enforcement individual that has died in the line of duty, died in a car accident...whatever the cause is your just heart breaks because you just start thinking about their family."

Chelsea's family packed the First Baptist Church. Her parents, grandparents, fiancée and four year old son were surrounded by her extended family - hundreds of law enforcement officials from across the state. Heartfelt reflections were about how seriously the 30 year old took her job but all accounts said the only thing Chelsea loved more than her job as a Florida Trooper was her Son Clayton.

"Chelsea you don't have to worry because each of us will be here for Clayton. He will know his mother who was a great woman, and a hero."

"Trooper Chelsea Richard of the Florida Highway Patrol, ID number 1087 is 10-7 from service. May she rest in peace."

**Funeral held for fallen Florida Highway Patrol trooper
Published on Thursday, May 8, 2014, on WKMG**

[VIDEO](#) ~~ A funeral was held Thursday for a fallen Florida Highway Patrol trooper killed while working a crash on Interstate 75 in Marion County.

Trooper Chelsea Richard, 30, was killed Saturday afternoon while working the scene of a two-car crash on Interstate 75 in Marion County.

Troopers said a separate, multi-vehicle crash in the area caused Richard's patrol car to hit and kill her. Two other people were killed on the side of the road.

Richard is survived by her 4-year-old son.

The funeral was held at First Baptist Church of Ocala.

For more than an hour, law enforcement officers, Gov. Rick Scott and Attorney General Pam Bondi surrounded the family and friends of trooper Chelsea Richard. The ceremony included tears, smiles, laughs and the revelation that Richard's boyfriend had planned to propose the night she died.

Richards was part of the FHP since 2005 after moving to Florida from New York. She had a 4-year-old son.

**Fallen FHP Trooper Chelsea Richard remembered at funeral in Ocala
Published on Thursday, May 8, 2014, on News 13 Orlando**

Troopers and other officers from from around the country paid their final respects to the Florida Highway Patrol's Chelsea Richard today.

She died Saturday along with two others while investigating a crash.

Today we learned much more about the trooper and mother killed along side I-75.

One trooper who worked with Chelsea Richard said one of the most important rules of being a trooper is never to cry.

He immediately broke down in tears, as did nearly every other person in the crowd as they remembered the woman who died on what we learned today was supposed to be one of the happiest days of her life.

They came from across the country, standing and saluting as the flag draped casket of Trooper Chelsea Richard was escorted into the church where as many 3,000 people came to pay their final respects.

Sgt. Tracy Pace, a close friend, spoke about Trooper Richard, "This is a very sad day for our agency and for Chelsea's family."

At the center of that family, her four year old son Clayton, who shortly before her death gave her a special Highway Patrol badge for her to wear.

Col. David Brierton described the badge the child gave to his mother, "On the back Jamie and Clayton inscribed, I love you Mommy Clayton."

Bruce Richard, Chelsea Richard's father, spoke of how much that maternal bond meant to Chelsea. "The love for her family was nothing compared to the love for her son, Clayton was her life, her little miracle, her little man she would do anything for him," said Bruce Richard

"Clayton my prayers are with you, I have three grandsons just a little bit younger than you, and can't imagine losing your mom," added Governor Rick Scott.

The other man in Chelsea Richard's life was her boyfriend who asked her parents for their blessing to propose the day before she was hit and killed investigating a crash on I-75. He planned to propose that night.

Richard served with the Florida Highway Patrol for nine years.

Fellow troopers say she will forever be remembered for her jovial manner behind the scenes, but professionalism on the job helping protect Florida drivers.

"You are all blessed to have known and loved a hero," said State Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Trooper Chelsea Richard would have celebrated her 31st birthday this Saturday.

She will be honored again at Marion County's fallen officer ceremony a week from today.

**At funeral, Trooper Chelsea Richard remembered as loving mother, brave officer
Published on Thursday, May 8, 2014, in the Gainesville Sun**

The funeral service for Trooper Chelsea Renee Richard today was filled with precious memories, tears and laughter.

With her family members surrounded by a sea of uniformed law enforcement officers, the service spanned more than an hour and included comments from Gov. Rick Scott and Attorney General Pam Bondi.

The most poignant comments, however, were from those who knew Richard best; her fellow officers.

Richard died Saturday on Interstate 75, along with John Duggan and George Phillips.

Chaplain Wayne Hunter opened the service, then turned it over to Col. David Brierton, head of the Florida Highway Patrol.

He said Richard's brother, a former Marine, told him he was worried about her becoming a trooper, but, Brierton said, "Chelsea loved her job. She was an excellent trooper. She loved working here in Ocala."

Brierton also said she would “light up a room... she was grateful and giving.”

Brierton said that Richard's fiance, Jamie Mulverhill, went to her grandparents last Friday, and not on a regular visit, but to ask them for her hand in marriage.

“He planned to propose on Saturday,” he said.

Bondi spoke briefly before introducing Scott.

“Think about how their lives have changed,” he said, with a nod to the family.

