

Act of heroism: James Bailey, end of watch, March 3, 2023

A police pursuit had been called out on I-69 Friday afternoon near Auburn. Someone clocked going 87 mph on icy, slushy roads, refusing to stop for police.

It was a disaster about to happen.

Maybe a family of four was heading north to Michigan to visit grandparents. Maybe a young couple, fresh in love, had risked the weather for a romantic dinner.

Just maybe, that speeding, reckless driver would have killed them.

We'll never know.

Indiana State Police Master Trooper James Bailey, 50, made sure of it.

Bailey was struck by that speeding vehicle as he attempted to end that pursuit before any of those hypotheticals could occur. He made the conscious choice to leave the relatively safe confines of his police car to throw stop sticks to slow that vehicle down. To end the threat to the general public.

He later died as a result of the injuries he suffered.

Throwing stop sticks is dangerous work. Throw them too soon and the driver will try and dodge them. You have to be perilously close to a speeding vehicle.

Throwing stop sticks on a weather-impacted interstate at 87 mph?

Anyone who knows Bailey knows what he was thinking: The speeding vehicle had to be stopped before someone got seriously hurt.

Bailey knew the risks. He knew the dangers. He got out of his vehicle anyway.

Bailey put the public's safety ahead of his own. A truly selfless act of courage. An act of heroism.

He deserves a medal.

Instead, he gets a funeral.

A mourning wife, two mourning children.
A law enforcement community that mourns, too.
A community in shock.

...

Following calling on Friday, Bailey will be laid to rest Saturday.

Laid to rest — a concept so very un-James Bailey.

Bailey hated sitting still.

He was a hard worker. A cop's cop.

Officers from all over northeastern Indiana liked him.

Respected him.

A true professional.

Bailey was a fighter — he beat cancer three times.

He had been diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma while an eighth grader in 1987. Then in 2003, a cancerous tumor was found in the muscle of one of his legs. In both instances, he had chemotherapy.

In late February 2012, a 5-inch cancerous tumor was discovered on the upper lobe of his left lung.

First, he had to undergo a rigorous regimen of chemotherapy that required him to be hospitalized for a week at a time. After the first round of chemotherapy in April, he returned to work his next scheduled day.

That's James Bailey.

"I just went to work," he said in January 2013. "When I'm doing this job, I wasn't thinking about it. I had more important things to think about."

Bailey stayed active, serving warrants, patrolling the streets and catching criminals.

"I like to be busy," he said. "I don't like to sit around."

He did have to miss some patrol time after the second round of chemotherapy, and eventually had to pull himself off the road entirely as the treatment took its toll on his body. He lost 29 pounds at one point.

Instead of sitting at home, he worked at the Fort Wayne State Police Post, fielding calls from citizens. In 2013, he recalled that as being a difficult time, not being out with his brothers, watching their backs while they watched his.

"I wanted to be out on the road," Bailey said. "Every day is different with this job. To me, this is my normal."

By the end of the third round of chemotherapy, the tumor on his lung had been shrunk from 5 inches to an inch and a half. On May 31, he went in for surgery to have the tumor removed. Doctors also were forced to take approximately one-third of the upper lobe on his left lung.

He returned to road duties the last two days of August.

He was named the 2012 Indiana State Police District 22 Trooper of the Year for his efforts, which saw him ranked among the top half of the troopers in District 22 for activity, despite being off for five of the first 10 months of the year.

Bailey never slowed down. Not in the months after. Not in the years after.

He was a magnet for craziness. For chaos.

If something crazy was happening, odds were good Bailey would be in the middle of it.

In a world that has gone crazy, there are people out there who would break the law.

James Bailey was the consequence.

The ISP's motto is Integrity, Service and Professionalism.

Bailey was all that — and more.

To know James Bailey was to know great laughter.

To know courage.

To know duty.

To know honor.

To know sacrifice.

Bailey didn't leave the world a better place. He **made** it a better place.

His last act of heroism is the one he'll be remembered for by most.

But his was a life filled with heroism.

Bailey didn't die for some hypothetical couple or family.

He died for you. He died for all of us.

MATT GETTS writes an occasional column for this newspaper. He reported on Bailey's service to community for most of the trooper's career. In a profession filled with men and women who go above and beyond the call of duty, Bailey was the cream of the crop.



Letter Policy

We welcome letters to the editor.

All letters must be submitted with the author's name, address and telephone number.

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of libel, poor taste or repetition.

Submit letters online at kpcnews.com/site/forms/online_services/letter

Currently, our offices are open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The News Sun
102 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 39
Kendallville, IN 46755
Email: sgarbacz@kpcmedia.com

The Star
118 W. 9th St.
Auburn, IN 46706
Email: jones@kpcmedia.com

The Herald Republican
107 N. Martha St.
Angola, IN 46703
Email: mmarturello@kpcmedia.com

Letter to the Editor

Don't be fooled by the woke overview

To the Editor:

Recently, I engaged in an annoying activity.

I watched the State of the Union address.

I could compose a lengthy essay identifying its problems. Alas, wordcounts restrain me.

Concerning Social Security and Medicare: Biden claimed Social Security and Medicare are endangered by Republicans.

Democrats constantly terrorize the elderly with fear of losing these benefits.

The real danger to Social Security and Medicare programs is the Democrat party itself. The woke Democrat spending spree strains our entire economy.

