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School resource officer killed in tractor-trailer crash in Morris/Laurens

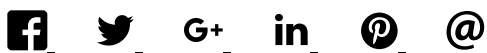
Jan 20, 2010



A lowboy tractor trailer is seen stopped a mile and a half from a fatal accident scene involving 31-year-old Jill Mattice, a 6 1/2 year veteran and the first female New York State Trooper to die in the line of duty. New York State Troopers inspect the tractor that stopped a mile and a half from the accident scene on State Route 23 in Morris, NY on Wednesday Jan. 20, 2010 after the fatal collision.

Brit Worgan

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A tractor-trailer and a state police car collided on state Route 23, according to troopers. Multiple sources have confirmed that the trooper has died.

The crash occurred at around 3 p.m. near the Morris/Laurens town line, and emergency dispatchers described it as resulting in serious personal injury. A call for extrication equipment was made to local fire departments.

The highway was closed in that area and traffic was being rerouted around the scene.

A 6½-year veteran of the state police, Trooper Jill E. Mattice, 31, was assigned to the Oneonta trooper barracks and worked as a school resource officer for Unadilla Valley Central School and Franklin Central School, according to troopers.

A preliminary investigation revealed that Mattice, who was driving east, was involved in a collision at about 2:50 p.m. with a westbound tractor-trailer driven by F.M. Saggese, 33, of West Oneonta. She was pronounced dead at the scene, troopers said.

The investigation is continuing, troopers said.

Mattice is the 123rd state trooper to die in the line of duty and the first woman, according to the New York State Police Wall of Honor.

The last trooper to die on duty was Shawn W. Snow, 47, was electrocuted in Ogdensburg while helping to change a flat tire on an antique fire truck Aug. 3, 2008. The last local state trooper to be killed serving the community was Ricky J. Parisian, 34, of Oneonta, who was shot May 20, 1994, trying to stop the armed robbery of the former Great American supermarket in Oneonta. A trooper from Coxsackie, David Brinkerhoff, 29, was killed in Arkville during a gun battle with man who shot and wounded a trooper a day earlier in Margaretville.

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