

2020 Lifesavers Public Service Award Recipients













Neil Axel National Judicial Fellow

U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Judge Neil Axel was appointed to the District Court of Maryland in 1997. He served as the Judge-In-Charge of Drug and DUI Treatment Court programs and served as the Co-Chair of Maryland's Judicial Conference Committee on Problem Solving Courts from 2005 to 2012. He served as the American Bar Association Judicial Outreach Liaison for NHTSA Region 3 from 2011-2015 and currently serves as a Senior Judge for the District Court of Maryland and as faculty for the National Judicial College.

Judge Axel was named as the American Bar Association National Judicial Fellow in 2018 and in his 2 years as Judicial Fellow, Judge Axel has spearheaded two substantial traffic safety initiatives. The first was the creation of the Best Practices Guide for Implementing a State Judicial Outreach Liaison Program. The second initiative has been the expansion of the State Judicial Outreach Liaison Program to include opportunities to double the number of State Judicial Outreach Liaisons in 2020.









Safe Roads Alliance

Since 2006 Safe Roads Alliance has been dedicated to promoting safe driving in Massachusetts and other states around the nation. The organization has been instrumental in the effort to engage parents in the teen learning process and provides educational services on a variety of safety driving aspects, including issues confronting teen drivers, older drivers, seat belt usage, and distracted driving. Safe Roads Alliance has developed The Parent's Supervised Driving Program (PSDP) to reach out to parents of teens who hold a Learner's Permit. PSDP is distributed through DMV's in 25 states.

Since the launch of PDSP in 2011, almost 7 million guidebooks have been distributed to the parents of young drivers. The companion mobile app, Road Ready, which logs supervised driving time, has had 700,000 new users in the past 12 months, with an average of 40,000 users per day.











Families for Safe Streets



Founded in New York City in 2014, Families for Safe Streets (FSS) is a non-profit member organization that confronts the epidemic of traffic violence through advocacy and support, represented by hundreds of people who have been injured or lost loved ones in crashes. Through personal stories of trauma and loss, FSS has raised widespread awareness and brought about significant policy and legislative change:

- Lowered the speed limit on all NYC local roadways to 25 mph
- Brought speed and red-light safety enforcement cameras to nearly every school district in NYC
- Led to rapid infrastructure improvements for non-motorized roadway users citywide through Vision Zero NYC

In addition to traffic safety advocacy, FSS support services include monthly support communities, peer-mentoring, logistical assistance and a detailed resource guide. FSS also provides technical assistance and resources to chapters forming across the country, spurring a national movement to end the crash fatality epidemic.









Anthony Mendez Delaware State Police

U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Sgt. Anthony Mendez manages the Crash Reconstruction Unit for Delaware State Police Troop 7 and is a Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor for the State of Delaware.

He was instrumental in creating and developing a non-traditional covert distracted driving enforcement initiative with Delaware State Police in 2018. Using vantage techniques that included the use of SUVs and work vans to better see into vehicles, this initiative served as an opportunity to incorporate Occupant Protection with Distracted Driving enforcement. 41 distracted driving citations were issued over the 2-month course of three enforcement periods.









Jay Penton Alabama State Patrol

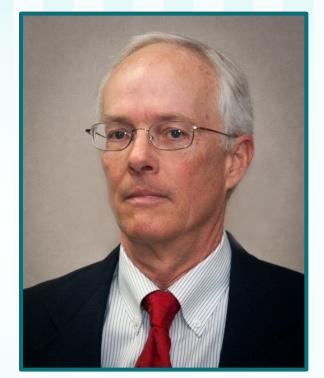
U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Corporal J.R. Penton has served as the Alabama DRE/SFST State Coordinator since 2016 and has been an Alabama State Trooper for over 22 years. He oversees the development and coordination of the impaired driving enforcement/training program for multiple agencies across the state.