“On behalf of 19 million Floridians, my heart goes out to you. ... I have daughters the same age; I just can't imagine,” Scott said.

Trooper Hazen Ogden, who had worked closely with Richard, said when he learned of her death, he reached out to his supervisor, who comforted him with these words: “Everyone will pass on, but they can live forever through our memories.”

Ogden got a laugh from the audience when he recalled Richard's first arrest. He said she was a ball of nerves, more nervous that the person she was arresting, “a little old lady on oxygen.”

He said one time while he was attempting to arrest a known suspect for drug possession, who was a very big man, Richard came to back him up and he later was told that he had said into his radio, “Brooksville, I need a bigger backup.”

But, he said, Chelsea, had no fear and both he and the suspect both knew it.

Although she was small and fun, he said, “never mistake kindness for weakness.”

He also said she was an inspiration to many, including him: “People are placed in our lives to help mold us.”

As Hunter again came to the microphone, he also mentioned that Mulverhill had planned to propose to Richard last weekend. He spoke about how much they loved each other, and how much she loved her son and her family, and how much she loved her work.

“She was a modern girl with traditional values,” he said.

**Funeral today for FHP trooper Chelsea Richard in Ocala
Published on Thursday, May 8, 2014, on News 13 Orlando**

Three thousand people are expected to attend funeral services today for a Florida Highway Patrol trooper killed in a crash on Interstate 75 in Marion County.

Trooper Chelsea Richard, 30, was working a two-car crash May 3 when she, John Duggan and George Phillips were struck by a pickup truck.



FHP said Gov. Rick Scott, Attorney General Pam Bondi, several troopers and Richard's father will all speak during the ceremony at First Baptist Church of Ocala, located at 2801 SE Maricamp Road.

Law enforcement officers from different agencies are expected to attend, along with Richard's friends, family and fellow troopers.

Richard is the third law enforcement officer from Central Florida killed in the line of duty this year.

Motorists are urged to seek alternate routes between 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. because of the funeral procession.

Traffic will be delayed on State Road 40 between Northeast 8th Avenue and Baseline Road and south on Northeast 25th Avenue to Maricamp Road.

FHP has received numerous condolences from people all across Florida and beyond through emails, Facebook and Twitter expressing sympathies during this difficult time.

**Flags to fly at half staff in honor of fallen FHP trooper
Published on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, on WTXL**

Florida Governor Rick Scott has issued an order honoring the Florida Highway Patrol trooper killed in a deadly crash.

Governor Scott has ordered flags to fly at half staff in remembrance of Trooper Chelsea Richard, who was killed last weekend while working the scene of an accident on Interstate 75.

On Thursday, flags will be lowered to half staff from sunrise to sunset at the Ocala City Hall, the Marion County Courthouse, as well as all law enforcement and first responder facilities in Marion County.

Florida Highway Patrol facilities throughout the state will also honor Trooper Chelsea Richard by lowering their flags.

**Gov. Scott expected Thursday for funeral of FHP trooper
Published on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, in the Ocala Star Banner**

Gov. Rick Scott is expected to attend the funeral service Thursday of a Florida Highway Patrol trooper who, along with two others, was killed on the side of Interstate 75 over the weekend.

Ocala Police Department officials said Scott is expected to arrive at the Ocala International Airport before the 2 p.m. funeral service for Trooper Chelsea Richard. A motorcade, OPD and Marion County Sheriff's Office vehicles will take the governor to First Baptist Church of Ocala.

Authorities said traffic around the church, at 2801 SE Maricamp Road, will be blocked, and side roads along the designated route where Richard's family and Richard's hearse will travel, will also be blocked.

As a result, they're asking people to not only stay away from the area. If you need to go somewhere within the area, they urge you to plan accordingly.

Ocala police said roads will be blocked Thursday for two funeral escorts.

An escort for Richard's family is scheduled to begin around 1 p.m. in the 4900 block of State Road 40, heading west to Southeast 25th Avenue, then onto Maricamp Road and north on Southeast 30th Avenue and to the entrance of the church. All side roads will be blocked during the procession.

The escort for Richard's body will depart from Hiers Baxley Funeral Home at 910 E. Silver Springs Blvd., at about 1:15 p.m., heading east on Silver Springs Boulevard to Southeast 25th Avenue, Maricamp Road and Southeast 30th Avenue and to the church. All intersections and side roads will be blocked.

At the conclusion of the service, that escort will return to Hiers Baxley Funeral Home and traffic again will be blocked.

**Roads to be blocked for trooper's funeral
Published on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, in the Ocala Star Banner**

Ocala police said roads will be blocked Thursday for two funeral escorts for the Florida Highway Patrol trooper killed Saturday in the line of duty.

The funeral for Chelsea Richard is slated to begin at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Ocala at 2801 SE Maricamp Road.

An escort for Richard's family is scheduled to commence around 1 p.m. in the 4900 block of State Road 40, heading west to Southeast 25th Avenue, then onto Maricamp Road and north on Southeast 30th Avenue and to the entrance of the church. All side roads will be blocked during the procession.

