



STATE OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trooper Desch of the Michigan State Police Wayland Post to receive award from Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

Tpr. Eric T. Desch of the Michigan State Police (MSP) Wayland Post is being recognized by the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) for his long-term contribution and commitment to traffic safety in Michigan.

The trooper will be honored during the Traffic Safety Awards Virtual Ceremony, via Microsoft Teams, at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2022. The GTSAC recognizes organizations, programs and individuals for outstanding involvement in traffic safety.

Nominated for the Richard H. Austin Long-Term Service Award, Trooper Desch is commended for his efforts and impact addressing and combating hazardous driving in Allegan County.

For more than 21 years, the trooper has dedicated his life to public safety, criminal investigation and enforcement. His traffic activity often leads to criminal investigations and arrests. Trooper Desch serves as motivation and inspiration for others.

"In addition to processing crime scenes as an evidence technician, firearms instruction, and training probationary troopers, Trooper Desch consistently has a high level of traffic enforcement," said F/Lt. Keith Disselkoen in nominating the trooper. "He consistently leads the post in traffic stops for hazardous violations and hazardous citations."

From 2019 to 2021, Trooper Desch led the MSP Wayland Post in total citations and hazardous citations. During the same period, he wrote 321 total traffic citations, 94 percent of which were for hazardous violations.

The Austin Award is named for the longest-serving secretary of state in Michigan history (1971-1995). Austin earned a national reputation as an outstanding and effective advocate for traffic safety.

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 the departments of Transportation, 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.

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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