Cpl. Penton has been instrumental in the re-genesis of the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) program in Alabama. In 2016, the program was stagnating and had roughly a dozen Drug Recognition Experts (DREs). Cpl. Penton reorganized the program. He started by removing DREs that were not active or effective. Strict eligibility and performance standards were put into place. His efforts have led to an increase in the number of DREs in Alabama, now up to 76 and growing. Cpl. Penton always strives to improve relations between departments and unite agencies in doing more multi-jurisdictional efforts. The impact of Cpl. Penton's efforts didn't stop at the Alabama state line. He helped the neighboring state of Mississippi train some of their law enforcement officers as DREs.









Dr. Daniel F. Blower University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Dr. Daniel Blower is an associate research scientist emeritus at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) where he was a member of the research faculty at UMTRI for over 30 years. Dr. Blower's primary area of research has been traffic crash causation, with an emphasis on medium and heavy trucks. His past projects include investigating the crash experience of younger truck drivers, researching the role of passenger car and truck drivers in truck-car fatal crashes, determining events leading to sport utility rollover, developing statistical models relating to vehicle configuration and operating environment to the probability of crash involvement, and relating truck design attributes (such as rollover threshold) to involvement in related crash types.

Dr. Blower has published many articles on the safety benefits of roll stability control systems on trucks and buses. He studied the effectiveness of sophisticated safety systems for commercial vehicles, including collision mitigation braking and forward collision warning systems. One of his studies examined the impact of blind-spot detection, lane-departure warning, pre-emptive braking and electronic stability control. His research concluded that these systems reduced single-vehicle fatal crashes by 56 percent and fatal roll-over crashes by 87 percent.









Chickasaw Nation Division of Education Car Seat Safety Program

The Chickasaw Nation's Division of Education Car Seat Program is widely regarded across the State of Oklahoma, and beyond, as a respected child safety seat program and advocate for the Native American community and road safety issues.

Of the Car Seat Program's many accomplishments that merit this award, one is its ability to work across boundaries with local government, State government, Federal programs and safety partners. Another is leadership in establishing a safety coalition and promulgating best practices that can be shared across Indian country thus ensuring the children of the Chickasaw Nation, and other Indian Nations, are safe while walking, bicycling and riding in vehicles.









Lt. Scott Roach St. Louis Police Department

Meghan Carter Executive Director, MADD Missouri

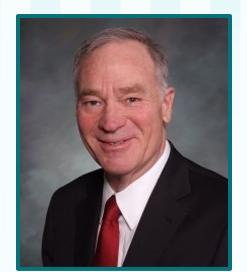


In 2016, then Sgt. Scott Roach of the St. Louis County Police Department attended a MADD Candlelight Vigil for victims of impaired driving crashes in Missouri. Sgt. Roach was determined to make a difference and shared a vision with Meghan Carter, Executive Director, MADD Missouri, to help shine a light on impaired driving while simultaneously removing impaired drivers from the roadway. His idea was to pick one evening in which all police departments in the St. Louis region would come together to conduct DWI enforcement on multiple roadways in the area. The evening would start with a roll call briefing and a moment to honor victims of impaired driving crashes prior to officers hitting the streets for saturation patrols. Together, Scott and Meghan worked to organize Missouri's first "Saturation Saturday", the pinnacle event of Missouri's participation in NHTSA's national Drive Sober campaign. The night was so successful, MADD elected to showcase the campaign at two national conferences. The event continues to spread. Participation in 2019 included 75 agencies in Missouri. Furthermore, 18 other states participated in the 2019 campaign accounting for more than 250 law enforcement agencies nationwide from California to New York.









Dave Kinskey Wyoming State Legislature

U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Wyoming State Senator Dave Kinskey is nominated in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Transportation Behavioral Safety Program and the Governor's Council on Impaired Driving for his longstanding commitment to improving the prevention, apprehension, prosecution, and treatment of impaired drivers that jeopardize the safety of Wyoming citizens. Prior to serving in the Wyoming legislature, Senator Kinskey was the Mayor of Sheridan, Wyoming, where he was actively involved in juvenile justice matters and the Governor's Council on Impaired Driving (GCID) Policy Maker Forum.

Senator Kinskey was elected in 2014 and has been instrumental in the introduction, advocacy, and passage of several impaired driving statutory improvements. Kinskey sponsored Senate File 86, and although it failed in the House in 2018, with perseverance, a more robust option, SF007 (alternate penalties and pre-trial release for alcohol crimes), was introduced as a Judicial Committee bill to amend both the 24/7 sobriety program and ignition interlock provisions. As a result, Wyoming positions itself to effectively supervise persons convicted of DUI, by providing a court-based offender management program that offers sobriety and incarceration alternatives; this not only prevents impaired driving incidence, but reduces other alcohol and drug-induced social harm.









Kristen Burke California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services



Kristen Burke is the Laboratory Director of the California Department of Justice (DOJ), Division of Law Enforcement, Bureau of Forensic Services Toxicology Laboratory. She oversees the toxicology of impaired driving crashes in 46 of the 58 counties; oversees the statewide breath alcohol program which tests nearly 7,000 alcohol samples a year; and trains analysts in all nine regional forensic alcohol programs. She is relied upon statewide for her leadership, expertise, and dedication in drug testing, screening, and testimony. She has demonstrated strong leadership by updating the toxicology section with Liquid Chromatography – Tandem Mass Spectrometry drug testing instruments, funded from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

Kristen has implemented methods to more efficiently streamline analysis over a much larger range of substances, improved data collection, and expanded the information available to successfully prosecute cases. She has worked closely with both state and national partners to improve customer service and meet 2017 toxicology testing recommendations. Kristen is an active trainer in Drug Recognition Expert courses and sits on several committees for the implementation of toxicology best practices.









Glenn Cramer Law Enforcement Liaison



Glenn has committed his adult life to improving traffic safety programs and saving lives. He has been a strong DUI enforcement trooper and leader of the Washington State Patrol effort that led to a 95% seat belt use rate in the State. Glenn also contributed to passage of Alaska's primary belt law, and helped develop the national LEL network. Glenn's ability to lead and create positive relationships has developed a cadre of traffic safety professionals. Glenn developed a Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL) Program in the State of Idaho by identifying LE officials that had the leadership qualities to engage traffic safety officials throughout the State. He consulted with the State's Highway Safety Office to recommend officers in each of the DOT 6 Districts to present traffic safety initiatives as the LEL. Because of this regional approach, Law Enforcement in the State has been more engaged in traffic safety programs. This model has served the State, and Region well, and could serve as a best practice approach to engaging Law Enforcement in traffic safety programs throughout the country.

Glenn works tirelessly in delivering training courses through the Transportation Safety Institute in the areas of law enforcement liaison training, occupant protection, traffic records, impaired driving programs, and grant management.





Lifetime Achievement Award





Colonel Richard T. Sullivan (ret.) City of Providence, Rhode Island

Colonel Richard T. Sullivan (ret.) began his service in the city of Providence, Rhode Island over 40 years ago. He led a long and diverse career in the Providence Police Department holding positions in the Patrol Bureau, Traffic Bureau, and the Terrorist/Extremist Team HQs. He moved up the ranks in the department, from Officer to Sergeant in 1985, all the way up to Colonel in 2001. Although Colonel Sullivan became an expert in many areas of law enforcement, traffic safety owned his heart.

The Colonel served as the Commanding Officer of the Traffic Services Bureau for many years and was the Providence Police Department's expert in pedestrian safety and traffic control. Colonel Sullivan's expertise earned him national recognition from the American Health Association. Colonel Sullivan is the recipient of numerous awards including: The Providence Police Department's Ribbon for Outstanding Police Work; the "Policeman of the Year" award; the Lion's Club Award; the American Legion's Medal of Valor; the Silver Star of Bravery from the American Law Enforcement Association; MADD RI's Traffic Safety Hero Award, the Chief's Award from the Providence PD; and the Providence City Council Award. Colonel Sullivan's dedication, knowledge, and professionalism, as well as his commitment to the safety and protection of people also extended to everyone outside the city limits. Following Colonel Sullivan's retirement from the Providence PD, he recognized his continued calling to safety initiatives by becoming Rhode Island's Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Training Coordinator and LEL. Colonel Sullivan has also co-chaired the RI's Traffic Safety Coalition since 2008.