The escort for Richard's body will depart from Hiers Baxley Funeral Home at 910 E. Silver Springs Blvd., at about 1:15 p.m., heading east on Silver Springs Boulevard to Southeast 25th Avenue, Maricamp Road and Southeast 30th Avenue and to the church. All intersections and side roads will be blocked.

At the conclusion of the service, that escort will return to Hiers Baxley Funeral Home and traffic again will be blocked.

West Virginia State Police in Huntington to Attend Funerals for Out-of-State Troopers Published on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, on WSAZ

[VIDEO](#) ~~ With National Law Enforcement Memorial Week beginning May 11, local law enforcement agencies are preparing to honor fallen officers by sending representatives to funerals for state troopers killed in the line of duty.

This week, two state troopers were shot and killed in Alaska and one state trooper was hit and killed by a car in Florida.

The Huntington detachment of the West Virginia State Police is making plans to send two troopers to each of the funerals.

Detachment Commander Sgt. G.N. Losh tells WSAZ.com it's worth the time and money spent to pay respects to other fallen officers. "It's hit home for the state police here, and we just make it a goal that if we can get guys out to pay our condolences, like for instance this week Alaska and Florida, things like that, that's what we're going to do," Sgt. Losh said.

Nearly two years ago, two West Virginia State Police troopers were killed during a traffic stop. Corporal Marshall Bailey and Trooper Eric Workman were both shot during a traffic stop, and one died right away, while the other died later from his injuries. Losh said officers from across the country showed up to the funerals to honor the fallen troopers.

The Huntington detachment is also sending representatives to Memorial Week in Washington, D.C., which runs from May 11 to May 17.

Losh tells WSAZ.com he hopes the public will take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by law enforcement.

"I'd give my life for my kids in a second, and my wife, my family. But you've got men and women in uniform every day, putting it on the line for strangers, people they don't know," Losh said. "If you reflect on that, it's kind of heroic."

Florida Police Memorial Published on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, on WJHG

[VIDEO](#) ~~ Seven more names were added to Florida's police memorial after losing their lives in the line of duty. Monday's ceremonies happened just days after a state trooper was killed, leaving an open wound for law enforcement across the state.

Florida law enforcement officers have been honoring the ones who lost their lives in the line of duty for 32 years.

"These are not just names without faces, these names represent Florida's bravest, our finest brothers and sisters," James Preston, the Fraternal Order of Police President, said.

There are 771 names on the memorial. Seven were added Monday. William and Candy Morales paid tribute to their son. Sergeant Gary Morales was shot and killed during a traffic stop last year.

“He’s honored along with all the others, all the other law enforcement people that passed away, it’s just a good feeling. And then of course it brings back memories that hurt.”

The ceremony comes just days after Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard was killed while working a crash on I-75.

Richard was responding to a crash near Ocala on the side of the road. Another accident near the original killed Richard and two others. Attorney General Pam Bondi said the tragedy is a reminder for Floridians.

“If you see an accident, move over, stop, change lanes, we have to do everything we can to protect our citizens and our law enforcement officers.”

While the list of names on the memorial keeps getting longer, many hoped for the day when there would be no need for the ceremony.

Florida’s crime rate dipped to a 43 year low this past year.

**Services to be held for FHP trooper killed in crash
Published on Monday, May 5, 2014, on WTSP**

A Florida Highway Patrol trooper who served Hernando County was killed responding to an interstate crash over the weekend.

Up until a year ago, Trooper Chelsea Richard worked out of the Brooksville office before transferring to the Marion district. She was responding to a two-car crash on I-75 near Ocala when there was another nearby crash. A truck hit Richard and a tow truck driver, killing both of them.

Under Florida's Move Over Law, drivers must try to change lanes away from a crash. The law says if you can't change lanes, drivers must slow down to 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit to leave room for any emergency responders, including tow trucks and road rangers.

Make sure you put your flashers on if you are in a crash. Also, roadside emergency kits with flares, lights and tools come in handy to warn drivers of what's ahead just be sure not to use flares near any automotive fluids.

**FHP trooper, lost law enforcement remembered in ceremony
Published on Monday, May 5, 2014, in the Tallahassee Democrat**

[VIDEO](#) ~~ Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard will surely be remembered at next year’s Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Officers’ Memorial.

Here are the services for Trooper Richard according to FHP:

Visitation: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Funeral: 2:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 2014
Where: First Baptist Church of Ocala
2801 SE Maricamp Road (SR-464)
Ocala, FL 34471

Monday morning, bagpipes sounded and hundreds gathered to pay homage to those who lost their lives in the line of duty and to add the names of 14 law enforcement officers to the Florida State Law Enforcement Memorial between the old and new Capitols.

But it was Richard's death that hung over already-remorseful heads and hearts, painfully underlining the reason for the event and the stark reality of the dangers officers and deputies face daily.

Richard, 30, a tow truck driver and a pedestrian were killed when they were hit by a pickup truck while working a traffic crash on I-75 in Marion County on Saturday.

