



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission honors nine for their efforts to improve traffic safety

The Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) honored nine organizations, programs or individuals for outstanding involvement in traffic safety during the Traffic Safety Awards Virtual Ceremony, via Microsoft Teams, Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

The awards were presented to:

Richard H. Austin Long-Term Service Award

- Tpr. Russell Bawks of the Michigan State Police (MSP) Niles Post for his exceptionally high level of traffic enforcement patrol activity.
- Tpr. Eric T. Desch of the MSP Wayland Post for his efforts and impact addressing and combating hazardous driving in Allegan County.
- Tpr. Brandon Oaks of the MSP Marshall Post for his knowledge and impact on statewide Operating While Intoxicated investigations.

Outstanding Traffic Safety Achievement Award

- Rana Abbas Taylor of Northville for successfully building support among the public, policymakers and auto industry to have drunk-driving prevention technology installed in new cars.
- MC Ofcr. Mickey Parling of the MSP Lakeview Post, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, for unparalleled patrol activities as well as his mentoring and mask initiatives.
- The ARC Automotive Airbag Defect Investigation Team—Dep. Hans Tolkkinen, Houghton County Sheriff's Office; Spl/Sgt. Daniel Verlin, MSP Eighth District Headquarters; and Tpr. Steven Wallenius, MSP Gladstone Post—for investigating a fatal crash, discovering details that led to an airbag recall, and findings that have the potential to save countless lives.
- The MSP Third District's Impaired Driving Action Team—Sgt. Ken Campbell, Tpr. Corbin Holt, Tpr. Dennis Lapan and Tpr. Blake Bitner—and the team's founder, Sgt. Troy Meder, for addressing and reducing the number of alcohol- and drug-impaired driving crashes in the district.
- The Michigan Crash Analysis Tool, which was developed by the MSP Traffic Crash Reporting Unit, allows users to visualize and analyze traffic crash data.

Student Award

- Quan Nguyen, a senior at Michigan State University, for his exceptional contribution to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Traffic Signing Unit.

Alicia Sledge, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Steven Kiefer, Governor's Office • Carol Reagan, Department of State • Gregg Brunner, Department of Transportation • Linda Scarpetta, Department of Health and Human Services • Maj. Ryan Pennell, Department of State Police • Ashley Ellsworth, Health and Aging Services Agency • William Miller, Local Representative • Chief Ronald Wiles, Local Representative • Sheriff Michael Poulin, Local Representative

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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 commission includes representatives from the MSP and MDOT and the departments of Education, State, and Health & Human Services, as well as the Office of the Governor, the Aging and Adult Services Agency, and the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. There are also three representatives from local government appointed by the governor.