

# OVERPAID HYPOCRITES!

Darin Fratzke, the Spencer, Iowa State Patrol Post Commander (until recently) and his wife, State Fire Marshal Amy Fratzke, pocketed \$278,000 in taxpayer funded salaries & benefits in just one year - FY2016.

The average household income in Clay County, IA for 2013 (most recent year available) was \$49,400<sup>(1)</sup>. Add an estimated 30% for additional benefits (health, retirement, etc.) and the estimated average household salary and benefits is \$64,200.

The Fratzkes took home over **four times as much** as the average Clay County household does. See the totals from the Spencer patrol post in this chart, provided to us by the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

The average poor working man gets a \$222.00 ticket<sup>(2)</sup> (fine & court costs) for going 11mph, over the speed limit, levied by high-income state troopers.

**Yes, we need police officers and we need to support them, but not when they are plundering taxpayers. Most of us have been emotionally propagandized about the great dangers inherent in being a police officer. The propaganda has been so strong that the following evidence may be hard to believe, at first. But do consider -**

FY2016	Dept.	Salary & Compensation	FICA - State Share	Peace Officer's Retirement - State Share	Health - State Share	Dental - State Share	Life - State Share	Long Term Disability - State Share	Deferred Comp - State Share	Total Salary & Benefits
Matt Burns	DCI	\$76,468.87	\$1,069.76	\$23,726.84	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$975.00	\$117,211.85
Ryan Lee	DCI	\$72,573.00	\$1,013.03	\$23,012.76	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$112,507.67
Chris Nissen	DNE	\$88,232.34	\$1,236.72	\$26,211.37	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$131,589.31
Nathan Ewalt	DNE	\$77,610.36	\$1,087.00	\$24,538.61	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$412.50	\$118,619.85
Darin Fratzke	ISP	\$106,800.65	\$1,536.65	\$35,209.62	\$10,255.48	\$378.69	\$40.08	\$205.80	\$975.00	\$155,401.97
Stuart Christians	ISP	\$96,123.65	\$1,330.32	\$31,521.46	\$22,092.99	\$508.95	\$40.08	\$205.80	\$975.00	\$152,798.25
Brad Krei	ISP	\$96,097.91	\$0.00	\$31,488.61	\$22,227.31	\$508.95	\$40.08	\$205.80	\$975.00	\$151,543.66
Steven Hilt	ISP	\$95,885.21	\$0.00	\$31,485.28	\$22,092.99	\$508.95	\$40.08	\$205.80	\$975.00	\$151,193.31
Mark Miller	ISP	\$96,520.26	\$1,358.13	\$31,649.21	\$16,621.27	\$508.95	\$40.08	\$205.80	\$975.00	\$147,878.70
Kevin Krull	ISP	\$92,600.52	\$1,302.95	\$26,807.06	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$136,619.41
Doug Drost	ISP	\$91,519.48	\$1,246.99	\$26,818.76	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$135,494.11
Jeff Zylstra	ISP	\$91,378.63	\$1,287.14	\$26,810.75	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$135,385.40
Dave Driesen	ISP	\$90,222.22	\$1,270.36	\$26,625.53	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$975.00	\$134,064.49
Brian Axford	ISP	\$89,434.03	\$1,257.44	\$26,618.95	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$133,219.30
Vince Kurtz	ISP	\$88,739.24	\$1,203.43	\$26,746.17	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$132,597.72
Chase Hesse	ISP	\$88,854.64	\$1,248.61	\$26,421.82	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$950.00	\$132,446.45
Doug Kueper	ISP	\$85,706.83	\$1,203.80	\$26,742.84	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$625.00	\$129,249.85
Terry Dykstra	ISP	\$78,723.87	\$1,101.79	\$22,928.78	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$118,663.32
Nicholas Erdman	ISP	\$73,377.75	\$1,026.11	\$22,458.49	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$625.00	\$112,458.73
Philip Beaver	ISP	\$71,019.77	\$999.17	\$21,431.71	\$9,522.80	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$203.70	\$937.50	\$105,025.19
Jeremy Hilt	ISP	\$67,226.97	\$935.79	\$20,497.17	\$13,855.04	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$196.68	\$937.50	\$104,559.69
Zach Dieken	ISP	\$59,418.47	\$840.00	\$17,917.86	\$9,522.80	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$173.04	\$0.00	\$88,782.71
Lisa Beddow	ISP	\$53,241.57	\$4,046.80	\$4,754.40	\$10,717.14	\$378.69	\$40.08	\$169.44	\$950.00	\$74,298.12
Scott Studer	SA1	\$71,429.30	\$999.44	\$23,238.33	\$12,736.32	\$746.94	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$600.00	\$110,056.33
Amy Fratzke	SFM	\$85,060.37	\$1,211.31	\$25,432.28	\$8,865.25	\$810.34	\$100.20	\$205.80	\$937.50	\$122,623.05
Scott Studer	Trooper	\$3,644.04	\$51.28	\$978.93	\$1,118.72	\$63.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$5,881.37
<b>Average Compensation Spencer ISP, SA1 &amp; Trooper Officers Only FY2016</b>										<b>\$127,380.90</b>
Department Codes: DCI= Division of Criminal Investigation, DNE=Division of Narcotics Enforcement, ISP=Iowa State Patrol, SFM=State Fire Marshal										
Source: Alex R. Murphy, Public Information Officer – Investigative Operations, Iowa Department of Public Safety										