"She was just out there doing her job and that's what people need to understand," Attorney General Pam Bondi told the crowd of families, friends and coworkers of slain law enforcement officers. "Even the most routine call, the most routine stop could turn deadly at any moment."

Florida FOP president James Preston ordered a moment of silence for Richard before the ceremony began.

"We gather here today with the survivors, with the families to let them know that they're not alone that the law enforcement community is behind them," he said.

In 2013, the state lost four law enforcement officers: Gary Morales of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Joseph "Shane" Robbins of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Mike Wilson of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Daniel Rivera of the Broward County Sheriff's Office. Three others who died in 2011 and seven others who were recently discovered were also honored Monday morning.

All families and coworkers joined in a half-hour procession of families, which were escorted to a state map at the back steps of the old Florida Capitol, where they placed a rose in the area their loved one died.

Many families shed a tear, others held their heads up strong.

"I look in the audience and I see these families who lost their loved ones within the last year, and if you see their faces, it's still just as fresh as the day they died," Bondi said.

**More I-75 accident details: Funerals Thursday and Friday
Published on Monday, May 5, 2014, in the Gainesville Sun**

Three people, including a Florida Highway Patrol trooper, were killed at an accident scene on Interstate 75 south of Ocala Saturday.

A clearer picture of the Saturday afternoon accident that took the lives of three people, including a Florida Highway Patrol trooper, started to emerge Monday afternoon when the FHP released its preliminary findings.

At 2:10 p.m. Saturday, a 2006 Mercury sports utility vehicle driven by John Lindecamp, 30, of Newberry, was traveling south in the center lane of Interstate 75, between the State Road 200 and County Road 484 exits.

Lindecamp "abruptly" applied the brakes to avoid running into stopped traffic, according to the latest FHP news release. The Mercury slid into the inside lane and was sideswiped by a 2005 Ford truck driven by Troy T. Owens, 22.

Owens' truck, which was hauling a trailer, went into the median, where Trooper Chelsea Richard, 30, John Duggan, 57, and George Phillips, 55, were standing. They were near Richard's patrol car, Duggan's tow truck and a 2004 Chevrolet truck that had been involved in an earlier single-vehicle accident, according to FHP.

Owens' truck traveled between the cars and guard rail, but could not avoid hitting the trooper's car, the Chevrolet pickup, the three people, and the tow truck.

Richard and Duggan died at the scene. Phillips, who was at the scene because his daughter was a passenger in the vehicle involved in the initial accident, died hours later at Ocala Regional Medical Center.

No charges have been filed. Sgt. Tracy Hisler-Pace, an FHP spokeswoman, said the investigation could take several months to complete.

Meanwhile, the families of the three made plans to lay their loved ones to rest.

The funeral for Richard, a nine-year FHP veteran, will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church, 2801 SE Maricamp Road. Visitation is set for 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, also at the church.

Richard, the mother of a 4-year-old boy, transferred to Marion County in March 2013, according to her Facebook page.

Her family could not be reached for comment on Monday, but her social media profile showed a woman dedicated to her young son. The boy was born about two months premature in 2009. She posted photos of the tiny child connected to a web of wires and tubes in July 2009 and continued to post photos of the active, smiling boy as he grew.

On May 2, one day before her death, Richard expressed excitement on Facebook about a vacation she was taking to Maryland in a few days. She would travel with her son and significant other, also an FHP trooper, to visit family.

"(My son's) stuff is packed. One step closer Only a few more days!!" she posted.

Duggan owned SM Duggan Towing. He was on the side of the highway Saturday because he was helping a family friend, George Phillips, whose daughter was a passenger in the vehicle involved in the initial crash.

"I know it is an old cliché, but he would give his shirt off his back and then give you \$100 with it," said Matt Gibbs, owner of Son Rise Automotive and a friend of Duggan's for nearly 20 years.

Gibbs was one of a half dozen family friends who gathered on Monday at the private automotive shop of Duggan's son, John Jr.

As the group sat around the shop, a United Parcel Service driver stopped and jumped out of his truck to hug the men and offer condolences.

No local services are planned for Duggan, who will be buried in his native Massachusetts. His friends hope to honor him with a tow truck parade at October's Ocala Pumpkin Run, an event Duggan helped organize.

Phillips' family plans a memorial service for him at 2 p.m. Friday at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 5 SE 17th St. A cremation will follow.

"He was a wonderful person," said Phillips' mother, Patti Hawkesworth, of Ocala. Phillips was born in Miami and worked as a general contractor before retiring to Ocala about seven years ago and working in real estate.

Phillips and his wife, Andrea, have three children together: a son, 28, and two daughters, ages 26 and 17. Phillips and his wife would have been married 29 years on May 25.

"He had a very big personality," Andrea Phillips said. "Everybody loved him. George is one of those people who, once you met him, he was your friend."

