

2009 J. STANNARD BAKER AWARD WINNERS

Lieutenant William H. Leeper
Florida Highway Patrol
Jacksonville, Florida

Lieutenant William H. Leeper was selected a 2009 recipient of this prestigious award for his sustained, continuous, and career-spanning extraordinary initiative and creativity in developing, implementing, and promoting traffic safety programs within the State of Florida during his more than 32 years' service with the Florida Highway Patrol.

Lieutenant Leeper has served his agency as a trooper; line supervisor; traffic homicide investigator; and—for the past 15 years—the public affairs officer for Troop "G," a position he has held longer than any other individual in the Highway Patrol. In his current position, he has participated in more than 3,900 radio and television interviews; has made over 2,400 traffic safety presentations to in excess of 500,000 people; and has developed numerous brochures, public safety announcements, and PowerPoint presentations on myriad highway safety issues.

Lieutenant Leeper served as the executive producer of four traffic safety videos and, in collaboration with the Florida State Department of Education, developed *Highway of Horror*, a training and instructional program for all of Florida's high schools concerning the consequences of DUI. He has taught "media relations" to Florida Highway Patrol supervisors and to law enforcement executives at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, Georgia, and has been a technical advisor and an actor in the television shows *Real Stories of the Highway Patrol*, *Cold Case Files*, and *America's Most Wanted*.

The Lieutenant has spearheaded the promotion of numerous highway safety campaigns, such as *Operation Hardhat*, an enforcement initiative focused on work zones; *Operation Tailgate*, another enforcement program aimed at drivers following other vehicles too closely; *Operation Road King*, a special traffic effort to decrease motorcycle fatalities; and *Saved by the Helmet*, an awards program recognizing motorcycle and bicycle riders who escape death or serious injuries in crashes due to head protection. He developed *Battle of the Belts*, a tough, but friendly competition—conducted across the state and throughout the school year—pitting area public high schools against one another to determine which one achieves the highest seat-belt usage rate. *Battle of the Belts* was borne after four students from three high schools, none of whom was using occupant protection, were killed in just two years. Seat-belt usage at one high school rose as a result of this effort from 30 percent to 91 percent. Lieutenant Leeper received in April 2009, the Florida Public Relations Association's *Image Award* for this program.

Lieutenant Leeper also has participated in *Trooper Afloat*, a United States Navy program whereby a trooper from the state in which a carrier battle group is based conducts safe driving presentations to sailors who are returning from lengthy overseas deployments. He has assisted with the Florida Highway Patrol's IACP National Chiefs' Challenge submissions which were recognized in 1995, 2001 and 2004, with the Florida Highway Patrol's winning the coveted *Clayton J. Hall Memorial Award* for being "the best of the best in highway safety" in 2000.

The Lieutenant assisted in the founding—and currently serves as Chair—of the Nassau County Community Traffic Safety Team; is President-elect of the Northeast Florida Safety Council; and holds membership in the National Safety Council, the Fourth Judicial Circuit's Juvenile Assessment Center Advisory Council, RISK-WATCH, and the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. He is a former city commissioner and two-term mayor of Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Lieutenant Leeper has received for the following additional recognitions:

- *PIO of the Year* (2008) by the Florida Law Enforcement Public Information Officers' Association
- *GEM* award for outstanding achievement (1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004) by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- *Davis Productivity Award* (1998) by the State of Florida as a government employee whose work measurably increased productivity and promoted innovation
- *State Traffic Officer of the Year* (1995-96) by the Florida Department of Transportation's Campaign Safe & Sober

Lieutenant Leeper's dedication to public service is "the glue that binds his varied efforts," undoubtedly has spared many lives from the tragedy of traffic crashes, and serves as a positive example to Florida's law enforcement officers.

Chief Michael J. Capriglione
Police Department
Newport, Delaware

Chief Capriglione was selected a 2009 recipient of this prestigious award for his sustained, continuous, and career-spanning extraordinary initiative and creativity in promoting consistently various highway strategies that have improved the safety both of his community and of the county within which it is situated by reliable traffic enforcement, including the operation of sobriety checkpoints.

