

November 7, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Funeral Arrangements Made for Colonel Anna Amos

AAMVA is very sad to report that Colonel Anna Amos passed away Thursday, October 30, following a brave and extended battle with cancer, a battle she won more than a few times. Many of you worked alongside of Anna when she served the state of South Carolina as Deputy Director and Colonel of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety's State Transport Police Division. During her state service she held numerous leadership positions, including Chair of the International Registration Plan Board of Directors. In 2008, Anna was appointed to serve at the national level as USDOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Director of Safety during which time she provided multiple briefings and strong partnership to AAMVA and its members.

A funeral will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 11 a.m., at the Bible Way Church of Atlas Road; 2440 Atlas Road, Columbia, SC 29209 (Telephone: 803-776-1238).

Cards of condolence may be sent to the Amos family at 728 N. Armistead Street; Alexandria, VA 22312.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made in Anna's honor to Ovarian Cancer Research, www.ovarian.org/donate.php, 1.888.ovarian.

Two Webinars Scheduled for November

AAMVA is pleased to announce two webinars coming up in November. The first Webinar titled, NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) Training, will take place on Wednesday, November 19th from 2-3 PM (ET). The next webinar titled, Understanding and Using the New CDLIS Reports, will take place on Thursday, November 20th from 2-3 PM (ET). AAMVA membership restrictions do apply to attend these webinars. Please visit the AAMVA Webinar Series page to learn more and to register online.

<http://www.aamva.org/Webinar-Series/>

Region I

New Jersey's Teen Driver Decals Show Sustained Link with Fewer Crashes

A new study from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) provides valuable evidence that New Jersey's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) decal provision is associated with a sustained two-year decline in crash rates among intermediate (i.e., probationary) teen drivers. The study, which linked New Jersey's licensing and crash record databases to measure effects of the requirement, was published today in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Crash involvement of an estimated 3,197 intermediate drivers was prevented in the first two years after the decal's implementation. Read the full story at ScienceDaily.com.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141103102235.htm>

Tougher Texting Laws Take Effect (New York)

New texting-while-driving laws take effect Saturday in New York. The new laws increase the penalties and fines for drivers found talking or texting while driving. Also on Saturday, new laws go into place that crack down on drunken drivers, as well as increase penalties for sex-related crimes, assaults and directing a laser point at an airplane. Read the full story at WGRZ.com.

<http://www.wgrz.com/story/news/2014/10/31/texting-driving-new-york/18253715/>

DMV Investigating Defecting Peeling License Plates (New York)

State officials are investigating the reason, or reasons, many older blue and white NYS car license plates are peeling. The issue first surfaced a few years ago downstate, but it just came to the attention of officials at the Erie County Auto Bureaus in April. The blue and white coloring is peeling off some plates. While it first seemed the defect only affected plates starting with the letter "E", officials say other letters are involved. Read the full story at WLVB.com.

<http://wivb.com/2014/11/05/peeling-license-plates-trade-them-in-for-a-new-set/>

Region II

DMV Initiates Electronic Lien Titling (North Carolina)

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles has initiated its NC Electronic Lien Titling System, effective Saturday, Nov. 1. This process is designed to allow an electronic exchange of data in lieu of paper forms and titles as a means of communicating lien status between the Division and lienholders. Read the DMV press release.

<https://apps.ncdot.gov/newsreleases/details.aspx?r=10470>

Virginia DMV Leaders Expect Upgrades to Reduce Energy Consumption by 36 Percent

Leaders at the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) expect recently completed upgrades to the state DMV building located in Richmond, Virginia, to reduce energy consumption by 36 percent and save \$284,000 a year. Read the full story at Secure2.sglc.com.

<https://secure2.sglc.com/DMSImage/16820141106070508274/0.htm>

Region III

County Treasurer Takes Aim at State DMV Online Fees (Nebraska)

Lancaster County Treasurer Andy Stebbing is urging state officials to be more transparent about fees charged to people who make payments on the state's Department of Motor Vehicles website. Read the full story at JournalStar.com.

http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/county-treasurer-takes-aim-at-state-dmv-online-fees/article_31615652-a660-53f2-b245-c9834e07bbf.html

Proposed Law Would Stiffen Penalty for Texting While Driving (Ohio)

A proposal in the Ohio House would make texting and driving a primary offense for all drivers. Currently, it is only a primary offense for drivers under 18 and a secondary offense for adults. The bill also would make it illegal to use any electronic device in school and construction zones. Read the full story at Fox19.com.