In a connected incident on Monday, an FHP trooper on a motorcycle, who was escorting Richard's body from the Leesburg Medical Examiner's Office to an Ocala funeral home, was struck and injured by a car in Lady Lake, according to the Lake County FHP.

Trooper Kevin Brown, 45, was not seriously injured. He was part of a 10-unit procession escorting Richard's remains and was hit while trying to halt traffic.

The driver of the car that hit Brown was cited for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, reports state.

FHP trooper killed in I-75 crash honored in Tallahassee Published on Monday, May 5, 2014, on News 13 Orlando

Law enforcement officers from across Florida gathered in Tallahassee on Monday for a special ceremony to honor officers killed in the line of the duty while working a crash on I-75 south of Ocala over the weekend.

Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard, 30, was on the interstate with a tow truck driver and another man working a two-car crash Saturday afternoon, when a five-car collision happened.

A pickup truck struck Richard, tow truck driver John Duggan and George Robert Phillips. All three were killed. Richard was a 9-year FHP veteran and leaves behind a 4-year-old son.

"We are human beings," said Sgt. Tracy Hisler-Pace. "We are mothers. We are fathers. We're sisters, we're brothers. We're grandmothers and grandfathers and we're out here to keep people safe. While everybody doesn't feel that way, that is our goal."

Ten Florida law enforcement officers have been killed since the beginning of 2013, including three in Central Florida this year.

Orange County Deputy Scott Pine and Windermere police Officer Robert German both were shot and killed investigating cases by suspects who then turned the gun on themselves.

Both were laid to rest after touching ceremonies attended by hundreds of officers from around the state. Details are still being finalized for Richard's funeral. She will also be honored this month at a ceremony planned later this month at Marion County's Fallen Officer Memorial.

Tragedy highlights 'Move Over' law in Central Florida Published on Monday, May 5, 2014, on WKMG

[VIDEO](#) ~~ Florida Highway Patrol investigators say drivers need to follow the "Move Over" law, in order to prevent deadly accidents, similar to those that killed four people this weekend.

FHP Trooper Chelsea Richard, tow truck driver John Duggan and driver George Phillips were all killed on Saturday when a car lost control on a rain-slicked Interstate 75 in Marion County and plowed into them on the side of the road.

In Orange County, Marcceus Marc, a father of seven, was killed when another driver lost control in the rain and crashed into him as he helped another driver who had just crashed. "We want drivers to realize there is a very dangerous risk when you get out of your car to help somebody," said FHP Trooper Kim Montes.

She said very few drivers follow the Move Over law, which stipulates drivers must move over one lane of traffic away from any emergency crews, tow truck or disabled vehicle on the shoulder of the road. If that is not possible, drivers must slow down to 20 mph under the posted speed limit, Montes said.

"You can't be sorry after the fact," she said. "You have to be able to prevent these crashes."

Local 6 watched as several drivers on Interstate 4 in Seminole and Orange counties drove full speed passed several accidents on Monday. In one case, a Road Ranger had a flashing arrow telling drivers to change lanes, and they all ignored the signal.

"If you hit and kill someone on the side of the road that's been simply to help someone in need, you have to live with that for the rest of your life," Montes said.

FHP trooper killed has Brooksville ties
Published on Monday, May 5, 2014, on WTSP

Trooper Chelsea Richard, who was killed in the line of duty, once lived in Hernando County.

[VIDEO](#) ~~ The 30-year-old Florida Highway Patrol trooper who was killed in a crash in Ocala Saturday has ties to Brooksville. Trooper Chelsea Richard was once assigned to Troop C - Brooksville District before transferring to Ocala about a year ago, according to a FHP spokesperson.

Richard is the mother of a 4-year-old son and was a 9-year veteran of the FHP. She was killed in the line of duty while working a traffic crash on Interstate 75 in Marion County. FHP investigators say she died Saturday afternoon after she, a tow truck driver, and another pedestrian were hit by a pickup truck as they stood on the shoulder of the road. All three were killed.

The pedestrian was 55-year-old George Phillips. He was talking to Richard and the tow truck driver trying to help his daughter, who was involved in a fender bender, before they were hit. Richard and the tow truck driver died at the scene. FHP says Phillips, who was taken to a nearby hospital in critical condition, died on Sunday.

Richard's colleagues say she adored her young son. Trooper Traci Hisler-Pace says, "Her son is adorable. He was hanging on to his mother's neck squeezing tight and I've never seen anything more precious. That will be my last memory of Trooper Richard."

The driver of the truck that hit the victims has not been charged and investigators have not released his name or explained what led up to the crash. Detectives say all of those details are under investigation.

FHP Trooper, 2 Others Struck and Killed by Truck
Published on Monday, May 5, 2014, on NBC6 Miami

A Florida Highway Patrol trooper and two others were killed over the weekend after being struck by a vehicle while standing alongside Interstate 75 near a traffic accident, authorities said.

