



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
transportation.ky.gov

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jim Gray
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marla Marrs
Office of Highway Safety
502-352-5963
marla.marrs@ky.gov

Law Enforcement and Child Passenger Safety Experts Recognized for Excellence in Seat Belt and Child Restraint Enforcement

Ceremony salutes efforts to save lives on Kentucky roadways

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 21, 2024) – Today, state officials recognized more than 100 state and local law enforcement officers, along with child passenger safety personnel, for their outstanding efforts to safeguard drivers and passengers on Kentucky highways.

The annual Governor’s Occupant Protection Enforcement Awards, held at the Campbell House in Lexington, highlighted the efforts of Kentuckians representing 130 different agencies.

“Both our law enforcement professionals and child passenger safety experts play a crucial role in protecting our families, by making sure everyone is properly secured with seat belts and that children are in the appropriate car seats and boosters,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “Their vital work is saving lives, and as Governor and a dad, I am grateful for their unwavering dedication to our state and its residents.”

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) presented the awards to those with the most occupant protection citations in each agency and in each division from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. 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 honoring law enforcement, KOHS also presented awards for Technician, Instructor and CPS Team of the Year.

Kentucky State Police Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr. addressed the attendees and praised their efforts to save lives in their communities.

“Enforcing the law isn’t about raising the number of citations; it’s about encouraging safe driving behaviors,” Commissioner Burnett said. “Our aim is to see fewer citations, not more, because that means lives are being saved. At the end of the day, it’s about every driver on Kentucky roadways making it home safe to their families.”

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% and by 60% in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans. Also, according to NHTSA, properly installed child restraints reduce the risk of fatal injuries by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers in passenger cars. In light trucks, SUVs and minivans, properly deployed child restraints reduce the risk of fatal injuries by 58% for infants and 59% 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%.

Child Passenger Safety Awards

Technician of the Year Awards

Name of Nominee

Jenny Pile

Agency Name

Breckinridge County Health Department

Instructor of the Year

Joshua Hinkle

Prestonsburg Police Department

Team of the Year

Nicholasville Fire Department

Law Enforcement Safety Awards

Division 1

Name of Nominee

Capt. Mitchell Alford

Chief Aaron C. Ashby

Deputy Sheriff David Carroll

Patrolman Brian Coleman

Chief Deputy Jamie Ferrie

Officer Phillip D Frazier

Master Police Officer Doug Gay

Deputy William Hendrix

Police Officer Wesley Hicks

Chief Brandon Hollingsworth

Chief Deputy Brian Locknane

Officer Tyler Mitcham

Patrolman Teddy B. Newsome

Agency Name

Harlan Police Department

Adairville Police Department

Lyon County Sheriff’s Office

Calvert City Police Department

LaRue County Sheriff’s Office

Stanton Police Department

Richmond Police Department

Bourbon County Sheriff

Cave City Police Department

Pineville Police Department

Pendleton County Sheriff's Office

Brandenburg Police Department

Louisa Police Department

Deputy James W. Parsons
Deputy Jacob Patton
Officer Jacob Tyler Purvis
Officer Andrew Regan
Chief James Richardson
Officer Billy Roberts
Patrolman Michael Scott Robinson
Patrol Officer John Root
Deputy Dustin D. Saylor
Chief of Police Ben Smith
Patrol Officer Chadwick Spence
Deputy Kenneth Vincent
Deputy Sheriff Lance Watson
Officer H. Seth Whitaker
Officer Ryan Wielgus
Deputy Thomas Wilson

Garrard County Sheriff's Office
Scott County Sheriff's Office
Owingsville Police Department
Greensburg Police Department
Hodgenville Police Department
Taylor Mill Police Department
Jackson City Police Department
Manchester Police Department
Rockcastle County Sheriff's Office
Millersburg Police Department
Raceland Police Department
Trigg County Sheriff's Office
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
Whitesburg Police Department
Wilder Police Department
Menifee County Sheriff Office

Name of Nominee

Officer Bradley Aubin
Officer Charles Boeschenstein
Officer John Brooks
Patrol Officer Eugene Cain
Officer David Clark
Sgt. Garret Clark
Patrolman Patrick Coleman
Deputy Sheriff Cory Cornett
Officer Jon Cottle
Lt. Barry Cowan
Patrolman Tyler Creech
Officer Michael Dennis
Sgt. Justin Dockery
Deputy Nicholas Dues
Patrolman Adam Fauver
Deputy John Ferguson
Patrol Officer James Fetty
Officer Chad Foley
Detective Jess Hamblin
Deputy Wyatt Harper
Detective Dalton Hayes
Sgt. Johnny Holbert
Patrolman Timothy Jackson
Patrol Officer Andrew Jefferson

Division 2

Agency Name

Mt. Washington Police Department
Southgate Police Department
LaGrange Police Department
Leitchfield Police Department
Scottsville Police Department
Graves County Sheriff's Office
Pikeville Police Department
Clark County Sheriff's Office
Morehead Police Department
Middlesboro Police Department
The City of Edgewood Police Department
Hillview Police Department
Central City Police Department
Calloway County Sheriff's Office
Greenville Police Department
Mason County Sheriff's Office
Simpsonville Police Department
Williamsburg Police Department
Fort Mitchell Police Department
Simpson County Sheriff's Office
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Mount Sterling Police Department
Grayson Police Department
Maysville Police Department

