

# Virginia State Police

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*Colonel Jeffrey S. Katz  
Superintendent*

The Virginia State Police uniform shoulder patch was designed by a member of the Department in 1949, adopted in 1950 and used continuously since that time. It is worn on the sleeves of all uniform shirts, blouses and winter jackets.

The patch design consists of the obverse of the Great Seal of Virginia. The Latin phrase, *Sic Semper Tyrannis*, means Thus Always to Tyrants and has been the motto of Virginia since 1776, twelve years prior to the Commonwealth's ratification as the tenth State in 1788. This seal also is included in the design of the State flag, adopted in 1930.

The central figure of the Great Seal depicts the Roman goddess Virtus dressed as an Amazon. The Amazons were a mythical race of warrior women who fought against men and who inhabited Southern Europe. She personifies enduring patience in trials, constancy under stress, resolution, unfailing exertion, and dedication to the Commonwealth of Virginia. By attitude, Virtus is at peace and intends to stay at peace. Although warfare may be over, she is prepared to stamp out any tyrant or form of tyranny.

The spear is held point down to indicate she has temporarily finished using it. Her helmet is pushed back to clear the face. In her left hand is a sheathed parazonium, a short Greek sword that is considered more a badge of honor than a weapon.

With head proudly erect and face upright, Virtus rests her left foot on the prostrate male figure who personifies tyranny. The crown which has fallen from his head originally symbolized freedom from Britain and the oppression of the Crown, the sundered chains freedom from Britain's restrictions, and the scourge under the figure's left hand freedom from Britain's punitive measures such as the Intolerable Acts which were instrumental in provoking the Revolutionary War.

Thus, Virginia personified stands as the victor over oppression, dedicated to service with firm patience and ever willing to fight tyranny should it become necessary.



*Virginia State Police policy prohibits the Public Relations Office from providing official uniform shoulder patches to anyone other than sworn law enforcement officers who make an appropriate request on their Department's official stationery.*



**Web Site:**  
[www.vsp.virginia.gov](http://www.vsp.virginia.gov)

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## Trooper's Pledge

Humbly recognizing the responsibilities entrusted to me as a member of the Department of State Police, an organization dedicated to the preservation of human life and property, I pledge myself to perform my duties honestly and faithfully to the best of my ability and without fear, favor or prejudice. I shall aid those in danger or distress, and shall strive always to make my State and Country a safer place in which to live.

I shall wage unceasing war against crime in all its forms, and shall consider no sacrifice too great in the performance of my duty. I shall obey the laws of the United States of America and of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and shall support and defend their constitutions against all enemies whomsoever, foreign and domestic. I shall always be loyal to and uphold the honor of my organization, my State and my Country.