For years the US Department of Labor has found that farmers, over-the-road truckers, transit drivers, over-the-road salesmen, steel erectors, commercial fishermen, ranchers, nursing homeworkers, et al have higher on-the-job **injury rates** (per 200,000 hours worked), leading to days off from work than do police officers.<sup>(3)</sup>

While the on-the-job **death rate** is high in police work, it still remains significantly below those engaged in farming, construction laborers, roofers, structural steel workers, fishermen, electrical power-line workers, truck drivers/sales workers, waste haulers, et al.<sup>(4)</sup> Most police officers who die on the job do so from traffic-related accidents. With the highly publicized - **and most tragic** – recent shootings of police officers, few know that at 33 officers killed by gun-fire, nationally in 2013, this was the lowest number killed in the previous 126 years. Yes, that's right - since **1887**.<sup>(5)</sup>

These tragic shootings, though **rarely** justified (courts have allowed some), don't take place in a vacuum. We need to also look at the recent explosion in numbers of innocent people or suspects of very minor crimes being killed at the hands of police officers due, in large part, to the radical change in their "escalation of force" training over the last few years.<sup>(6)</sup> **In the end, injuries and deaths on the job are inherent in all of our work and yet many lo-wans are assuming much greater risks than police officers, at much less pay.**

What makes their relatively low risk but high paying job even more oppressive to the public is that our director, Paul Dorr, has encouraged Spencer Post 6, commander (until recently), Lt. Darin Fratzke to better train his officers not to be "scoff-laws" themselves, when it comes to obeying various Iowa traffic laws (Iowa Code 321). Multiple times

Dorr has witnessed - and received reports from others of - state troopers speeding hard **without lights or sirens operating** as the law normally requires. (There is one exception in the code allowed to peace officers to speed without lights/siren for *just a brief time* period.) Fratzke's defense of such speeding ran aground in the absence of any Iowa law supporting it. He still justified it based on personal experience. More on this below. Dorr cautioned Fratzke that by the poor training of his officers who then engage in reckless speeding (without warning devices operating) his officers could cause injury to innocent parties.

