

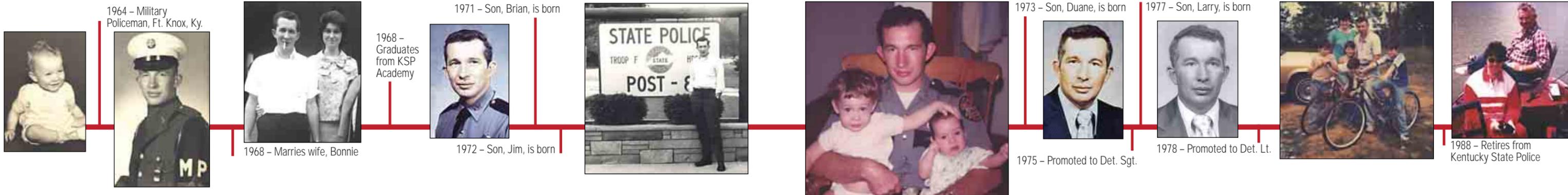
A Job Well Done

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
TAKES TO THE ROAD AFTER
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

/Kelly Foreman, Public Information Officer
/Photos by Jim Robertson

When Herb Bowling retired from the Kentucky State Police in 1988, he took a little time off, but it wasn't long before law enforcement was calling him back again. After 20 years of service to the Department of Criminal Justice Training, though, Bowling said this time, it's for real.

"I think it's just time," Bowling said of the retirement from his post as DOCJT's first-ever deputy commissioner. His retirement was effective Aug. 1. "My life has kind of been divided into segments of 20 or so years. I spent 20 years growing up, going to school, all those kinds of things. About the next 25 I spent in active law enforcement. The past 20 have just kind of been a dream. So for the next 20, I am probably going to sit on the back porch and rock, look out over the lake, do a little traveling – just do whatever I want to do when I want to do it. This is retirement." >>



The early years

In 1964, Bowling joined the military police and began basic training at Ft. Gordon, Ga. He later was stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., where he served two years as a military policeman, he said.

“The duties at Fort Knox were very similar to those of a small police department,” Bowling said. “At the time, Ft. Knox was an open base, which meant that civilians and traffic could come and go as they chose. We worked traffic accidents, domestic calls, fights, drunks — just normal policing duties for a police department.

“When I got out of the service, I decided there were two things I was never going to do again,” he added. “I was never going to work at a job that didn’t pay good money and I was never going to be a police officer.”

But things didn’t work out quite like he planned. After leaving the service, Bowling accepted a parts distribution job with Chevrolet in Flint, Mich. and quickly learned it wasn’t for him.

“I worked there for about 10 months and almost went nuts,” he said. “I couldn’t stand to be inside.”

After applying for a job with the Michigan State Police, a detective performing Bowling’s background investigation in Kentucky called and told him if he wanted to be a trooper, he ought to come back home to Kentucky.

“So that’s exactly what I did,” Bowling said. “I joined the state police in July of 1967. My initial assignment was to the license exam station in Covington as a clerk doing documents to help people get their driver’s license. I began the academy in September of 1967 and graduated in January 1968 as the valedictorian of the class.”

Following his graduation, Bowling and his wife, Bonnie, began to make their home in Morehead, Ky. Bowling served as a trooper working a variety of jobs, investigating everything from homicides and accidents to ensuring compliance and writing traffic citations.

“I developed very close working relationships with the local police departments in the Mason, Lewis and Fleming counties area, including the sheriff’s departments,” he said. “It was a very enjoyable time in my career.”

But in May of 1975, Bowling was promoted and assigned to the Pikeville post as a detective sergeant. His service there was short, though, as he soon was transferred to KSP Headquarters in Frankfort to be in charge of minority recruiting for the agency.

“I was very successful in the minority recruiting effort and was rewarded by having my choice of assignments when we shut the office down,” Bowling said. “So, I went back to Morehead as a sergeant. I worked there until 1978, when I was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to the Ashland post. I worked Ashland for six months and was able to get transferred back to the Morehead post as a detective lieutenant.

“I suppose I’m one of the few people in the state police who has had a career that never had to stay away from home long or had to move due to promotions,” he continued. “Once I got back home as a lieutenant, I decided there were going to be no more promotions because I knew I was going to have to be away from my family. So, I just settled in as a lieutenant. I retired in 1988 as a detective lieutenant out of the Morehead post.”

