

SAFETY & HEROISM



TROOPER DANIEL C. HARRELL

Department of
Public Safety,
State Highway Patrol

Trooper Daniel C. Harrell is a third-generation member of the State Highway Patrol (son of retired Sergeant L.C. Harrell and the grandson of retired Trooper T.C. Cherry) who works every day to protect the citizens of North Carolina. What began as a routine traffic stop for Trooper Harrell on Jan. 14, 2019 turned into a feat of determination and heroism, all while facing serious injuries.

Trooper Harrell observed a vehicle improperly towing another vehicle, so he conducted a traffic stop. With the vehicle pulled over, Trooper Harrell proceeded through protocol, explaining the reason for the stop. When the driver couldn't produce a license, he drove off. After a short chase, the suspect stopped the car, leaned out of the vehicle and fired four shots at Trooper Harrell, who had exited his vehicle, striking him in the face and the neck. Trooper Harrell continued to stay in the fight while giving out vital information to the Raleigh Communications Center, even though he was seriously wounded. When the suspect drove away again, Trooper Harrell resumed the pursuit, continuing to provide pertinent information to Raleigh Communications. Eventually, the suspect crashed his car head-on into Trooper Harrell's vehicle. The collision disabled the patrol car, but Trooper Harrell continued to pursue the suspect. Fellow officers were able to apprehend the alleged gunman and arrest him.

Trooper Daniel C. Harrell's courageous efforts reflect the true character of serving as a North Carolina State Trooper. He faced difficult odds but relied on his training and experience to work through a painful ordeal, serve justice and save innocent lives through his heroic and selfless actions.

