

Safety and Heroism



DALTON LEDFORD

Department of
Public Safety,
State Highway Patrol

As a member of State Highway Patrol Troop G, District 4, Trooper Dalton Ledford's primary responsibility is to protect the public to ensure safe, efficient transportation on the streets and highways of North Carolina by enforcing state laws to reduce the incidence of vehicle collisions and traffic fatalities. While working on January 17, 2023, Trooper Ledford clocked a vehicle driving at the speed of 104 miles per hour in a 60-mile-per-hour zone.

Understanding the severity of a vehicle traveling almost twice as fast as the flow of traffic, Trooper Ledford leaped into action. After activating his lights and siren, a short chase ensued as Trooper Ledford attempted to stop this reckless driver. In an attempt to race away from Trooper Ledford, the violator careened off the roadway and into a river embankment, where the vehicle landed overturned.

Trooper Ledford immediately took action to save the driver. He slid down the treacherous embankment into the frigid river where the vehicle was completely submerged with the driver suspended upside down. Trooper Ledford worked against the current to gain access to the driver through the passenger side. Trooper Ledford endured prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures as he worked to free and safely pull the driver from the vehicle, dragging him through the water and up the embankment. Once emergency services arrived, they evaluated not only the driver but also Trooper Ledford. They recommended him for further evaluation for hypothermia due to his prolonged exposure to the icy water and cold air.



Trooper Dalton Ledford risked his health and well-being without hesitation to help someone in need. Without his help, the driver would have remained trapped in the vehicle. Trooper Ledford's selfless example is the very definition of bravery in public service. The State of North Carolina commends him for his heroism.