This is not just hypothetical. The State Patrol's Sgt. Michael Haugen recently resigned his post. In March of this year he rear-ended a car that was in the process of turning into a church parking lot in Forest City. His superior officer investigated the matter and then issued a citation to the driver of the first car for making a sudden turn. And, that which almost never happens, the second car (driven by Trooper Haugen) was not cited nor was he given a drug test. Investigators have not released enough details of the crash to determine if speed was involved. Haugen had been a training officer.<sup>(7)</sup> He later resigned and is being charged for stealing Oxycontin from a state evidence room.

As many have heard, State Trooper Steve Lawrence pled guilty August 20, 2013, to a speeding violation he incurred in April of 2013, while transporting Governor Terry Branstad on US Highway 20. He was going 84mph in a 65mph zone. Initially he was not ticketed, but three months after the incident, he was cited in response to the intense publicity and political controversy surrounding the Governor over his speeding.<sup>(8)</sup> The DCI agent who first called in Trooper Lawrence for speeding with Governor Branstad lost his job soon thereafter.<sup>(9)</sup>

A few months after this infraction Iowa State Trooper Darren Argabright was pulled over by a Franklin County deputy sheriff for speeding, while also transporting Governor Branstad. Argabright was given a warning ticket. But when later asked the deputy sheriff **forgot** the illegal speed the trooper was actually going and also failed to record it on the warning ticket.<sup>(10)</sup> It looks like this deputy sheriff wanted to keep his job.

Is Lt. Fratzke having a hard time getting his officers to obey the law when he himself has a heavy foot? The Cameron Arnold Judicial Reform Initiative has heard from NW Iowa deputy sheriffs that know Fratzke himself travels in the hard 90 mph speeds, without lights or sirens. We wrote Fratzke on August 30, 2016, (and confirmed his receipt of our Email) and asked him to confirm or deny our report. As of press time we've received no reply.

We encourage all NW Iowa taxpayers to call their Sheriff and ask if his department is willing to issue speeding tickets to state troopers when they are clearly violating the law in his county! Support your Sheriff if he says "Yes" and challenge him to do what's right, if he's afraid to cite them for reckless speeding. **Let him know you will support him if one of his deputies has to ticket a state trooper.** Make copies of this flier and pass them around. Get dozens in your community to contact your Sheriff.

It's time to call Governor Branstad's office (515-281-5211 or <https://governor.iowa.gov/contact>) and insist he call for, and set himself, a better standard for our state troopers! It's also time to call your state representatives and insist they **stop giving salary increases to these over-paid hypocrites!** And urge them to consider pay cuts for state troopers!

When you go past the **state patrol's fair booth in the Depot**, encourage them to close the booth, go fight real crime and stop their very transparent public relations good-will campaign, needed to keep up their 'top dollar' paychecks.

#### Footnotes:

- 1) [http://www.city-data.com/county/Clay\\_County-IA.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Clay_County-IA.html)
- 2) [http://www.dps.state.ia.us/ISP/Compendium\\_2013.pdf](http://www.dps.state.ia.us/ISP/Compendium_2013.pdf), page 5
- 3) US Dept. of Labor most recent year available, <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/os/ostb4348.pdf>
- 4) US Dept. of Labor most recent year available, [http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfoi\\_rates\\_2014hb.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfoi_rates_2014hb.pdf)
- 5) National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/dec/30/nation/la-na-nn-police-deaths-20131230>
- 6) <https://photographyisnotacrime.com/2015/08/06/angel-of-death-psychologist-getting-rich-justifying-killer-cops/>
- 7) <http://wqad.com/2016/06/06/records-show-fired-iowa-state-patrolman-didnt-receive-citation-in-driving-collision/>
- 8) <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/08/20/trooper-convicted-of-speeding-while-driving-branstad-doesnt-challenge-ticket>
- 9) <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/07/17/iowa-governor-branstad-speeding-agent/2529743/>
- 10) <http://www.thegazette.com/2013/09/27/gov-branstad-driver-stopped-for-speeding-again>

**"The Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses seat...For they bind heavy burdens, grievous to be born." Matt. 23: 2,4**

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