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Cop dies after traffic crash

Nancy Molnar
Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

CANTON – A city police officer died following a traffic crash in the 800 block of Cherry Avenue SE on the morning of Nov. 10.

Officer Dave Wolgamott, a 47-year-old Strasburg-area resident, was involved in an accident at 6:53 a.m. while on his way to work, police spokesman Lt. Dennis Garren wrote in an email. Wolgamott died a short time later.



Wolgamott

“It is a very sad day at the Canton Police Department, and Dave will be sorely missed,” Garren wrote.

City, state, and federal officials have offered condolences to the officer’s family and colleagues.

“We are all deeply saddened today with the loss of our brother, Officer Wolgamott,” Police Chief John Gabbard said in a prepared statement. “We are appreciative of the many who have offered

condolences and extend our own sympathy to Officer Wolgamott’s family. Loss like this, unexpected and untimely, is never easy. We ask for continued prayers for officers and dispatchers who are still processing this loss.”

“Losing a dedicated public servant is never easy,” Mayor William V. Sherer II said in a prepared statement. “Officer Wolgamott devoted nearly two decades to protecting our city. His absence will be deeply felt by his fellow officers, his

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A state senator from Columbus says it is time to make the buckeye the official candy of Ohio. Democratic Sen. Bill DeMora has support from Republicans and fellow Democrats for Senate Bill 247 to elevate the chocolate and peanut butter confection made famous in Ohio. KYLE ROBERTSON/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Should the buckeye become Ohio’s official state candy?

Jessie Balmert
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Politics can be bitter at the Ohio Statehouse. But a proposal to designate buckeyes as the official state candy was nothing but sweet.

Senate Bill 247, which designates the peanut butter ball partially covered in chocolate as Ohio’s official state candy, sailed through committee on Nov. 5 with no opposition.

“There is nothing more Ohio than a buckeye,” said Alicia Hindman, owner of The Buckeye Lady, a small business in Columbus that makes traditional and stuffed buckeye candies. “We don’t just like peanut butter and chocolate buckeyes, we are the Buckeyes.”

The bill was introduced by Ohio State University alumnus and super-fan, Sen. Bill DeMora. His legislative aide, Ashley Caldwell, came up with the idea after working for The Buckeye Lady.

Ohio has a state flower (carnation),

rock song (“Hang on Sloopy”) and state beverage (tomato juice), but there is no official sweet treat. A prior effort to designate the sugar cookie as Ohio’s state cookie crumbled.

DeMora, D-Columbus, knows Ohio lawmakers will pass weightier legislation, but the proposed candy designation allows legislators to sprinkle in some unity and frivolity.

“In this time of kind of everybody

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Bowersock named 2025 Trooper of the Year

Jane Imbody
AI-assisted reporter
Times-Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

Trooper Dustin Bowersock has been named the 2025 Trooper of the Year for the New Philadelphia post of the Ohio Highway Patrol.

Bowersock, 31, was selected by his peers for his professionalism, dedication and commitment to service, according to a community announcement.

Bowersock, who lives in Dover with his wife and two children, joined the Ohio Highway Patrol in 2017 as a member of the 162nd Academy Class. He has served at the New Philadelphia Post since then.

Before joining the patrol, Bowersock served in the military since 2012.



Bowersock

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