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New York State Police Captain Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Arlington, VA - At its 80th Annual International Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, August 26-28, 2013, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) presented the Chair of its Enforcement Standing Committee, Captain Leonard P. Casper, with the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety. This award is presented to a distinguished individual in recognition of his commitment to and accomplishments in highway safety over the course of his career. Previous recipients include John R. Batiste, Chief of the Washington State Patrol; Major David Salmon of the New York State Police; Colonel Mark Trostel, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol; The Honorable John Hill, former Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Major in the Indiana State Police; and Commissioner Joe Farrow of the California Highway Patrol.

There were a record number of nominations submitted for consideration for the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety this year. Captain Leonard Casper is the winner of the Law Enforcement Category; Mr. John Kuo, Administrator of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, is the recipient of the award in the non-law enforcement category.

“Captain Leonard Casper is an innovator, encouraging teamwork and cooperation between all agencies involved in highway safety for the betterment of the public,” said AAMVA President & CEO Neil Schuster. “His leadership and strong advocacy for safety both inside and outside of his home jurisdiction is what makes him such a deserving candidate for the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety.”

As a member of the New York State Police for the last 30 years, assigned to the Traffic Services section for over 15 years, Captain Casper has been a leader in promoting highway safety. He has been instrumental in incorporating technology into law enforcement, organizing and managing the State Police’s development of an electronic system for issuing traffic citations and crash reports. The electronic data collection system includes hundreds of automated validations that ensure a significant improvement in the accuracy of the data collected; over 400 police agencies in New York use this system, sending data to other partner organizations including the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Transportation, and the Office of Courts Administration. After the success of his technological initiatives, Casper organized and managed

a project to include GPS data in every citation and crash investigation, and he implemented New York's automated License Plate Reader program.

Casper also organized and led numerous other highway safety initiatives for the State Police, including enhancing the speed enforcement program, establishing an aggressive driver enforcement program, and starting a traffic safety corridor program. He led the development of the State Police's distracted driver enforcement program and championed the use of unmarked SUV patrol cars to better detect distracted driving. He has also reinvigorated relationships between his Traffic Safety section and other highway safety partners.

Founded in 1933, AAMVA actively promotes traffic safety and uniformity among North American jurisdictions. Representing chief motor vehicle administrators and law enforcement officials, the association develops uniform programs in driver licensing, vehicle titling/registration and motor carrier services, among others.

For more information visit www.aamva.org.

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