Trooper William Raymond Thompson, Badge # 89
Division III - Fluvanna County
End of Watch: September 23, 1935

Today and always, the Virginia State Police Family Remembers and Honors the Life and Service of Trooper William Raymond Thompson, who gave the ultimate sacrifice, while protecting and serving the Citizens of Virginia.

On September 23, 1935, Trooper Thompson responded to a bank robbery in progress. He arrived at the bank in Fork Union, Virginia and found three robbers still inside the bank. Trooper Thompson disarmed one robber in the doorway of the bank, but was shot by another robber from inside the bank. The same robber then shot Trooper Thompson in the back a number of times as he lay on the ground. Tragically, Trooper Thompson lost his life while attempting to arrest the bank robbers becoming the 6th Virginia State Police Trooper to die in the line-of-duty. He was thirty-three years of age and had served as a Virginia State Police Officer for just three years.

The robbers were arrested the following day and taken to the Henrico County Jail. The shooter was executed in February of 1936.

Trooper Thompson's Badge # 89 was a witness to this crime and its story appeared in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, Volumes 29-30, published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, in 1960. The story of Badge # 89:

"So, with death, comes tragedy, and badge No. 89 was a mute witness to just such a tragedy when a bullet from a gun in the hands of a bank burglar claimed the life of the trooper who wore it.

It was on the fateful night of September 23, 1935, that Trooper William Raymond Thompson, while on duty, surprised three hoodlums in the act of burglarizing a bank in Fork Union, Va. As so often is the case, Trooper Thompson was working alone and there was no time or opportunity to summon help. He acted as befits a courageous, disciplined officer of the law and singlehandedly attempted to apprehend and take the three burglars into custody.

He had captured one of the men when one of the others shot and killed him. The three bandits were later captured and the murderer died in the electric chair.

Badge No. 89 stopped the murder's bullet but only after it had penetrated the trooper's body, for Trooper Thompson was shot in the back and the bullet came to rest against the back of his badge. Badge No. 89 rests today in the departmental museum at Virginia State Police Headquarters in Richmond, Va., with a distortion on the side to tell the story."

We will always remember and honor Trooper Thompson and be ever in his debt for the courage, devotion to duty and dedication to serving his fellow man that he exhibited. It is not how he died that made him a hero. It is how he lived, served and protected the Citizens of Virginia.

Thank you Trooper William Raymond Thompson for your service and example.

Rest in Peace, Brother.