FHP officials said veteran trooper Chelsea Richard died Saturday afternoon after she, tow truck driver John Duggan and pedestrian George Phillip were hit by a pickup truck as they stood on the shoulder beside the interstate in Marion County. Richard, 30 and Duggan, 57, were pronounced dead at the scene. The FHP said that 52-year-old Phillip later died at a hospital.

Richard initially arrived on the scene of a two-car crash on I-75 southbound. Both cars involved in the crash were on the shoulder. Shortly afterward, authorities said, a pickup truck traveled onto the shoulder and struck the trooper's vehicle, the trooper, Duggan and Phillip.

The FHP said investigators are going through physical evidence and witness statements. Authorities said charges are pending completion of the investigation, which could take several months.

Richard was a nine-year veteran of the FHP, and the 45th FHP trooper killed in the line of duty.

Funeral arrangements for Richard were still being worked out by her family.

"We are all heartbroken that Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard, John Duggan and George Robert Phillips were struck and killed yesterday," Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said in a statement. "Trooper Richard was killed in the line of duty, working to keep Florida's roadways safe. My FHP Trooper friends are devastated, and my thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Trooper Chelsea Richard, John Duggan and George Robert Phillips as we all mourn their loss."

**FHP trooper killed in Marion County I-75 pileup
Published on Monday, May 5, 2014, on WESH News**

[VIDEO](#) ~~ A Florida Highway Patrol trooper was killed Saturday in a crash on Interstate 75 in Marion County.

The southbound lanes of Interstate 75 near mile marker 341 south of Ocala had been closed after the crash but reopened late Saturday night.

While the Florida Highway Patrol was on the scene, a pickup truck plowed into the wrecked cars, killing FHP Trooper Chelsea Richard and tow truck driver John Duggan.

Richard, 30, had been with FHP for nine years. She is survived by a 4-year-old son.

A pedestrian, George Robert Phillips of Ocala, was also injured in the crash. He was hospitalized and listed in critical condition.

Driver George Butler said traffic was bumper-to-bumper and moving at about 2 mph. "I was coming south from Atlanta," he said. "I was driving through all the way to Miami with my daughter and we came to a total standstill. It was about 30 minutes. I finally got off the exit and told my daughter we're going to grab a hotel room for the night."

Drivers are urged to seek an alternative route. Southbound motorists are being detoured onto State Route 200, then to CR 475-A, CR 484, CR 475 and back to I-75. A traffic homicide investigation caused delays in the area for several hours.

**Florida Trooper, Pat-Med High Grad Chelsea Richard Killed in Crash
Published on Sunday, May 4, 2014, in the Sayville-Bayport Patch**

A Florida Highway Patrol trooper from Long Island was killed Saturday after being struck by a pickup truck while working at a crash scene, according to a First Coast News report.

Chelsea Richard, a 2001 Patchogue-Medford High School graduate, had responded to a two-car crash on I-75 in Marion County at 1:40 p.m., the report says.

Both vehicles were pulled onto the shoulder when another accident occurred in the area, sending a pickup truck crashing into Richard, a tow truck driver and a pedestrian. Richard, 30, and the tow truck driver were pronounced dead at the scene and the pedestrian died later at the hospital, the report says.

According to a wftv.com report, troopers are looking into whether the driver of the pickup truck was impaired at the time of the crash, but no charges have been filed.

Richard joined the Florida Highway Patrol in 2005. She leaves behind a 4-year-old son.

**Third victim dies in I-75 accident that also killed trooper, tow truck driver
Published on Sunday, May 4, 2014, in the Gainesville Sun**

A man who was critically injured Saturday in an Interstate 75 crash that killed a Florida Highway Patrol trooper and tow truck driver has died.

George R. Phillips, 55, of Ocala, died late Saturday night at Ocala Regional Medical Center from injuries sustained when a southbound pickup pulling a trailer traveled onto the east shoulder and struck the FHP patrol vehicle, the trooper, the tow truck driver and Phillips as they stood on the shoulder of the road, according to FHP.

Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Renee Richard, 30, and tow truck driver John Duggan were killed at the scene.

Authorities are investigating the Saturday afternoon crash, and additional information will be released in the coming weeks, according to FHP.

The sequence of events that led to the fatal collision began around 1:40 p.m. Saturday near Mile Marker 341 on I-75 south of Ocala. Richard arrived at the scene to investigate a crash involving a red pickup truck and a white Toyota and then called for a tow company.

According to Jaymi Reilly, Phillips' sister, Phillips and his wife were at the crash scene after receiving a call from their daughter, who was in one of the vehicles involved in the crash.

Phillips stayed at the scene to wait as the tow truck driver loaded the car and told his wife and daughter to leave because it wasn't safe to be on the side of the road.

About 20 minutes later, a seven-vehicle pileup occurred nearby.

Around the same time, a black pickup hauling a trailer left the roadway, struck the trooper's vehicle and then hit Richard, Duggan and Phillips, who were standing on the grassy shoulder of southbound I-75 about 9 miles south of State Road 200.

Duggan and Richard died at the scene, while Phillips was taken to Ocala Regional Medical Center in critical condition.