Regarding the few Republicans challenging the viability of these programs, their concerns mainly relate to sustainability. The original architects didn't foresee factors like the colossal effect of abortion upon our nation. Continual review is needed to ensure required adjustments are made. I doubt anyone wants to totally abolish these programs.

How is abortion related to Social Security and Medicare? 65 million preborns were murdered due to Roe v. Wade in the aftermath of the "sexual revolution". This holocaust has an exponential effect on our population.

Social Security and Medicare reserves and contributions won't meet future needs due, in part, to abortion. Fewer workers exist to shoulder the burden.

Ironically, Democrat party loyalists share a portion of the blame if these systems fail. In effect, they endorsed abortion through voting for pro-abortion candidates.

A more immediate concern to retirees is the recent Biden executive order relating to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing. It allows investment firms administering retirement accounts to invest in poorly performing woke corporations without fiduciary accountability.

This is legalized theft of retirement resources by woke investment managers to advantage their corporate allies.

Concerning the national debt: Biden claimed the Trump administration contributed more to it than any other president. Not true.

The four major presidents contributing to the national debt include Barack Obama (\$6.7T), Donald Trump (\$6.6T), George Bush (\$3.3T), and Ronald Reagan (\$1.4T).

The Obama/Biden administration contributed more to the national debt than the Trump administration.

Additionally, it is very deceitful for Biden to make comparisons without a robust discussion of specific challenges and accomplished goals of each administration.

More importantly, though, Biden's administration isn't completed yet. It is premature to compare himself favorably to the Trump administration on any measure.

Concerning Zion McNull, thanks for honorable mention in your online letter to the editor. Regarding book donations, I recommend placing

copies of "Communist Manifesto" in state park outhouses. The occupants may place them to more suitable use in the event of toilet paper shortage.

Regarding your commentary on my use of the word "communism", I generally use "Neo-Marxism" to refer to wokeness. There is both continuity and discontinuity between classical Marxism and wokeness.

I have an undergraduate degree in business/accounting with significant coursework in economics and history. I have engaged in considerable private study of philosophy, critical theory, and wokeness. I am confident I understand wokeness and its dangers better than most or all of my critics.

It doesn't take a genius to perceive something is wrong in society, though.

For instance, claiming men should be allowed to use women restrooms and dressing rooms is absurd. Allowing biologically advantaged men to participate in women sports is likewise absurd.

Our nation is led by the spiritually blind. The blind will lead the blind, and both will fall into the ditch.

A good understanding of the Bible is worth more than silver and gold. It supplies answers we need regarding man's true purpose and identity. The "wisdom" of this world (including wokeness) is foolishness in comparison.

Read your Bible to protect yourself from the spiritual deception of this age. Additionally, I enthusiastically recommend Truth for Life ministries with Alistair Begg.

Robert Sparkman
Rome City

Guest Column

Why I am running for Congress

I'm Andy Zay. A family man, small business owner and a conservative State Senator with a history of delivering results. Born and raised in Huntington, Indiana, I am proud of our conservative Hoosier principles of hard work, dedication to family and faith in God.

Running a small business and raising a family has opened my eyes to the fact that Main Street America has been left behind. Washington, D.C. insiders have pushed their woke ideologies to benefit themselves. I ran for State Senate to make a difference for Northeast Indiana by championing legislation to expand economic opportunity, voting to lower the income tax and standing firm on constitutional principles and our traditional values, including the right to life and the Second Amendment.

Now, I am running for Congress to fight for our shared conservative values just as I have done in the State Senate.

For too long we have seen Main Street go by the wayside while Washington, D.C. has become one of the wealthiest areas in the country. As the government gets bigger, Main Street businesses and economic opportunities get smaller. That's not how things should be.

I'm running to turn D.C.'s focus back to helping everyday Americans.

In Congress, I will stand up for

our conservative values by working to balance the federal budget by cutting wasteful spending and programs that leave Indiana out. It's time government

got back to living within its means, not on the next generation's back. I will work to cut taxes on working families and oppose bad deals that have left our region behind. I will stand up for our values, including protecting women's sports and opposing the radical, woke ideologies that are permeating our entire society, and I will ALWAYS put the rights of parents first.

I will take my work on protecting life to the federal government and support the federal abortion ban, just as I have done in the Indiana Senate.

And make no mistake, I will oppose Democrat efforts to federalize elections, allowing those without even a photo ID or proof of residency to vote. This flagrant power grab undermines our democracy, and I will not allow it.

The Biden administration is responsible for Chinese aggression, rampant inflation and crushing the livelihoods of working Americans. In Congress, I will hold them accountable for what they have done, and I

will fully support any and all efforts to investigate wrongdoing in the Office of the President.

It's time we took America in a better direction and offer an alternative to the failures of the Biden administration. As your representative in Congress, I will cut taxes on Americans and eliminate the spending that has created generational debt and deprived many of the opportunity to create generational wealth. I will stand up for our values and promote a culture of life based in faith, empowering parents and protecting our rights granted by the Constitution. Joe Biden's administration has pushed the American dream away, but by cutting taxes, emphasizing career and technical education and ending inflation, we will create more opportunities and bring back the American dream.

Most of all, I will always put the interests of Hoosiers ahead of insiders and the establishment in Washington, D.C.

I hope to meet you on the campaign trail, and I hope to earn your vote.

ANDY ZAY is a Republican candidate for Indiana's 3rd District seat in the U.S. House. He currently serves as state senator representing District 17.