

**05-10-1975 Salem OR – Harold R Berg – State LEO Drowned – Off Duty**

## **Lieutenant Harold Roy Berg**

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/1775-lieutenant-harold-roy-berg>



***Oregon State Police, Oregon***  
**End of Watch Saturday, May 10, 1975**



### **HAROLD ROY BERG**

Lieutenant Berg was drowned during a search and rescue operation. He was off duty at a family picnic when he was notified that two Explorer Scouts from the Boy Scouts of America were missing at Cape Lookout State Park. While searching a cave near the water's edge at Lookout Point he was washed out to sea. The boys were later found safe.

Lieutenant Berg had served with the agency for 15 years. He was survived by his three teenage daughters and his teenage son.

The Oregon State Police established the Harold R. Berg Lifesaving Award in his memory.

## **Fallen Trooper Harold R Berg**

<https://www.ospmemorial.org/berg.html>

### **Harold R. Berg** **1937 – 1975**

Lieutenant Harold R. Berg's death on May 19, 1975, is an example of the spirit and commitment of the Oregon State Police that an officer is "Never Off Duty".

Lieutenant Berg was hired as a recruit for the Oregon State Police in April, 1960. He subsequently moved through the ranks and through various offices (Pendleton, Baker City and Salem) and increasing responsibilities (Traffic, Game, Narcotics and finally the Criminal Division). He served as a lieutenant in the Salem Criminal Division from 1973 until his death in 1975.



Lieutenant Berg was off-duty at a family picnic at Lookout Point, near Tillamook. He was contacted by a Boy Scout leader, a Lake Oswego police officer, who asked if Lieutenant Berg had seen two missing Explorer Scouts. Lieutenant Berg volunteered to assist in the search and, while attempting to search a cave near the water's edge, he was washed out to sea. The scouts were later found safe away from the shore. Harold Berg was born in Oklahoma in 1937 and was 38 years old at the time of his death. He came to Oregon in 1958 and, after a time with the State Forestry Department in the John Day area, joined the Oregon State Police. He was survived by three teen-age daughters and a teen-age son. He is buried at Belcrest Cemetery in Salem. The Department of State Police established the Harold R. Berg Lifesaving Award in his memory. It is awarded to members who distinguish themselves by performing or reacting to a situation in a positive and professional manner which saves or reduces the risk of loss of life of another person.

## **Trooper Receives 'Harold R. Berg Lifesaving Award'**

<https://www.oregonherald.com/oregon/localnews.cfm?id=2851>

January 9, 2013 by Polishka Renicon - The Oregon Herald

NEWPORT, Oregon - Oregon State Police (OSP) Superintendent Richard Evans recognized the lifesaving effort of an OSP trooper in preventing a suicidal man from jumping off a Newport area bridge last summer with the presentation of the Department's "Harold R. Berg Lifesaving Award".

The award was presented Wednesday to Trooper Adam Kowing at the OSP McMinnville Area Command office where he recently transferred from the Newport Area Command office.

On July 4, 2012, Newport Police Department (NPD) received a report of a suicidal man who told a friend that he wanted to commit suicide by jumping off the Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport. After an attempt to locate was broadcast to local agencies, NPD spotted the man's vehicle and attempted to stop it. The man attempted to elude the NPD officers in heavy holiday traffic causing officers to terminate and back off. Other area agencies saw the vehicle in Waldport where the man turned his vehicle around and proceeded northbound back toward Newport.



**Photograph (Left to right: Superintendent Evans and Trooper Kowing)**

Trooper Kowing monitored radio traffic and positioned his patrol vehicle near the Yaquina Bay Bridge in a visible spot to discourage the man from accessing the bridge. After the man passed by, Trooper Kowing got behind the vehicle and

followed it across the bridge until the man suddenly slammed on his brakes causing the OSP patrol vehicle to rear-end his vehicle. The man then got out and ran toward the bridge railing with Trooper Kowing running behind him. As the man reached the railing and began to step over the edge, Trooper Kowing grabbed his waist and pulled him back onto the pavement before he fell over a hundred feet down below. The man fought with Trooper Kowing before he was restrained with the help of NPD officers preventing him from jumping to his death.

"Adam's quick and selfless reaction during a life-threatening situation ultimately saved this man's life and is a testament to the measure and strength of his character," said Evans.

The "Harold R. Berg Lifesaving Award" is named after Lieutenant Harold R. Berg who died on May 10, 1975. Berg, while off duty, was contacted by a citizen who informed him that a boy scout was missing at Cape Lookout State Park. While attempting to search a cave near the water's edge, he was washed out to sea. The award is given to State Police employees who distinguish themselves by performing or reacting to a situation in a positive and professional manner which saves, or reduces the risk of loss of life of another person; and, where a strong possibility existed that if such action wasn't taken, loss of life or serious injury would have resulted.

Kowing, age 25, has worked for OSP for more than four years.