



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drunk-driving prevention advocate Abbas Taylor to receive award from Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

Rana Abbas Taylor of Northville is being recognized by the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) for being a tireless advocate for drunk-driving prevention.

Abbas Taylor 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 an Outstanding Traffic Safety Achievement Award, Abbas Taylor is commended for successfully building support among the public, policymakers and auto industry to have drunk-driving prevention technology installed in new cars.

On January 6, 2019, five members of Abbas Taylor's family were killed while traveling on I-75 from Florida to their home in Michigan. A driver, whose blood-alcohol level was nearly four times the legal limit, drove on the wrong side of the interstate and hit the Abbas family's vehicle head-on. After learning that more than 200 drunk- and impaired-driving prevention technologies currently exist for vehicles, Abbas Taylor chose to channel her loss into helping end America's drunk-driving epidemic.

She worked with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Congress to get legislation passed that would make it mandatory to have drunk- and impaired-driving prevention technology installed in all new vehicles. Abbas Taylor also testified at a U.S. Senate traffic safety hearing, spoke at events with members of Congress, and told her story during news conferences and interviews. Called the Honoring Abbas Family Legacy to Terminate (HALT) Drunk Driving Act, the legislation eventually became part of the infrastructure bill that was signed into law in 2021.

"This progress would not have been possible without Rana turning her family's tragedy into a mobilizing force for change that will keep other families in Michigan and every state from suffering the devastating traumatic loss Rana has experienced," said MADD Volunteer Resource Specialist Allison LaPlatt in nominating Abbas Taylor.

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 departments of State Police, 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.

- 30 -

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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