Happy Veteran's Day
Liberty comes at a price and the men and women who serve our country are willing to pay that price for our freedom and for peace. Today, we thank you, we salute you, we honor you Veterans!

AAMVA Joins State and Local Leadership to Support Senate AV START Act
Joining the National Governors Association (NGA), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and numerous other leading state and local transportation officials, AAMVA has signed on to a letter of support describing the key successes and challenges associated with the Senate "American Vision for Safety Transportation through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies Act" (AV START Act). The coalition cites the preference of the Senate language for numerous reasons, including the fact that "the AV START Act's approach appropriately establishes federal preemption by prescribing subject matters specifically to those contained in a safety evaluation report, thereby preserving the historic federal partnership with state and local governments. More information is available in AAMVA's November 8th Legislative Alert.

AAMVA Leadership Academy Applications Deadline Is November 15th
The Leadership Academy is designed for jurisdiction employees who have demonstrated leadership potential and the ability to succeed in positions of greater responsibility within their agencies. This week-long program (April 30 - May 3, 2018) will include modules on defining leadership, team work and collaboration, organizational performance management, and more. (View the draft course outline for details about the 2018 program.) It is an intense training opportunity focused on the unique characteristics of leading and managing a motor vehicle or law enforcement agency. If you are interested, please send a resume and completed application to Janice Dluzynski by November 15, 2017. Class size is limited to eighteen participants and we can accept only one application from each member agency. (Attendees must have the approval and support of the Chief Administrator of their agency to apply. All expenses will be paid by AAMVA.) For more information, visit the Academy Web site or contact Janice Dluzynski. (Watch this video to see what last year's participants have to say about the program.)

AAMVA Seeks Technical Advisor for NMVTIS Law Enforcement Working Group
AAMVA is seeking a technical advisor for the NMVTIS Law Enforcement Working Group. The technical advisor shares resources and knowledge related to industry's
Massachusetts ‘REAL ID’ Available Beginning March 26

You may have to wait until 2020 for the next presidential election and for marking the quasicentennial of the Pilgrims arriving in what would become the Bay State. But you won’t have to wait until 2020 to get the “real ID,” which you’ll need three years from now to board a plane. The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles will begin to issue its “REAL ID” license and identification cards next March 26, in anticipation of an Oct. 1, 2020 deadline for the new cards needed for travel in the U.S. by airplane or entering certain U.S. government buildings. Read the article at recorder.com.

Pennsylvania Bills Seek to End License Suspensions For Crimes That Don't Involve Driving

Though Chelsey Sirmons IV completed a 10-month sentence and probation for a 2015 drug conviction, he's still doing time. Like many people in Pennsylvania convicted of certain crimes, he's not allowed to drive, even though his offense did not involve unsafe driving, or even a vehicle. His license is suspended until 2026. Read the article at post-gazette.com.

Pennsylvania Department of State Addresses Illegal Voting

The right to vote is treasured by many Americans, and maintaining the integrity of the nation's elections is key to preserving its value. Read the article at fox43.com.

After Call From Mattiello, Raimondo Tells DMV to Scrap $250 Fee For Expired Inspection Stickers (Rhode Island)

Under pressure from state lawmakers, Gov. Gina Raimondo has told the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles to halt plans to begin suspending vehicle registrations for expired inspection stickers and charging a $250 renewal fee. The $250 re-registration fee had been in state law since 2009, but only with the launch of a new DMV computer system earlier this year has the state had the ability to automatically track inspections and collect the fee. ... Defending the proposed policy last week, DMV Administrator Walter R. “Bud” Craddock said the agency was just enforcing the law. Read the article at providencejournal.com.
Vermont Medical Marijuana Patient Wins Back Right To Drive
Vermont authorities must restore a driver’s license to a Milton man who smokes cannabis to ease symptoms of ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease, a Vermont Superior Court judge has ruled. Read the article at burlingtonfreepress.com.

REGION 2 NEWS

Shedd, House Committee Remove Driver’s License Bottleneck for Alabama Veterans
Changes streamlining the process that allows veterans to list their service on Alabama drivers’ licenses were cleared Monday by a legislative committee tasked with reviewing the matter. Under new rules approved Monday by the House Interim Committee on Driver’s License Review, veterans can now bypass the exam office and take their documentation directly to a local probate judge or satellite license office. Read the article at cullmantimes.com.

Arkansas and 10 Other States Don't Require Vehicle Inspections
A Hot Springs woman believes bringing back vehicle inspection in the state could keep our roads safer and save lives. ... Arkansas is one of 11 states that does not require safety, emissions or VIN inspections. Read the article at thv11.com.

Buy The Right License Plate And You'll Help A Kid Get A Free Bike Helmet (North Carolina)
It’s not always easy to get kids to wear helmets when they ride bicycles, but it’s a lot more difficult if they don’t have helmets to wear. That’s the thinking behind the N.C. Department of Transportation’s Bicycle Helmet Initiative, which has provided thousands of helmets to low-income kids since 2007 using money from the sale of special cycling license plates. Read the article at newsobserver.com.

DMV Launches Design Contest For A New Distracted-Driving Tag (Virginia)
The DMV is turning to a far more serious subject for a new specialty license tag, one that’s also arguably more abstract. The issue is distracted driving, which kills or injures hundreds of people in Virginia each year. The agency has commissioned another contest, open to all Virginia high school students, for a plate that will emphasize the dangers of distractions behind the wheel. Read the article at roanoke.com.

Navy Veteran Working To Get Bill Passed For Custom License Plates (Virginia)
A veteran who served about 30 years in the Navy is working on a custom license plate to help honor those who are Navy Proud. Read the article at wset.com.

Duplicate License Plates. A Ticket From a State She’s Never Been To. A Hampton Roads Legal Team Cracks The Case. (Virginia)
A “glitch” in a Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles system had a Virginia woman fighting a traffic ticket — one she shouldn’t have gotten. ... It started with a $105 traffic ticket from New York alleging that her daughter’s car had run a red light in Nassau County. Welton knew that couldn’t be right because neither she nor her 25-year-old daughter had ever been to the Empire State. ... Apparently, another vehicle was issued the same vanity license plates as the Weltons by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles; however, a simple call to the DMV wasn’t enough to figure out what was going on. Read the article at wydaily.com.

REGION 3 NEWS

Travel Scene: Your Driver's License Can Still Get You On
A Plane — For Now (Minnesota)
Minnesotans have dodged the REAL ID law for at least another year, as the federal Homeland Security Administration has approved a nearly year-long extension before state travelers are required to produce enhanced security documents to pass through airports, military facilities and federal buildings. The exemption moves the effective compliance date of the federal law from Jan. 1, 2018, to Oct. 18, 2018. Read the article at postbulletin.com.

New Minnesota Licensing System's Problems Continue
Many Minnesotans hoping to renew vehicle tabs, get new plates or transfer a title were again left waiting in recent weeks as the state’s new computer system for vehicle registration continues to be plagued by glitches and slowdowns that have occasionally stretched on for hours. Read the article at startribune.com.

Mountain Lion License Plate On Track To Become Nebraska's Most Popular Specialty Plate
When it comes to mountain lion license plates, Nebraskans are roaring their approval. ... As of Friday, 21,351 of the colorful specialty plates featuring the state’s biggest cat have been sold — more than any other specialty plate sold by the state over the past year. In fact, at this rate, the cougar plates may soon do the unthinkable and pass up Nebraska football plates as the most popular specialty plate on state roadways. Read the article at omaha.com.

Longtime Truck Driver Loses License Because of Immigration Status (Wisconsin)
A Cuban refugee who has spent nearly four decades in Wisconsin is now out of a job because of his immigration status. Jose Santos of Marshall came to the U.S. when he was 21. In 1988 he got his commercial driver's license and has been a truck driver ever since, until last month when the Department of Motor Vehicles reclassified the legal immigrant as a visitor, disqualifying him from a CDL. Read the article at channel3000.com.

Look, Ma, No Driver! Waymo Robot Cars in Arizona Go Fully Autonomous
In a major milestone for autonomous vehicles, Waymo has ditched the backup drivers for its robot cars in and around Chandler, Ariz., and soon will offer them to the public as an autonomous taxi fleet. ... Waymo already drew a line in the sand last week when it invited a few dozen journalists to its secretive Castle test site at a former military base in Merced County, and gave them rides in the fully autonomous cars, allowing them to experience the eerie sensation of seeing a steering wheel turn itself in empty air. Read the article at sfchronicle.com.

British Columbia To Hike Distracted Driving Penalties By $740
Getting caught checking your phone behind the wheel in B.C. is about to get a lot more expensive. Attorney General David Eby announced Monday that the province will designate distracted driving “high-risk,” meaning that two distracted driving tickets over three years could net drivers a $2,000 penalty in total. Read the article at surreynowleader.com.

