

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 24, 2017

Contact:

Claire Jeffrey, Communications and Multimedia Manager, AAMVA

[cjeffrey@aamva.org](mailto:cjeffrey@aamva.org)

### **Nebraska Official Receives Prestigious Achievement Award**

**Arlington, VA** - The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) presented Fred Zwonechek, Administrator, Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, with the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety at the 2017 AAMVA Annual International Conference in San Francisco, California, August 21-23. This award is presented to a distinguished individual in recognition of his or her commitment to and accomplishments in highway safety over the course of his or her career.

Fred Zwonechek's career with the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety spans 43 years. The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety is the hub for coordinating highway safety efforts in Nebraska. Zwonechek has been instrumental in constructing the state highway safety plans which focus on four primary areas: education, enforcement, engineering, and the emergency medical system. Over his more than four decades of service, Zwonechek has instituted and championed many programs. Some of his more notable ones are: occupant and child restraint use legislation and education, Drug Recognition Expert Program, longitudinal research on teen driving behaviors, standardized field sobriety training, implementation of motorcycle safety training, installation of rumble bars on interstates and state highways, distracted driving education and legislation, use of seatbelt simulators, 24/7 monitoring for multiple DUI offenders, drug courts, "move over" legislation, ignition interlock legislation, multi-state enforcement efforts, alcohol license compliance checks, dynamic messaging signs, and safety grants for saturated enforcement efforts. Individually, each of these safety initiatives has produced positive outcomes. However, the combined efforts have generated significant results. During his tenure as Director, Nebraska's total crashes have decreased 24%, alcohol-related fatalities have decreased 73%, seat belt usage has increased 54%, and motorcycle fatalities have decreased 54%.

"Fred Zwonechek has been the driving force behind dozens of highway safety initiatives," said Nebraska DMV Director Rhonda Lahm. AAMVA President and CEO, Anne Ferro added, "Fred has not only spent his professional career devoted to making the highways in Nebraska and around the country safer for everyone, it is his personal passion. That passion makes him a deserving candidate for the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety."

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. The Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety is presented annually to an AAMVA member jurisdiction employee, or other individual whose primary function is directly associated with highway and traffic safety efforts. An award is presented for achievement in highway safety in Motor Vehicle Administration and one for achievement in highway safety in Law Enforcement. Each year, AAMVA receives numerous outstanding submissions in each category and through a rigorous judging process selects those that are exemplary. The Martha Irwin Awards are presented at our Annual International Conference in August.

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 about AAMVA and its awards program, please visit our website at [www.AAMVA.org](http://www.AAMVA.org).

**\*\*AAMVA\*\***