



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMISSION
LANSING

March 29, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lynn Sutfin
(517) 333-5754

MSP Iron River trooper honored for dedication to ensuring children ride safely in cars

LANSING – An 11-year veteran of the Michigan Department of State Police (MSP) is being honored at the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) annual awards luncheon Wednesday at the Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing for his efforts to ensure children ride safely in passenger vehicles.

Each year the commission honors organizations, programs and individuals for outstanding contributions to traffic safety. The awards luncheon is part of the 15th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Seven traffic safety and three long-term awards are being presented.

In 2002, Trooper Eric Farnsworth started a car seat program at the MSP Iron River Post by obtaining donations from local businesses and community organizations to purchase car seats. He discovered that many of the seats he checked were purchased at yard sales or thrift shops, or were hand-me-downs. Further, most of the car seats were incorrectly installed and some were even on recall lists. Farnsworth soon began a campaign to promote proper car seat use to parents in the western Upper Peninsula.

Farnsworth annually installs 40 car seats at the Iron River Post and assists other technicians at numerous car seat clinics throughout the year. He also makes presentations at local schools about seat belts, car seats and booster seats and promotes car seat use at local events. His dedication to ensuring children ride in vehicles safely is well known and local law enforcement regularly direct families in need of car seats to contact Farnsworth.

In 2009, he installed a new seat for a 14-month-old girl who was involved in a serious head-on crash with her mother the following day. Deputies attributed her survival to the proper installation of her car seat.

The GTSAC was formed in 2002 to serve as the state's forum for identifying key traffic safety challenges and developing and implementing plans to address those issues. The GTSAC is comprised of representatives from: Community Health, Education, State, State Police, Transportation, Office of Services to the Aging, Office of Highway Safety Planning and the Office of the Governor. There are also three representatives from local government appointed by the Governor.

###

• Robert Morris, Chair, Governor's Office • Anne Corgan, Michigan Department of State • Michael Prince, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
• John Friend, Michigan Department of Transportation • Linda Scarpetta, Michigan Department of Community Health • Kenneth Micklash, Michigan Department of Education
• Capt. Robert Powers, Michigan Department of State Police • Pamela Hall Webb, Office of Services to the Aging • Steven Puuri, Local Representative
• Chief David Stamm, Local Representative • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative