



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
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Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jim Gray
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Law Enforcement Honored for Seat Belt, Child Restraint Enforcement

Ceremony salutes efforts to save lives on Kentucky roadways

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 23, 2023) – More than 100 Kentucky state and local law enforcement officers today were honored for extraordinary efforts to protect drivers and their passengers, in keeping with Gov Andy Beshear’s high priority of highway safety.

The occasion was the Governor’s Occupant Protection Enforcement Awards, held at the Embassy Suites in Lexington. Those receiving awards represented 91 law enforcement agencies.

“Our law enforcement are the heroes who work to keep our families safe by ensuring everyone is buckling up and using correct car seats and boosters for children,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “Their efforts are saving lives and I am grateful as Governor, and as a dad, for their dedication to our commonwealth and our people.”

Awards were presented by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) to those with the most occupant protection citations in each agency and in each division from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Award recipients received a plaque, while the top division winners were presented with the Highway Safety All-Star Award – a commemorative baseball bat from Louisville Slugger. There are six divisions, broken down by number of officers within the agency, and a division for Kentucky State Police:

- Division I 1-10 officers
- Division II 11-25 officers
- Division III 26-50 officers
- Division IV 51-100 officers
- Division V 100+ officers
- Division VI Kentucky State Police

In addition to the individual and divisional awards, KYTC Secretary Jim Gray presented the Highway Safety Enforcement Award of Excellence to the family of Scott County Deputy Caleb Conley. Deputies from the Scott County Sheriff’s Office were present to accept the award on the family’s behalf. Deputy Conley was shot and killed on May 22 while making a routine traffic stop while working overtime on a highway safety grant.

“By all accounts, Deputy Conley was a dedicated police officer and family man,” said Secretary Gray. “We’re honored to present this award to his wife, Rachel, and mother, Jolene, for his outstanding service in the advancement of highway safety in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.”

Deputy Conley was the past recipient of the Impaired Driving Enforcement award and is this year’s recipient of the Occupant Protection Enforcement Award for the Scott County Sheriff’s Office.

Lexington Police Chief Lawrence Weathers addressed the attendees and praised their efforts to save lives in their communities.

“Writing citations is not a strategy designed to increase arrests; in fact, it may result in decreased citation counts over time, which is our goal,” said Chief Weathers. “However, there is no question that we would rather write a seat belt or car restraint citation than make a death notification.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), seat belts, when worn correctly, are proven to reduce the risk of fatal injuries to front-seat occupants by 45 percent and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans. Also, according to NHTSA, properly installed child restraints reduce the risk of fatal injuries by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers in passenger cars. In light trucks, SUVs and minivans, properly deployed child restraints reduce the risk of fatal injuries by 58 percent for infants and 59 percent for toddlers.

Each year more than half of those killed on Kentucky’s roadways are not properly restrained in a seat belt, car seat or booster seat. Kentucky’s current seat belt usage rate is 86.9%.

Awards were presented to the following:

INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNERS			
Title	First Name	Last Name	Agency
Sergeant	Nathan	Nogueras	Alexandria Police Department
Officer	Tyler	Ballard	Ashland Police Department
Patrolman	Charles Colby	Patterson	Barbourville Police Department
Sergeant	Logan	Hampton	Benton Police Department
Officer	Joe	Johnson	Berea Police Department
Deputy	Daniel	Tracy	Boone County Sheriff's Department
Deputy	David	Thompson	Bourbon County Sheriff's Office
Deputy	Mark	Wheeler	Boyd County Sheriff
Deputy	Chad Edward	Simpson	Bullitt County Sheriff's Office
Deputy	Nick	Dues	Calloway County Sheriff's Office
Sergeant	Donald H.	Dornheggen II	Campbell County Police Department
Officer	Adam	Black	Campbellsville Police Department
Deputy	Louis	Armstrong	Christian County Sheriff's Office

Officer	Andrew	Jones	Cincinnati N KY Airport Police Department
Deputy	Colton	Lewis	Clark County Sheriff's Office
Officer	Scott	Hildebrand	Cold Spring Police Department
Specialist	Doug	Ullrich	Covington Police Department
Captain	Aaron	Rainwater	Danville Police Department
Deputy	Cameron	Edwards	Daviess County Sheriff's Office
Officer	Tyler	Creech	Edgewood Police Department
Officer	Gary	Mark	Elizabethtown Police Department
Officer	Robert	Martin	Erlanger Police Department
Detective	Brett	Ritchie	Flatwoods Police Department
Sergeant	Logan	Mullins	Fleming County Sheriff's Office
Officer	Michael	Stanaland	Florence Police Department
Officer	Jeremy	Moore	Fort Thomas Police Department
Patrolman	Taylor	Bellau	Fort Wright Police Department
Officer	Jerry	Wise	Frankfort Police Department
Deputy	Brandon	Purnell	Franklin County Sheriff Office
Deputy	Whitney	Parsons	Garrard County Sheriff's Office
Deputy	Garret	Clark	Graves County Sheriff's Office
Sergeant	Matt	Matney	Greensburg Police Department
Patrolman	Adam	Fauver	Greenville Police Department
Patrolman	Kenneth	Helton	Harlan Police Department
Patrolman	Daniel	Miller	Hazard Police Department
Officer	Daniel	Pennaman	Henderson Police Department
Patrol	Allen	Weston	Hustonville Police Department
Chief	John	Sturniolo	Irvine Police Department
Captain	Elvis	Noble	Jackson Police Department
Officer	Aaron	Gutermuth	Jeffersontown Police Department
Deputy/ K-9 Handler	Jeff	Castle	Johnson County Sheriff's Office
Trooper	Vincent	Hazelwood	KSP CVE Central Region
Inspector	Justin	Kilgore	KSP CVE East Region
Master Officer	Mark	Townsend	KSP CVE West Region
Senior Trooper	Derral	Redwine, Jr.	KSP Post 01
Trooper	Kirby	Broadbent	KSP Post 02
Senior Trooper	Wesley	Thompson	KSP Post 03
Master Trooper	Eric	Hines	KSP Post 04
Trooper	Hayden	Kilbourne	KSP Post 05
Trooper	Caleb	Dicken	KSP Post 06
Trooper	Toney	Allen	KSP Post 07
Trooper First Class	Daniel M.	Armstrong	KSP Post 08
Trooper	Ricky	Newsom	KSP Post 09
Trooper	Sammy	Faris	KSP Post 10
Trooper	Justin	Vanhook	KSP Post 11
Trooper	William J.	Watts	KSP Post 12