Dep. Commissioner Herb Bowling’s experiences as a young trooper were many, but this story has stuck with him through the years:

In 1969, in Maysville on July 4th, it was about 110 degrees. My cruiser didn’t have air conditioning. I had just polished my buttons, spit-shined my shoes and my leather gun belt and I was traveling down Ky. 8. This lady was out jacking her car up to change a flat tire. So, I stopped, got out, changed the flat tire for her, put the

jack back in the trunk and put the spare tire in the trunk. By this time, the shoe polish had melted on my gun belt and was running down my grey trousers. My spit-shined shoes looked like Hershey bars and I was dirty from my elbows down, sweat streaming down my face. This lady walked over to

the edge of the bank, looking down at the river and said, ‘John, come on up here. This nice, young trooper done changed this tire for us.’ True story. He was fishing. He was fishing, she was changing the tire.”

An ever-changing profession

A lot has changed in law enforcement since Bowling first donned that grey uniform in the late 60s. So much, in fact, that Bowling questions whether he would be able to handle the work today’s officers face daily.

“I probably couldn’t be a police officer today,” he said. “It has changed so much, I would be completely lost. Law enforcement today really has a lot of challenges we didn’t have back in those days.

“When I started in 1967, we didn’t have computers,” he continued. “We didn’t have LINK. We didn’t have NCIC. Our cruisers didn’t have commercial radios and we had no air conditioning. If you wanted to run a license on a car that you stopped out on the roadway, you had to call it in to the post, post had to call Frankfort down at motor vehicle registration and manually check the license plate number to find out who it was. If it happened to be at night, you couldn’t get it until the next day because nobody worked at the transportation cabinet at night.

“I think the communications and technology have really had just a tremendous impact on law enforcement’s ability to do the job properly and correctly,” Bowling said. “The professional standards really have raised the bar on law enforcement. The quality now is much better than it was back in those days.”

Those professional standards, better known statewide as the Peace Officer Professional Standards, are in place today thanks in part to work Bowling did after joining DOCJT in 1990.

Bowling served both as a basic training and in-service instructor for two years before he took on the role of training

operations director. It was in this role that Bowling became a part of the efforts to enact the POPS legislation.

After garnering statewide support, drafting the POPS legislation, selling it to the executive branch of government and earning the blessings of then-Gov. Paul Patton, the act was passed and signed into law. With that success under the belts of those pushing the progress, the daunting task of implementing the new law began to unfold, Bowling said.

“We had to set up some testing procedures for the entrance requirements,” he said. “We had to do the training part. We had to develop the KARs and had to hire people to do the job. It was pretty hectic at that time, but we got it all through. Then, of course, once we got it implemented, we had to ensure compliance of the statute.”

It was a lot of work, but 10 years later, Bowling said he is impressed by the results the standards have had throughout Kentucky law enforcement.

“There is the biggest contrast you have ever seen in law enforcement in the state,” he said. “One of the most visible changes was in the physical standards. We have had people come through here who were in their 60s and 70s, 200 pounds overweight with heart conditions — literally some of them would almost scare you. Today, all that has changed. I think POPS was absolutely the No. 1 legislative issue I was involved in that has changed and will continue to change the future generations of law enforcement — it is going to be here forever.” >>

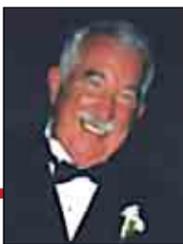
Dep. Commissioner Herb Bowling was an integral part of securing a safer — less disgusting — place for recruits to stay during basic training. Here is what he had to say about it:

I was somewhat involved in the legislative issue that dealt with the construction of the facility we are in — the John W. Bizzack Law Enforcement Complex. I think that was a significant improvement, especially in the area of the residence hall. When I came here, we were using the old University Inn out on the bypass and it was the absolute pits. It was horrible, and we required police officers to stay in that

thing. At the time, basic training was 10 weeks. We made a request that we have a new facility, and the facilities oversight committee out of Frankfort came down and inspected the University Inn, which is what they called the roach motel. That particular day, it was raining, it was muggy and it was overcast. We walked in the building and termites were swarming. I mean, huge numbers of termites. There

was one post out in the lobby that we had a poster wrapped around where they had eaten holes in the wall of that post. Of course, we took that thing off and showed her. I think that is one of the reasons we got favorable consideration for getting a new building. I explained to her that our recruits were required to live in that thing. If you put a prison inmate in a facility like that, you’d be in federal court.”