The families of Richard and Duggan could not be reached for comment Sunday, but Phillips' family spoke about their loved one.

"He was a wonderful person," said Phillips' mother, Patti Hawkesworth of Ocala. Phillips was born in Miami and worked as a general contractor before retiring to Ocala about seven years ago where he has worked as a Realtor.

Phillips and wife, Andrea, have three children together: a son, 28, and two daughters, ages 26 and 17. Phillips and his wife would have been married 29 years on May 25.

According to his wife, Phillips was a man of faith who was a member of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church and who volunteered at Brother's Keeper Soup Kitchen on weekends.

"He had a very big personality," Andrea Phillips said. "Everybody loved him. George is one of those people who, once you met him, he was your friend."

She described her husband as gregarious, charismatic and someone who liked sports, particularly fishing and golfing.

The eldest of five children, George Phillips was very protective of his siblings and was described as a leader, according to his brother, John Phillips, of Miami, who also owns a small farm in Ocala.

"He was a wonderful big brother. He would come to your aid in a second," said John Phillips. "No matter what — he was there to help."

Minutes after hearing the news of the accident, John Phillips said he drove to Ocala from Miami and was able to visit with his older brother before he died.

Richard was a nine-year veteran with FHP and had been with the Ocala district office for about a year. She is survived by her 4-year-old son, Clayton, her grandparents, parents and a brother.

Charges are pending the completion of the traffic homicide investigation, which could take several months, according to FHP.

On Saturday officials said alcohol was not suspected in the crash and no arrests had been made. The driver of the pickup truck that struck the victims was released from the scene after being interviewed by law enforcement.

**Trooper Chelsea Richard Florida Highway Patrol
End of Watch: Saturday, May 3, 2014
Published on Sunday, May 4, 2014, in The Munz**

OCALA, Fla. — A 30-year-old Florida Highway Patrol trooper and a tow truck driver were killed Saturday while they were both working a traffic crash on Interstate 75 in Ocala, authorities said.

Troopers said just after 2 p.m., FHP trooper Chelsea Richard was finishing up a two-car crash investigation on I-75 southbound at mile marker 341.

According to reports, the cars involved in the crash were off to the shoulder of the road, and as the trooper was talking with the tow truck driver, John Duggan, a pickup truck traveled onto the east shoulder on the southbound lanes of I-75.

Troopers said the pickup struck the FHP patrol car, Richard, Duggan, and a pedestrian, Robert Phillips, as they stood on the shoulder of the road.

Richard and Duggan died at the scene, according to authorities.

Phillips was transported in critical condition to Ocala Regional Hospital.

“Trooper Richard and Mr. Duggan died on the scene. Mr. Phillips was transported in critical condition to Ocala hospital where he remains,” said FHP director Col. David Brierton.

A total of seven vehicles were involved in the crash, troopers said.

The northbound lanes of I-75 are open, but some of the southbound lanes were blocked for nearly eight hours, creating heavy delays.

Black bands covered the shields of troopers as they addressed the media following the accident.

“This is a tragic day for the state of Florida and for the men and women of the Florida Highway Patrol,” Brierton said. “We send our deepest condolences to the families of trooper Richard, Mr. John Duggan, Mr. George Phillips and everyone involved.”

Richard was a nine-year veteran of FHP.

She leaves behind a 4-year-old son, a father in New York, and a mother in Charlotte County.

The crash is still under investigation.

Trooper Chelsea Richard

Biographical Info

Age: 30

Tour of Duty: 9 years

Badge Number: 1087

Incident Details

Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle

Date of Incident: May 3, 2014

Weapon Used: Not available

Suspect Info: Not available

Agency Contact Information

Colonel David H. Brierton, Jr.

Florida Highway Patrol

Neil Kirkman Building

2900 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: (850) 617-2301

Trooper Chelsea Richard was struck and killed by a vehicle while investigating an accident on I-75, near mile marker 341, at approximately 2:00 pm.

The vehicles involved in the accident had been moved to the shoulder. She was speaking with a tow truck driver and one of the occupants when another accident occurred at the same location. A pickup truck pulling a trailer left the roadway and struck all three, killing Trooper Richard and the tow truck driver. The third pedestrian suffered critical injuries.

“Our investigators need to sit down and go step by step to figure out exactly what happened out there,” said Sgt. Tracy Hisler-Pace. “This has been a very trying day. There’s a lot we need to look into. Right now we are focusing on the victim and their families.”

Troopers said they are looking into whether the driver of the pickup truck was impaired at the time of the crash. No charges have been filed.

Trooper Richard had served with the Florida Highway Patrol for nine years. She was survived by her 4-year-old son, parents, and grandparents.

Third person dies in crash that killed trooper, tow truck driver
Published on Saturday, May 3, 2014, on WKMG

[VIDEO](#) ~~ The Florida Highway Patrol says a third person has died after a crash that killed an FHP trooper and tow truck driver.

Troopers said 30-year-old Chelsea Richard was killed Saturday afternoon along with John Duggan.

