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Illinois Secretary of State Receives Prestigious Achievement Award

Arlington, VA - The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) presented Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State, with the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety at the 2016 AAMVA Annual International Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, August 16-18. 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.

On top of many responsibilities including driver licensing and vehicle registration, Secretary of State White also serves as the primary highway safety advocate for the State of Illinois. When he took office in 1999, DUI was the number one killer on Illinois roadways. More than 630 people were killed that year in alcohol-related crashes. By 2014, that number had dropped by 45 percent. This is due, in large part, to the Secretary's commitment to highway safety and his DUI-related legislative initiatives and educational efforts. Secretary White has not limited his influence to DUI, teen drivers, and distracted driving. He has used his influence with advocates and the Illinois General Assembly to get more than 30 highway safety initiatives passed over the years.

"Jesse White has been the driving force behind dozens of highway safety initiatives," said AAMVA President and CEO, Anne Ferro. "His efforts to reduce distracted and impaired driving, and his dedication to keeping everyone safe on Illinois roads is what makes him such 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.

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