

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Motor Vehicle and Law Enforcement Agencies Receive Prestigious AAMVA Awards**

**Arlington, VA** – The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) presented the following awards:

#### **Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety**

The Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety is presented to a distinguished individual in recognition of their commitment to and accomplishments in highway safety over the course of their career. One award is presented for achievement in highway safety in Motor Vehicle Administration and one for achievement in highway safety in Law Enforcement.

Owen McShane, Director of Investigations with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) received the **Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety, Motor Vehicle Administration Category**. McShane has served the people of the State of New York for 30 years. In that time, he has been a leader in combating identity fraud and promoting highway safety, preventing stolen identities and the use of fraudulent documents. He has helped to curb vehicle theft to protect consumers and keep unreliable vehicles off the road. He has represented the DMV on various highway safety committees and initiatives. He was Chair of the AAMVA Fraudulent Document Recognition (FDR) Working Group which created the FDR training program still in use today. He also led the AAMVA External Fraud Working Group and AAMVA Facial Recognition Working Group, and he helped develop a training manual to detect altered and counterfeit vehicle titles and other types of vehicle ownership documents as a member of the AAMVA Vehicle Document Examiner Course.

“AAMVA is pleased and proud to present Owen McShane with our lifetime achievement award,” said AAMVA President and CEO, Anne Ferro. “This well-deserved honor recognizes his many years of commitment to combating fraud, promoting highway safety, and keeping the public safe on the roads. He is truly a leader in our community, and AAMVA and our members have been well served by the expertise and knowledge he so generously shares.”

Colonel Matthew Langer of the Minnesota State Patrol (MSP) received the **Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety, Law Enforcement Category**. Colonel Langer is currently the Chair for the State and Provincial Police Division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Throughout his career Colonel Langer has been involved with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Minnesota Towards Zero Deaths, and the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety, to ensure that his agency works in partnership in sending consistent traffic safety messages and enforcement efforts throughout the state. He has also ensured that partnerships with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration remain strong through the State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division. Colonel Langer has been a long time representative on the Minnesota Intelligent Transportation Safety Program Board and has also developed close working relationships with the University of Minnesota's Roadway Safety Institute. As part of this relationship, he has worked with the University of Minnesota by providing public data on traffic safety concerns in an effort to determine the human factors driving dangerous crash trends and efforts that can be put forward to mitigate them.

“Colonel Langer is a tireless supporter of the initiatives and guidance provided by AAMVA and has always ensured his agency is an active participant in all AAMVA does,” said AAMVA President and CEO, Anne Ferro. “He has dedicated his career to saving lives and reducing roadway deaths, exemplifying AAMVA’s core

mission of Safe Drivers, Safe Vehicles, Secure Identities, and Saving Lives. We are proud to honor him with our Lifetime Achievement Award in Highway Safety for his remarkable service on behalf of others.”

### **International Driver Examiner Certification (IDEC) Outstanding Examiner of the Year**

The AAMVA International Driver Examiner Certification (IDEC) Board and AAMVA recognize outstanding driver examiners through the IDEC Examiner of the Year award. Examiners are selected for their excellence in adhering to the principles and recommended practices of driver testing (the Examiner's Code of Ethics) and for their high level of conduct in their profession.

Patricia (Patti) Nelson with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation received the **IDEC Outstanding Examiner of the Year award**. Patti is currently the manager of Wisconsin’s Northwest Region and has been a proud AAMVA IDEC certified Examiner since 2007. She has been a critically important leader during the pandemic by thoughtfully considering feedback from her staff, leveraging her 18 years of DMV experience to effectively articulate concerns to various members of the public. She provided valuable insight in every meeting and situation her agency planned, and she implemented various initiatives to keep serving customers in a safe, efficient, and effective manner. Patti personally conducted road tests using the suggested personal protective equipment and various options of maneuvers and alternatives to ensure testing was reasonable, safe for both customers and employees, and did not negatively impact highway safety. Patti is a constant advocate for excellence in driver testing through the IDEC certification.

“Congratulations to Patti Nelson, AAMVA’s IDEC Outstanding Examiner of the Year, who exemplifies commitment, dedication, professionalism, and leadership,” said AAMVA President and CEO, Anne Ferro. “Wisconsin is well served by the expert guidance she gives her staff and others to help promote driver safety to customers every day.”

### **Trailblazer Award**

The Trailblazer Award recognizes a jurisdiction agency or individual who identified and implemented innovative changes that positively affected their agency and community.

The Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology received the **Trailblazer Award** for their **Contactless Colorado Digital ID™ Law Enforcement Acceptance**. Colorado State Patrol began accepting the contactless Colorado Digital ID™ within the myColorado™ mobile app as proof of identity and licensure for traffic stops within the state. The contactless Digital ID, downloaded by more than 85,000 Coloradans, provides a secure, safe, and convenient way to electronically share information with troopers. The system leverages the myColorado™ mobile app, which stores the driver’s Colorado digital ID. Using myColorado™ in a traffic stop is more than 10% faster than a conventional stop; this reduces time on the roadside directly impacting trooper safety.

“The contactless exchange of information made possible by Colorado’s innovative Digital ID™ is a timesaver for law enforcement at the roadside and lessens both parties’ potential exposure to COVID-19 or other health risks in a secure and efficient manner,” said AAMVA President and CEO, Anne Ferro.

### **Public Affairs and Consumer Education (PACE) Overall Campaign Awards**

AAMVA’s PACE Awards Program recognizes public relations, public affairs, and consumer education excellence among the motor vehicle, law enforcement, and traffic safety agencies across North America. They recognize creativity, cost effectiveness and the ability to reach consumers with a well-crafted, measured and

executed message. The PACE Overall Campaign Awards are given to a jurisdiction for a full multi-faceted campaign.

Manitoba Public Insurance received the **PACE Overall Campaign Award, Budget Over 50k** for their ***“Your Phone Can Wait”*** campaign. This multifaceted distracted driving campaign includes a billboard, online creative, and two separate video spots: “Time Loop” for television, and “Genres” for theatres and online. “Time Loop” illustrates the fatal consequences of distracted driving, featuring a father watching a video of his young daughter’s birthday party cut in with flashbacks of driving with her until he checks his phone for a text. “Genres” shows people stopping to look at a cell phone in absurdly dangerous situations - being chased by a chainsaw murderer, tied to a train track in a silent film, or in the middle of a life-saving surgery - and ultimately looking at phone while driving.

North Dakota Department of Transportation received the **PACE Overall Campaign Award, Budget Under 50k** for ***“The Melanie Johnson Story.”*** This distracted driving campaign tells the story of Melanie Johnson and her family who were in a near-fatal crash due to a distracted driver. As Melanie, her husband, and four children were traveling on the Interstate, they changed lanes to pass a semi pulling a John Deere combine. As they were passing, the semi veered into their lane hitting their vehicle. The Johnsons later found out that the cause of the crash was distraction. Miraculously, the family was unharmed other than a few scratches.

AAMVA’s awards program fosters a tradition of excellence in the motor vehicle and law enforcement community by honoring individuals, teams, and organizations who have committed their time and resources to safety initiatives, outstanding customer service, and public affairs and consumer educational programs throughout North America.

Founded in 1933, AAMVA serves North American motor vehicle and law enforcement agencies to accomplish their missions. The association’s vision of *Safe Drivers, Safe Vehicles, Secure Identities, Saving Lives* guides AAMVA’s activities, resources, and programs in driver licensing, vehicle titling/registration, motor carrier services, identity management, and technology solutions.

For more information visit [www.aamva.org](http://www.aamva.org).

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