1990 – Hired as DOCJT Basic Training instructor



1992 – Promoted to DOCJT Training Operations Director

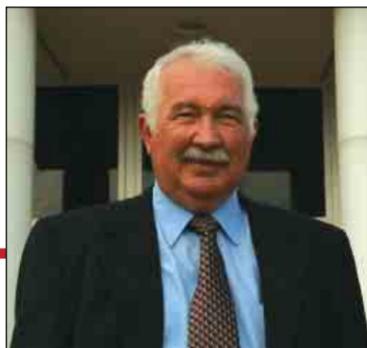


2000 – Helped develop new adult-based learning methods



1999 – Helped start the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation

2002 – Promoted as first-ever DOCJT Deputy Commissioner



2010 – Retires after 20 years of service to DOCJT

Culmination of a Career

Two decades of service

Bowling's work with POPS is just one piece of two decades worth of efforts to move policing forward. Here are some other ways his involvement has helped improve Kentucky law enforcement.

- Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation. "It provides financial assistance to police officers and families when they are killed in the line of duty. The scholarship program is very beneficial to law enforcement throughout the state. It is something officers all can take pride in — something they can look forward to — knowing that if something happens to them, their family is going to get some immediate assistance."
- Instructional methods. "We went from the traditional, lecture-style training to the facilitation training and adult-based learning process. There has been a tremendous improvement over what we had in the early years."
- Equipment. "In our computers, our fleet vehicles — overall everything has improved."
- Telecommunications. "We established telecommunication professional standards and the telecommunication academy. We have the absolute best telecommunication academy in the country. In fact, I don't know of any other state that even has one."
- Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Funds. "The KLEFPF stipends were raised from \$2,500 each year to \$3,100 annually. That should go higher and eventually, it will."
- DOCJT employee salaries. "We couldn't hire and retain people because they didn't make enough money," he said. "We changed that. We established a system where there were three levels of instructors and gave them a chance for career advancement."

Even with a long list of accomplishments, programs and initiatives Bowling has been involved in, he still maintains a humble opinion of the role his service to DOCJT and the law enforcement community has played.

"I don't know that I'll have any personal impact on anything that anybody does," he said. "I think we have put some things in place here at the department — and when I say we, I'm talking about the entire

department — that's going to have a tremendous impact on law enforcement forever."

That attitude of humility carries over into Bowling's personal life, too. Of his four sons, their spouses, a niece he considers like a daughter and 14 grandchildren, seven of his family members have followed in his law enforcement footsteps.

"About six or seven years ago, we had a cookout at our home and we had all of our kids, my niece and her husband and the grandkids," Bowling said. "Three of them were state police officers, one was a deputy sheriff, one was a city police officer, one was an Alcoholic Beverage Control agent and one was a corrections officer. . . . It's been great having all the kids in law enforcement. I think it's a real tribute to their mother; that she raised them where they could pass background checks and have the character to even get into the law enforcement profession."

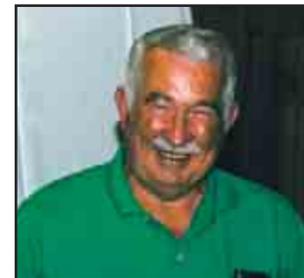
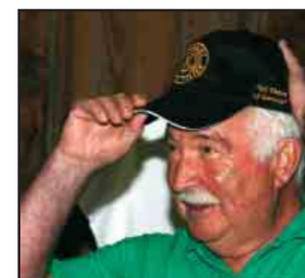
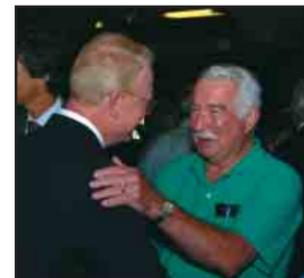
While insisting that his career in law enforcement had to have something to do with his family's involvement, Bowling still declined to take any credit.

"She did a fantastic job," Bowling said of his wife. "I think they just saw how much I enjoyed my job. The only piece of advice I gave those kids on careers was, I said, 'Whatever you do, find something you like to do. Because you're going to spend a third of your life earning a living. If you don't enjoy it, you've wasted a third of your life.'