Chief Capriglione is the longest serving police chief in the State of Delaware, holding that position in Newport for the past 28 years. Because of his

commitment to highway safety, he continues to patrol his jurisdiction and to enforce traffic laws, regularly averaging 100 hours' overtime for impaired driving enforcement by engaging in saturation patrols.

Now in his fourth term as President of Delaware's Police Chiefs' Council, Chief Capriglione has steadfastly championed various aspects of highway safety, advocating for state legislation that improves law enforcement's ability to safeguard the roadways and opposing that which would make officers' responsibilities more difficult or more dangerous. He has actively partnered with the Delaware Office of Highway Safety in promoting its enforcement crackdowns, such as "Checkpoint Strikeforce," *Click It or Ticket, Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*, and "Stop Aggressive Driving."

Chief Capriglione has enthusiastically led the "Checkpoint Strikeforce" effort in New Castle County since 2003; has caused each County law enforcement agency to assign at least one officer to each weekend, countywide sobriety checkpoint during the last six months of each year and to other "off season" checkpoints on special occasions, like Saint Patrick's Day, Super Bowl Sunday, and certain holidays; and has secured the participation of the following State law enforcement agencies: State Police, State Parks, Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement, and Capitol Police. New Castle County's "Checkpoint Strikeforce" has conducted since 2003, 176 sobriety checkpoints with more than 187,000 vehicle contacts, effecting 2,623 DUI arrests, 1,544 seat-belt and child-restraint citations, 539 underage-drinking violations, 796 drug arrests, 722 fugitive apprehensions, 643 (non-DUI) felony arrests, and 66 stolen-vehicle recoveries. Additionally, 10,342 traffic citations were issued during this period of time. New Castle County's program has accounted for 71 percent of the entire State's enforcement activities in this campaign while making only 44 percent of the total vehicle contacts.

Chief Capriglione was selected twice in the past decade as Delaware's Police Chief of Year; was honored by MADD's Delaware Office on numerous occasions, including receipt of its lifetime achievement award, for his exemplary dedication to the enforcement of Delaware's DUI laws; and was recognized by NHTSA in 2006, for his leadership and commitment to "Checkpoint Strikeforce."

Chief Capriglione's tireless efforts "where the rubber meets the road" and beyond are without parallel and provide a tremendous example for all of those with whom he has interacted.

The Honorable John J. Cullerton
President of the Illinois Senate
Chicago, Illinois

Senator Cullerton was selected a 2009 recipient of this prestigious award for his

sustained, continuous, and career-spanning extraordinary initiative and creativity in promoting traffic safety legislation to reduce deaths and injuries on Illinois' highways.

Senator Cullerton has supported strongly, during his three decades of service as an Illinois legislator, proposals to save lives and reduce crash injuries:

- Passage of Illinois' first "Child Passenger Protection Act" in 1982, which has been amended to require children under 11 years old to sit in the rear-seat of airbag-equipped vehicles and to include children under eight years old riding in large trucks and truck tractors
- Enactment of the State's first mandatory seat-belt statute in 1984 and its primary seat-belt law in 2003
- With the support of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Illinois State Police, and MADD, amendment of the ignition-interlock statute to mandate ignition interlocks for convicted first-time DUI offenders and to increase the penalties for those attempting to evade installation
- Passage of a bill allowing automated red light enforcement
- Enactment of a number of Graduated Driver's License (GDL) provisions:
 - doubling adult-supervised, behind-the-wheel driving for new teen drivers
 - strengthening night-time teen-driver restrictions
 - requiring back-seat belt-use by teen passengers in teen-operated vehicles
 - restricting ridership to one non-family teen passenger in teen-operated vehicles for first six months of driving
 - allowing parents to access online their teens' driver's records
 - prohibiting drivers under 18 years old from talking on cell phones while driving

The Senator was appointed by the Governor to the Illinois Teen Driver Safety Task Force and has received the following awards:

- "Distinguished Leadership Service Award" from Children's Memorial Hospital
- "Public Official of the Year" award from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
- "Highway Safety Hero" award from Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
- National "Buckle Up America Award"

Senator Cullerton has consistently championed highway safety causes that are working to save lives and reduce injuries to motorists, especially to young people.