<http://www.fox19.com/story/27172202/proposed-law-would-make-texting-while-driving-primary-offense>

Judges Oppose Ohio Bill Requiring DUI Lock Devices for First-Time Offenders

A bill requiring first-time, drunken-driving offenders in Ohio to have sobriety-testing devices installed on their cars is being opposed by judges, who say it handcuffs them from using their discretion. The Ohio Judicial Conference said judges are in the best position to determine penalties for first-time offenders. The devices are mandatory for repeat offenders. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/11/04/judges-oppose-bill-on-dui-lock-devices.html>

Ohio to Give Attorneys Past Data on DUI Breath-Testers

For more than two years, Ohio Department of Health officials told judges and justices that it was nearly impossible — even under subpoena — for the agency to turn over past test results from Intoxilyzer 8000 alcohol breath-test machines. Faced with an Ohio Supreme Court decision that could have made the \$8,000 machines useless in testing drunken-driving suspects, the agency now says it expects to be able to turn over test results to defense attorneys by Dec. 1. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/11/07/ohio-to-give-attorneys-past-data-on-dui-breath-testers.html>

Ohio State Highway Patrol Addresses Challenges for Mature Drivers

For many, receiving their driver's license at the age of 16 is an incredible milestone. It is a symbol of freedom and maturity, one of the first tangible steps into adulthood and independence. However, as drivers age, seniors may find themselves dealing with complications while driving that they have never had to address before. For the first time in decades, factors that they may not be able to control might affect that independence that they have enjoyed for decades, making it difficult and unsafe for them to drive themselves to the places they need to be. Read the full story at LoganDaily.com.

http://www.logandaily.com/news/ohio-state-highway-patrol-addresses-challenges-for-mature-drivers/article_68f95529-c09e-5e94-95a3-99b4cdf2ab5c.html

Region IV

2nd Ruling: Pot Law Doesn't Provide DUI Immunity (Arizona)

Another court ruling says Arizona residents who have medical marijuana cards allowing them to legally smoke pot can still be prosecuted under laws against driving under the influence while having marijuana in their system. Read the full story at IslandPacket.com.

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/05/3413957/2nd-ruling-pot-law-doesnt-provide.html>

Fatal Accident Tests Lyft's \$1 Million Insurance Policy (California)

Lyft, as well as rivals Uber and Sidecar, have come under intense scrutiny over whether their insurance coverage is adequate, as it varies depending on whether a driver has been matched with a passenger. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/applications/Fatal-Accident-Tests-Lyfts-1-Million-Insurance-Policy.html>

MVD Launches Twitter Account (Montana)

MVD is stepping into the future, so to speak. On October 1st, the Motor Vehicle Division launched its Twitter account, which can be found at www.twitter.com/mt_mvd. The creation of a social media platform had been in the works for several months, but was fast tracked to completion at the urging of Sarah Garcia, Division Administrator. The Twitter account will be used to disseminate information to the public. Changes in exam station schedules, driver license lifespans and the phone numbers of various call centers are examples of information already communicated to the public via Twitter. Eventually, the account will be used for alerting the public to any major changes in MVD operations or policies, in addition to providing regular service information. Visit the Montana MVD Website.

<https://doimt.gov/driving/>

Oregon Voters Consider Driver Cards for Immigrants

The issue of driver's cards for immigrants who are in the country illegally has been a political hot potato since at least as far back as Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential run. Now, Oregon is the first state to put the matter before voters. Residents in the state on Tuesday will decide whether the cards should be provided to those who cannot prove their legal status in the United States. Read the full story at NewsObserver.com.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/11/04/4291524/oregon-voters-consider-driver.html>

Saskatchewan Approves Special Plates to Honour Those Who Died Serving Country

The Saskatchewan government is issuing special licence plates to commemorate people who died serving their country. Families that have received the Memorial Cross can apply to Saskatchewan Government Insurance for the special plates, which come at no additional charge. Read the full story at [CBC.ca/news](http://www.cbc.ca/news).