On Sunday the third pedestrian, 52-year-old George Phillips, died as a result of his injuries from the crash, troopers said.

Richard was a 9-year veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol and leaves behind a 4-year-old child, troopers said.

Around 1:40 p.m. Saturday troopers arrived at a two car crash on Interstate 75 at mile marker 341.

Troopers said the crash was moved off to the side of the road while they waited for the tow truck to arrive.

Officials said around 2 p.m. Richard was talking to the tow truck driver, identified as John Duggan when a multiple car crash happened in the same area.

Richard and Duggan were pronounced dead on scene. Phillips was taken to Ocala Regional Medical Center where he died.

The Florida Highway Patrol is continuing their investigation into this crash and will announce funeral arrangements for Richard in the next few days.

"We are all heartbroken that Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Chelsea Richard, John Duggan and George Robert Phillips were struck and killed yesterday," said Attorney General Pam Bondi in a statement. "Trooper Richard was killed in the line of duty, working to keep Florida's roadways safe. My FHP Trooper friends are devastated, and my thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Trooper Chelsea Richard, John Duggan and George Robert Phillips as we all mourn their loss."

Update: Third victim dies hours after crash beside I-75
Published on Saturday, May 3, 2014, in the Ocala Star Banner

Trooper, tow truck driver killed

George R. Phillips died Saturday night at Ocala Regional Medical Center, according to a Florida Highway Patrol news release.

FHP: Trooper, tow truck driver killed at crash scene on I-75 near Ocala

(Original article) A Florida Highway Patrol trooper and a tow truck driver were killed Saturday afternoon when a pickup truck hit them on the side of Interstate 75 south of Ocala.

A third person, a man who was standing with them at the scene of an earlier crash near Mile Marker 341, was also hit and critically injured, according to FHP officials.

The trooper was identified as 30-year-old Chelsea Renee Richard, and the tow truck driver was identified as John Duggan. The injured man, George Robert Phillips, was transported to Ocala Regional Medical Center, where he was listed in critical condition late Saturday night.

Richard was a nine-year veteran with FHP and had been with the Ocala District Office for about a year.

The chain of events that led to the fatal collision began around 1:40 p.m. and it involved a red pickup truck and a white Toyota. Richard arrived on scene, investigated the crash and called for a tow company.

About 20 minutes after the first crash, as Richard and Duggan were talking to each other on the side of the road, a seven-vehicle pileup occurred nearby. At about that time, a black pickup hauling a trailer for some reason left the roadway, struck the trooper's vehicle and then hit Richard, Duggan and Phillips, who were standing on the grassy shoulder of southbound I-75 about 9 miles south of State Road 200.

Richard and Duggan died on the scene, according to the FHP. Phillips was taken to ORMC for treatment.

Traffic on both sides of the interstate was backed up for several hours. One southbound lane was open for traffic as investigators continued to work the scene. Though it was not impeded, northbound traffic was backed up for miles as motorists slowed down near the accident scene.

Marion County sheriff's deputies, who were also on the scene, directed traffic and Marion County Fire Rescue officials also were on the scene assisting troopers with the investigation.

Shortly after 7 p.m., troopers and sheriff's deputies stopped what they were doing and stood in single file in the middle of the southbound lanes as two FHP honor guards, each

dressed in a coat and trooper hat, reached the fallen trooper while holding an American flag. As Richard's body was placed in a body bag and loaded onto a stretcher, the flag was placed over her body as troopers and deputies stood at attention and saluted her.

By 9:40 p.m., both southbound and northbound lanes were running without delays, officials said.

Troopers said at this point, alcohol was not suspected, no one had been arrested and the investigation was ongoing. The driver of the pickup truck that struck the trooper, tow truck driver and third bystander was interviewed and checked by troopers who were on the scene and later released from the scene.

At a brief news conference held at the Ocala FHP station, Col. David Brierton, the director for the agency, expressed his sympathies and condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of Richard, Duggan and Phillips.

Brierton called Saturday's event "a tragic day" for the FHP, and said Richard chose a life of public service. Richard is survived by her 4-year-old son, parents, a brother and grandparents.

Sgt. Tracy Hisler-Pace, a spokesperson for Troop B, told reporters they won't know the full chain of events for at least a few days. She added they could not put a time frame on when the crash investigation would be completed or why the pickup swerved from the roadway, onto the median and eventually onto the grassy shoulder.

Hisler-Pace, who said she had known Richard, called her a beautiful mother and a wonderful trooper and said she had just seen Richard last Saturday when she was with her son.

Richard's death was the first law enforcement official to have died in the line of duty in Ocala since the death of Marion County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Litz in February 2004.

While it's unknown how many Ocala troopers have died in the line of duty, the last trooper to die from Troop B, of which Ocala is a member, was 10 years ago last week with the death of George Andy Brown III.

Officials said in their 75-year history, Richard was the 45th trooper to have died.

According to officials, Saturday's death was the 21st traffic-related death for Ocala/Marion County.