DMV Employees Plead Guilty To Conspiring To Commit Identity Fraud And Bribery (California)
On Friday, November 3, 2017, it was announced that two former DMV employees had pleaded guilty to their roles in a conspiracy to sell Class A commercial licenses without the buyer being required to take or pass the necessary tests. 39-year-old Kari Scattaglia of Newhall and 51-year-old Lisa Terraciano of North Hollywood pleaded guilty to the charges. Read the article at brokernewswire.com.

700+ Oregonians Choose Third Gender On ID Cards
More than 700 Oregonians have selected a third gender — neither male nor female — on their state-issued identification cards and driver licenses since the
option became available July 3. The state transportation commission approved the change in June, making Oregon the first state to allow people to identify as “nonbinary,” or Gender “X” on their driver licenses and identification cards. Read the article at koin.com.

**Tougher Consequences for Impaired Drivers Who Transport Children (Saskatchewan)***
Drivers with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .04 or higher who transport children will face even longer roadside licence suspensions and vehicle seizures under legislation introduced today. Read the press release.

**New Digital Driver License Technology Closer To Reality (Wyoming)***
Wyoming is testing out a new technology that many say is not only convenient, but also helps protect individual’s privacy and security. Gemalto, an international digital company that works to provide secure software, is currently working with five states (Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, and Washington D.C.) in bringing digital driver’s licenses closer to reality. Read the article at kgwn.tv.

**Software Companies Race Against Car Manufacturers To Corner Automation Market***
The area of Automated Vehicle (AV) law and regulation is rapidly evolving. It is a complex process that involves elected legislative bodies, regulatory bodies and vehicle manufacturers. ... AV laws in California have been some of the first and most detailed in the nation, including the requirement that companies must demonstrate financial responsibility in case of an accident by the purchase of an insurance policy or proof of net worth in excess of $5 million. ... Perhaps surprisingly, the largest group of permit holders are not auto manufacturers but software companies — some of which Americans may not be familiar with, such as Baidu USA, Telenav, Naro and Zoox — that are operating vehicles and systems statewide. Read the article at sfweekly.com.

**What You Need to Know About the New ID Law and Travel***
In the past several months, there has been plenty of conversation about the Real ID Act and how it will affect air travelers. Passed by Congress in 2005, the act is intended to prevent identity fraud, and starting on Jan. 22, 2018, fliers who reside in some states, even if they’re flying domestically, will need identification other than a driver’s license to pass through Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints at airports. ... Here, answers to questions about what the Real ID Act means for travelers and why having a passport now may be more important than ever. Read the article at nytimes.com.

**BMW Recalls 1.4M Vehicles Due to Risk of Under-Hood Fires***
BMW is recalling more than 1.4 million cars and SUVs in two U.S. recalls due to the risk of fires under the hood. The biggest recall includes over 740,000 328i, 328xi, 328i xDrive, 525i, 525xi, 528i, 528xi, 530i, 530xi, X3 3.0si, X3 xDrive30i, X5 xDrive30i, Z4 3.0i, Z4 3.0si and Z4 sDrive30i vehicles from 2007-2011. Also included is the 2008-2011 128i. Read the article at fox29.com.

**A Glimpse Inside the Secret Site Where Driverless Cars Undergo 20,000 Tests***
This carefully shrouded 91-acre preserve in the Central Valley is the testing ground for the driverless cars being developed by Waymo, the autonomous-car company that was a division of Google before being spun off last year. Waymo parted the gates of the tall chain-link fence — covered from top to bottom in opaque black plastic — to welcome a busload of reporters last week because they know their challenge is bigger than just developing the “perfect” driverless car. Read the article at washingtonpost.com.
On Twitter
@AAMVAConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets here. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.).

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnection Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVAConnection mentions!***

SAFE KTSRO @SAFEks | View the Tweet

We're proud to partner with @FortRiley to help spread awareness about wearing #seatbelts. Thank you for all that you do. #VeteransDay #SAFE

My Car Does What @MyCarDoesWhat | View the Tweet

Officer: Do you know how fast you were going?
You: Uh...
Make sure this conversation (and subsequent ticket) never happens to you! Pay attention to your speed.
Technology can help, too. Learn about high speed alert: https://mycardoeswhat.org/safety-features/high-speed-alert/ …

Road to Zero @RoadToZeroUS | View the Tweet

Learning how vehicle safety ratings save lives. @IIHS_autosafety @ITEhq
More than the money… More than the car… It’s your life that is at stake.

BuzzedDriving is drunk driving.