Senior Trooper	Branden	Watts	KSP Post 13
Trooper	William	Galloway	KSP Post 14
Senior Trooper	Ricky	Cross	KSP Post 15
Trooper	Mason	Hendricks	KSP Post 16
Officer	John	Brooks	LaGrange Police Department
Patrolman	Christopher	Steward	Lakeside Park-Crestview Hills Police Department
Officer	John	Grevious	Lancaster Police Department
Chief Deputy	Jamie	Ferrie	Larue County Sheriff's Office
Deputy	Noah	Ritchie	Laurel County Sheriff's Office
Officer	Robbie	Lile	Lawrenceburg Police Department
Sergeant	David	Flannery	Lexington Police Department
Deputy	Ron	Luster	Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
Sergeant	Andrew	Jackson	London Police Department
Patrolman	Teddy B.	Newsome	Louisa Police Department
Sergeant	Ronald	Fey	Louisville Metro Police Department
Deputy	David	Carroll	Lyon County Sheriff's Office
Deputy	Josh	Anderson	Marshall County Sheriff's Office
Deputy	Blake	Wagner	Mason County Sheriff's Office
Officer	Cody	Rogers	Mayfield Police Department
Detective	Jeff	Hord	Maysville Police Department
Lieutenant	Barry	Cowan	Middlesboro Police Department
Deputy	Dalton	Hayes	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Officer	Jacob	Patton	Mount Sterling Police Department
Sergeant	Adam	Stallsworth	Mount Vernon Police Department
Sergeant	Michael	Roberson	Mt. Washington Police Department
Officer	Dylan	Bobo	Murray Police Department
Sergeant	Thomas	Blair	Nelson County Sheriff's Office
Lieutenant	Daniel A.	Delaney	Newport Police Department
Deputy	Mike	Meece	Oldham County Sheriff's Office
Patrolman	Jason	McKinney	Owensboro Police Department
Officer	Keith	Thuline	Paducah Police Department
Patrolman	Rick	Grigson	Park Hills Police Department
Chief	Brandon	Hollingsworth	Pineville Police Department
Patrolman	Keegan	Williams	Prestonsburg Police Department
Lieutenant	Mark J.	Kirkpatrick	Radcliff Police Department
Senior Officer	Cody	Grohoksi	Richmond Police Department
Deputy	Samuel A.	Brock	Rockcastle County Sheriff's Office
Deputy	Caleb	Conley	Scott County Sheriff's Office
Chief	Nick	Prock	Scottsville Police Department
Officer	Jeremy	Younger	Shelbyville Police Department
Deputy	Wyatt	Harper	Simpson County Sheriff's Office
Officer	James	Fetty	Simpsonville Police Department

Officer	Nick	Taylor	Somerset Police Department
Officer	Tony	Godbey, Jr.	Stanford Police Department
Sergeant	Ian	Morton	Stanton Police Department
Officer	Billy G.	Roberts	Taylor Mill Police Department
Deputy/K9 Handler	Gary	Hicks	Trigg County Sheriff's Office
Officer	Thomas	Bradford	Villa Hills Police Department
Sergeant	Michael	Garner	Whitesburg Police Department
Sergeant	Jacob T.	Zink	Wilder Police Department
Officer	Bryson	Lawson	Williamsburg Police Department
Sergeant	Cody	Blevins	Williamstown Police Department
Detective	Blake	Gabbard	Winchester Police Department

DIVISION AWARD WINNERS				
Division	Title	First Name	Last Name	Agency
Division 1	Chief	Brandon	Hollingsworth	Pineville Police Department
Division 2	Lieutenant	Barry	Cowan	Middlesboro Police Department
Division 3	Deputy	Mark	Wheeler	Boyd County Sheriff's Office
Division 4	Senior Officer	Cody	Grohoksi	Richmond Police Department
Division 5	Sergeant	Ronald	Fey	Louisville Metro Police Department
Division 6	Senior Trooper	Derral	Redwine, Jr.	KSP Post 01

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Ceremony photos can be viewed [here](#).