"They all seem to be enjoying it, so I think they did the right thing," he continued.

Bowling may be humble about the impact his career has had on his family and Kentucky law enforcement, but even as he retires his post as deputy commissioner, his pride for the agency he has called home for 20 years is just as strong.

"I think this agency has the greatest impact on law enforcement of anything that could possibly be," he said. "With our training programs, our police certification, all the things that we do — we are impacting every community in every county in this state in a very positive way." J



▲ On July 28, retiring Dep. Commissioner Herb Bowling was honored in a surprise dinner and ceremony at the Arlington Country Club's Mule Barn in Richmond. Bowling was joined by his family, friends, DOCJT current and retired co-workers, law enforcement officials from around the state and other special guests. During the ceremony,

Bowling received the 2010 Governor's Award for his service to Kentucky law enforcement, Kentucky Law Enforcement Council Honorary POPS certificate No. 00000 (technically, the first-issued certificate) DOCJT retirement wrist watch, a bronze plaque to be placed in the Funderburk lobby, Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police Lifetime

Membership and award, Kentucky Peace Officers Association plaque, Kenton and Daviess counties honorary sheriffs plaques, a Kentucky State Police sweatshirt and ball cap, a spiderman fishing pole and a plaque from the Wilmore Police Department. He also received numerous cards and well wishes during the evening.

Pendleton Assumes Role as New DOCJT Deputy Commissioner

Don Pendleton was appointed July 16 to serve as the Department of Criminal Justice Training's second-ever deputy commissioner, following the retirement of Herb Bowling.

Pendleton, who has served the agency as Training Support Division Director since Jan. 2004, has played a vital role in Kentucky law enforcement since he joined the Kentucky State Police in 1974.

"I was fortunate enough in the late 1960s, when I was still in high school, to get to know a Kentucky state trooper," he said. "As I began to understand what that person represented and what he delivered in terms of service, it began to attract my interest. Although I didn't intend at that time to pursue a career in law enforcement, I couldn't put it out of my mind."

That passion for service drove Pendleton to serve Kentucky in a more than 27-year career with the state police. Pendleton considers himself fortunate that during his career, he was able to visit most every facet of what Kentucky law enforcement offers. He served in a variety of roles, beginning with working the road as a trooper, serving as a first-line supervisor, being involved in criminal intelligence, serving as the operations lieutenant for the Frankfort post, serving as post commander for both Harlan and Richmond posts as well as being the commander of statewide drug enforcement, coordinating the marijuana eradication program and coordinating and directing the activities of the KSP forensic lab system.

He also was involved in public corruption investigations, organized crime group investigations and the development and implementation of a digital radio system for KSP. Pendleton developed the Kentucky Missing Child Information Center, which received national acclaim for

its success. His KSP career culminated in the fall of 2001, when he retired from the state police as director of operations, where he directed the activities of more than 1,200 officers and civilian personnel.

In July 2002, Pendleton was hired as DOCJT's director of the Kentucky Police Corps and served there until Sept. 2003 when he became acting director of the Training Support Division, where he has served DOCJT until his recent appointment.

DOCJT Commissioner John Bizzack, in his announcement about the appointment, said Pendleton has served the agency in many major policy and program developments during his tenure.



"Dep. Commissioner Pendleton brings

to his appointment broad perspectives, skilled leadership and administrative experience, and a sound track record of even-handed and consistent approaches to policy and program issues, which will serve DOCJT, its personnel and the Kentucky law enforcement community exceptionally well," Bizzack said. "He is only the second deputy commissioner ever appointed at DOCJT, and I look forward to his continuation on the executive staff in that role."

With that wide base of knowledge and understanding of Kentucky law enforcement issues, concerns and needs, Pendleton said he has been able to facilitate trying to meet those through training initiatives, and hopes to continue doing so.

"One of the greatest ways to impact advancements in law enforcement is through training," Pendleton said. "To be able to help further the advancement

of important initiatives to continue to enhance law enforcement's delivery of service, to me, is a vitally important role to play. I am extremely grateful for the confidence displayed by Commissioner Bizzack, Sec. J. Michael Brown and Gov. Steve Beshear to place that kind of trust in me." ■