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/sask-approves-special-plates-to-honour-those-who-died-serving-country-1.2824692>

WSP Unveils Next-Generation Breath Test Instrument (Washington)

The Washington State Patrol today unveiled the next-generation of breath testing instruments designed to help remove impaired drivers from the streets and highways we all share. The Patrol has spent nearly four years making sure the Draeger Alcotest 9510 instruments would be ready to fit into an already effective program of DUI enforcement. Read the WSP press release.

http://www.wsp.wa.gov/information/releases/2014_archive/mr110514.htm

Other News

NTSB to Hold a Symposium on Passenger Vehicle Tire Safety

The National Transportation Safety Board will convene a symposium December 9–10, 2014, in Washington, D.C., to highlight the importance of tires to the overall safety of passenger vehicles, and to gather facts and expert opinion to assist the agency in four ongoing tire disablement-related investigations. Read the press release for more information.

http://www.nts.gov/news/events/2014/tire_symposium/index.html

Ford Issues 5 Recalls Covering 202,000 Vehicles

Ford is recalling more than 202,000 cars, vans and trucks in North America in five separate recalls to fix gas leaks, air bag sensors, stalling and other issues. The company says the problems have caused one accident, but it's not aware of injuries in any of the cases. Read the full story at USNews.com.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2014/11/04/ford-issues-5-recalls-covering-202-000-vehicles>

Toyota Recalls 5,850 Cars, Mostly in U.S., for Possible Steering Issue

Toyota Motor Corp said on Tuesday it is recalling about 5,850 cars, most of them in the United States, for possible loss of steering control. Read the full story at Mcall.com.

<http://www.mcall.com/classified/automotive/sns-rt-us-toyota-recall-20140918-story.html>

How Transportation Technologies Will Change Everything

Connected and autonomous vehicle technology will help optimize roadway utilization, potentially saving billions in future infrastructure expansion. The transportation systems around which the modern world has been built are on the verge of a significant transformation. Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) are making driving and traffic management better and safer for everyone. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/transportation/How-Transportation-Technologies-Will-Change-Everything-.html>

Google Glass Might Curb Your Vision

The promise: a broadly expanded visual experience with on-the-move, hands-free access to photos, videos, messaging, web-surfing and apps. The catch: a small new study suggests that the structure of the glasses (rather than the software) may curtail natural peripheral vision, creating blind spots that undermine safety while engaging in routine tasks, such as driving or walking. Read the full story at WebMD.com.

<http://www.webmd.com/eye-health/news/20141104/google-glass-might-curb-your-vision>

Did You Know

SALUTE A VETERAN!

- Veterans Day was once called Armistice Day. Armistice Day was created to honor veterans of World War I.
- November 11, 1919 was the first day Armistice Day was celebrated. Germany signed the armistice slowing the hostilities of WW1 in the 11th month, on the 11th day, during the 11th hour.
- November 11 is both a federal and state holiday.
- June 1, 1954 was when the United States changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring all military veterans.
- Between 1971 and 1977 Veterans Day was celebrated on the fourth Monday of October.
- Arlington National Cemetery has a ceremony every year on Veterans Day honoring those who died during war.
- There are roughly 24 million living veterans.
- During World War II Disney made films for each branch of the United States government.
- 90% of Disney employees worked making propaganda and training videos during WWII.
- 400,000 of the United States Armed Forces died during WWII.

Learn more online:

- Veterans Day Facts (History.com) <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/veterans-day-facts>
- Veterans Day Fast Facts (CNN) <http://www.cnn.com/2013/06/14/us/veterans-day-fast-facts/>

- 11 Facts About Veterans Day (DoSomething.org) <https://www.dosomething.org/blog/11-facts-about-veterans-day>
- Veterans Day in the United States (timeanddate.com) <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/veterans-day>