Trooper James J. Monda

- United States
- New York
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New York State Police, New York
End of Watch Sunday, August 22, 2021

JAMES J. MONDA

Trooper James Monda drowned while conducting a training dive in the Great Sacandaga Lake in Northampton, New York, at approximately 4:00 pm.

He failed to resurface after going into the water at a boat launch on Bunker Hill Road. He was working a marine patrol detail on the lake when the incident occurred.

Trooper Monda had served with the New York State Police for 18 years and was assigned to SP Princetown.

He is survived by his fiancée and parents

BIO
- Age 45
- Tour 18 years
- Badge Not available

INCIDENT DETAILS
- Cause Drowned
  - Dive Training
New York State Trooper Who Died This Weekend Drowned While Diving In Lake


Aug. 23, 2021 By Catie O'Toole | cotoole@syracuse.com

New York State Police Trooper James Monda died while on duty Sunday. New York State Police

A state trooper who died this weekend in an Adirondacks lake drowned while diving, state police Superintendent Kevin P. Bruen said at a news conference Monday.

Trooper James Monda, 45, went into Great Sacandaga Lake from a boat launch dock at about 4 p.m. Sunday wearing diving gear, Bruen said.

Monda, assigned to a marine patrol, was not a member of the state police dive team. He was, however, with another trooper who is an underwater recovery team member, Bruen said.

When Monda did not resurface after a short dive, the other trooper jumped in and found Monda at the bottom of the lake in about nine feet of water, Bruen said, based on the department’s preliminary investigation. The other trooper pulled Monda to shore and immediately began CPR.

EMS and other state troopers arrived.

Trooper Monda was transported to Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville, where he was declared dead at 5:26 p.m. Sunday, state police said.

An autopsy showed Monda died from accidental drowning, Bruen said. Police are continuing to investigate his death, he said.

Part of the investigation will look into why Monda was diving, the equipment he was wearing, and other factors to “determine exactly what happened,” Bruen said.

The superintendent also said it was not a scheduled training session, and the medical examiner found “it was an accidental death by drowning and there were no other outstanding medical issues detected or reported.”

Monda was an 18-year veteran of the state police and worked at Troop G in Latham before moving to Troop B in Ray Brook.
State Trooper with 18 years on the force dies during marine detail at Great Sacandaga Lake


August 23rd 2021 by WRGB STAFF

FULTON COUNTY, NY (WRGB) — State Police have released the name of the trooper who lost his life over the weekend at Great Sacandaga Lake.

State Police say that Trooper James Monda was working a marine detail when "he went into the water and did not resurface". The incident happened around 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The detail was working at a boat launch in Fulton County. Monda was taken to Nathan Littauer Hospital where he later died.

MORE: State Police: Trooper dies while working marine detail on Great Sacandaga Lake

State police have not determined why he didn’t resurface. He was assigned to Princetown. State police tell us that trooper monda was not a member of the dive team, and that this incident wasn’t a scheduled dive team training session. Those details are under investigation.

He was an 18-year veteran of the State Police and served at Troop G out of Latham before moving to Troop B in Ray Brook for a time.

State Police report the death of a trooper who was working on the Great Sacandaga Lake Sunday. (Megan Smith)
NYSP Superintendent Kevin Bruen said, “This is a heartbreaking situation for trooper Monda’s loved ones, our members his coworkers and our agency as a whole. Trooper Monda was a member of the state police family and will be greatly missed.”

His latest assignment, according to State Police, was back at Troop G, working out of Princetown.

State Police say Monda is survived by his fiancée and parents.

Hours after being sworn in as Governor of NY. Kathy Hochul directed all state building to lower flags to half-staff starting Wednesday until Monday in honor of Trooper Monda.

Funeral Set For NY Trooper Who Drowned On Marine Patrol
Aug. 24, 2021 By Associated Press

MAYFIELD, N.Y. (AP) - A funeral service will be held next week for a New York state trooper who drowned Sunday while on duty at a lake in the Adirondack Mountains.

The service for Trooper James Monda is scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday at St. John the Evangelist Church in Schenectady, state police said.

Visitation will be at the church the day before from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Monda, 45, drowned while working a marine detail on the Great Sacandaga Lake around 4 p.m. Sunday.

Related Story:  
New York trooper on duty at Adirondack lake dies

James J Monda

James J. Monda, 45, of Rotterdam Junction, died suddenly on Sunday, August 22, 2021. James graduated from Mohonasen High School in 1993. He attended SCCC and received his Bachelors’s degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Albany in 1998. James worked for several years as a Corrections Officer at the Ulster County Correctional Facility before being appointed to the State Police in 2003. He was first assigned to Chazy and was currently working out of Troop G Zone 3 - Princetown. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, ATVs, or anything outdoors and loved his cat, Max or
any animal that crossed his path. James was predeceased by his sisters Kim Hurley and Tina Ditrapano. He is survived by his beloved fiancé; Teresa Kepler of Rotterdam; his mother; Joan Monda of Rotterdam Junction, his father James A. Monda (Margaret Doherty) of Rotterdam, and his sister; Jill Petitti (Fred Brock) of Rotterdam; brother Anthony Monda of Florida, and nieces and treasured nephews; Daniel Petitti (Kayla), Jacob Brock (Sarah), Vincent, Jessica and Gabriella. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 806 Union St. Funeral services will begin on Monday, 10 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow at Memory’s Garden Cemetery. The family respectfully requests memorial donations be made to the Schenectady Co. Animal Protective Foundation, 53 Maple Ave. Schenectady NY, 12302. To share a memory or condolence with the family please go to demarcostonefuneralhome.com.

Hundreds Of Police Officers Pour Into Schenectady For Trooper James Monda Funeral


August 30th 2021 by Anne McCloy

SCHENECTADY, NY (WRGB) — Law enforcement from across the state and country poured into a Schenectady church Monday to honor the life of New York State Police Trooper James Monda. In attendance were officers from the Capital Region, New York City and from states as far away as Texas.
Monda, 45, died while working a marine detail on the Great Sacandaga Lake August 22nd. Trooper Monda is survived by his fiancé and his parents. According to Major Christopher West, Trooper Monda was a native of Schenectady County. He was given heroes’ honors before he was laid to rest.

MORE: State Trooper with 18 years on the force dies during marine detail at Great Sacandaga Lake

Governor Kathy Hochul joined the line of state troopers in front of St. John the Evangelist Church to pay respects to Monda, who spent 18 years serving the Capital Region in Troop G.

Troop G Commander, Major Christopher West described Monda as dependable and friendly, telling reporters Monda was selected for a number of special details because of his strong work ethic and was a respected senior member of his station. NYS Police Superintendent Kevin Bruen said Monda was known as someone you could count on in a tough situation.

MORE: Governor Hochul orders flags at half staff to honor trooper who died Sunday

Both men reflected on the pain and sacrifice being felt today by Monda's family, friends and colleagues.

"It’s a dangerous job and every trooper, and particularly their family, know when they leave to work they might not come back," Bruen said. "It’s tough. We’re all hurting right now, but we also realize that we have an obligation to give him the proper send-off he deserves and make sure we do the right thing," West said.

State Police said Monda went into the water at Sacandaga Lake August 22nd and did not resurface. He died later at the hospital. After his death, police said Monda was a part of the marine detail but was not a member of the dive team and was involved in a training session the day of his death. The details as to how he drowned are still under investigation.