Patrol Officer Zachary Johnson
Patrolman Christopher Kohut
Patrolman Joseph Krull
Patrolman Geoff Lucas
Deputy Ron Luster
Sgt. Michael Lyon
Officer Kirk Mays
Deputy Mike Meece
Patrolman Jonathan Milburn
Sgt. Nathan Noguerras
Patrolman Charles Patterson
Deputy Noah Ritchie
Patrolman Oscar Sanchez
Patrol Officer Dakota Sexton
Patrolman Christopher Steward
Patrolman Keegan Williams

Campbellsville Police Department
Flatwoods Police Department
Cold Spring Police Department
Fort Thomas Police Department
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
Bellevue Police Department
Lancaster Police Department
Oldham County Sheriff
Stanford Police Department
Alexandria Police Department
Barbourville Police Department
Laurel County Sheriff's Office
Elsmere Police Department
City of Lawrenceburg Police Department
Lakeside Park-Crestview Hills Police Department
Prestonsburg Police Department

Name of Nominee

Deputy Sheriff Chris Beavers
Officer Thomas Britton
Officer Samuel Broomall
Patrol Officer Jeffery Childress
Patrolman Wesley Craycraft
Deputy Sheriff Scot Daniels
Officer Samuel "Taylor" Davidson
Detective Joshua Doerr
Deputy Daniel B. Embry
Cpl. Jacob Gould
Deputy Jerry Hardin
Trooper Josh Jones
Officer Nicholas Kerney
Officer Cody King
Officer Andrew Lawson
Deputy Brandon Purnell
Sgt. Brandon Record
Sgt. Matt Reed
Officer Jose Roman Jr.
Patrol Officer Matthew Semler
Sgt. Mark Wheeler
Patrol Officer Danny Williams
Officer David Williams
Deputy Sheriff Quintin Wright

Division 3

Agency Name

Marshall County Sheriff's Office
Kenton County Police
Campbell County Police Department
Glasgow Police Department
Winchester Police Department
Madison County Sheriff's Office
Paris Police Department
Bardstown Police Department
Bullitt County Sheriff's Office
Daviess County Sheriff's Office
Nelson County Sheriff's Office
Kentucky State Police Post 10
Harlan Radcliff Police Department
Somerset Police Department
London Police Department
Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Danville Police Department
Winchester Police Department
Mayfield Police Department
Erlanger Police
Boyd County Sheriff
Murray Police Department
Oldham County Police Dept
Logan County Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jeremy Younger

Shelbyville Police Department

Name of Nominee

Patrol Deputy Louis Armstrong
Officer William Conn
Officer James Frint
Officer Aaron Gutermuth
Officer Michael Martinez
Deputy Kenneth W. Mayfield
Officer Thomas Minter
Patrol Officer Daniel Pennaman
Patrol Officer Anthony Pinkston
Officer Dustin Scott
Officer Keith Thuline
Officer Jerry Wise

Division 4

Agency Name

Christian County Sheriff's Office
University of Kentucky Police Department
Ashland Police Department
Jeffersontown Police Department
Hopkinsville Police Department
Warren County Sheriff's Office
Elizabethtown Police Department
Henderson Police Department
Florence Police Department
Madisonville Police Department
Paducah Police Department
Frankfort Police Department

Name of Nominee

Sgt. David Flannery
Deputy Teddy Melton
Patrolman Michael Roby
Specialist Doug Ullrich
Detective Raymond Wonka

Division 5

Agency Name

Lexington Police Department
Boone County Sheriff's Office
Owensboro Police Department
Covington Police Department
Louisville Metro Police Department

Name of Nominee

Trooper "R" Toney Allen
Trooper Mike Armstrong
Sgt. Joseph R. Bartolotti
Senior Trooper Ricky Cross
Master Trooper Eric Hines
Trooper Chris Johnson
Inspector II Justin Kilgore
Trooper Colt McGuire
Trooper Samuel Mizner
Trooper Ricky Newsom
Senior Trooper Derral Redwine
Master Trooper Graham Rutherford
Trooper Jordan Sammons
Trooper Justin Vanhook
Senior Trooper Branden Watts
Trooper William Watts

Division 6

Agency Name

Kentucky State Police - Post 7
Kentucky State Police - Post 8
Kentucky State Police - Post 2
Kentucky State Police - Post 15
Kentucky State Police - Post 4
Kentucky State Police - Post 6
Kentucky State Police CVE East
Kentucky State Police - Post 5
Kentucky State Police - Post 16
Kentucky State Police - Post 9
Kentucky State Police - Post 1
Kentucky State Police - Post 3
Kentucky State Police - Post 14
Kentucky State Police - Post 11
Kentucky State Police - Post 13
Kentucky State Police - Post 12

###

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

