



On September 15, 2016, Lorain resident Trooper Kenneth Velez, a 27-year veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Cleveland Post #18, was killed outside his patrol car in the line of duty after being struck by a vehicle while conducting traffic enforcement on Interstate 90 in Cleveland, Ohio. Trooper Velez was just days away from retirement. He is survived by his three children, Devin, Andria, and Christian.

After Kenny's passing, a committee comprised of some of his closest friends established a Lorain County Scholarship in his honor, hoping to raise funds to pay it forward to deserving high school students wanting to continue their education. In our wildest dreams, we never expected our mission to become what it has today. The overwhelming support from businesses and communities in Lorain County and beyond has filled our hearts with such joy.

This year marks our 10th year hosting the Trooper Kenny Velez Memorial Golf Outing/Fundraiser Dinner, and we are proud to announce that we will surpass the \$100,000.00 mark in scholarships awarded to Lorain County High School Students. Your continuous support for the past 10 years has made this possible. THANK YOU!

That being said, we are sad and at the same time excited to announce that this year will be the last year for the Trooper Kenny Velez Memorial Fundraiser. The exciting part is that a new committee has been established to continue this great mission by honoring Lorain Police Officer Phillip Wagner, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on July 24th, 2025.

On July 23rd, 2025, Officer Wagner was eating lunch in his cruiser when a man ambushed him and Officer Pete Gale and opened fire on them. Officer Gale was able to retreat and radio for help. Once the assisting units arrived, Officer Gale, Officer Brent Payne, and others reengaged and exchanged gunfire with the suspect until the suspect was shot and killed. Officer Gale and Payne also sustained gunshot injuries. The heroic response from Lorain Police Officers no doubt prevented Lorain citizens from being injured or killed that day.

Officer Wagner was a United States Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Lorain Police Department for three years and the Sheffield Village Police Department for four years. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Our hope is that, starting in 2027, the great people of Lorain County will continue to support the Officer Phillip Wagner Memorial and pay it forward. More details will follow at a later date.

Forever Grateful,

The Trooper Kenny Velez Committee