

2007 J. STANNARD BAKER AWARD WINNERS

MASTER TROOPER JOHN T. HARRIS VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Master Trooper John T. “Tim” Harris was selected a 2007 recipient of this prestigious award for his sustained, continuous, and career-spanning extraordinary initiative and creativity in developing, implementing, and improving traffic safety programs within the Commonwealth of Virginia, especially for the benefit of the young people of Franklin County.

Tim Harris joined the Virginia Department of State Police as a dispatcher on October 16, 1968. After serving a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, he returned to the State Police and graduated from entrance-level training on December 17, 1971. He requested—and received—a transfer to Franklin County in October 1973, where he continues to serve enthusiastically and professionally. Among the recognitions Master Trooper Harris has received are:

- American Red Cross Life Saving Award (1985)
- Superintendent’s Award for Highway Safety (twice)
- Outstanding Safety Achievement Award (2002)
- H.E.A.T. [Help Eliminate Auto Theft] Award (2004)
- YOVASO’s [Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety’s] Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (2005)
- YOVASO’s Lifetime Achievement Award (2006)
- Governor’s Transportation Safety Award for Law Enforcement (2006)

Tim Harris has “walked the walk” of a Virginia State Trooper for the past 36 years. He remains a community leader who actively promotes highway safety and continuously educates the youth of Franklin County on the importance of traffic safety. Often during non-duty hours, he attends meetings, oversees activities, and participates in criminal justice classes at the local high school. Master Trooper Harris’ dedication to duty has not diminished over the years; significantly, during the Calendar Year 2006, he led Area 41 in enforcement actions, initiating a total of 921 which included ten for criminal violations, twelve for DWI, 53 for reckless driving, 429 for speeding, 42 involving equipment violations, 124 for seat belts, 14 for child restraints, 85 for driver’s licenses, 110 for “other” infractions, and 42 for safety inspection violations.

“I like working with the kids and they have learned to see me in a different light,” Master Trooper Harris said. “They know I am a real person with a duty to perform and not someone just out to get them.” He assisted in planning a “mock crash” at the high school to discourage prom-goers from drinking and driving, instructs hundreds of new drivers each year in his driver’s education classes at the high school, established a sobriety checkpoint to permit YOVASO members

to observe its operation, and aided YOVASO students in entering for the first time—and winning First Prize—in the Franklin County Christmas Parade with their “I’ll be home for Christmas. Will you?” float.

**COMMANDER PAUL L. RIZZO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS**

Paul Rizzo was selected a 2007 recipient of this prestigious award for his sustained, continuous, and career-spanning extraordinary initiative and creativity in developing and promoting traffic safety programs within and beyond the Village of Schaumburg, Illinois, and for the benefit of all highway users.

During his 25-year career with the Schaumburg, Illinois, Police Department, Paul Rizzo has served in its Patrol, Traffic, and Detective Bureaus, as well as in its Community Relations Unit. He received in 1995, his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Social Justice from Lewis University and has completed Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command, its basic and advanced Traffic Crash Investigation courses, and myriad other highway safety and law enforcement courses.

Paul Rizzo’s personal and professional commitment to all aspects of occupant and other traffic safety education and enforcement undoubtedly has saved many lives. Among his many achievements:

- Active certified “Operation Kids” Child Passenger Safety instructor who has taught both in-service training and the four-, eight- and 32-hour courses throughout Illinois and who assisted in the development of the school bus curriculum
- Law enforcement representative on both the National and the Illinois Child Passenger Safety Boards
- Developing the Child-Seat Bounty Days program to encourage parents to turn in their old, unused child safety seats for destruction
- Schaumburg’s becoming one of the few U.S. municipalities to enact a primary seat-belt ordinance prior to Illinois’ passing a primary seat-belt statute
- Speaking at numerous national and state events, as well as authoring articles, on traffic safety and occupant protection
- Vice Chair, Traffic Committee of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police for the past 7 years and assisted twice in the design of Illinois’ “special event registration plates” highlighting traffic safety
- Developing the Schaumburg Police Department’s “Saved by the Belt” program and Co-Chair, Illinois “Saved by the Belt” Committee
- Co-Director of the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge for the past six years
- Designing numerous traffic safety programs on his agency’s Web site,

creating a public safety poster addressing traffic crashes, and implementing “Operation Hardhat” whereby officers dressed as highway construction workers used lidar (and “chase” vehicles) to reduce speeding in construction zones

- Introducing to his agency a DWI recognition program whereby officers receive lapel pins when they arrest 25, 50, 75, or 100 DWIs in one year, as well as a “Top Gun” effort acknowledging the ten highest-producing officers in DWI, speed, and occupant-protection enforcement
- Partnering with community organizations and schools to increase traffic safety recognition, including increasing seat-belt use by teenagers

Commander Rizzo’s ability to think outside the perennial box has allowed him to create unique means by which to address traffic safety issues and to benefit thereby those he has chosen to serve. His efforts certainly have contributed to Schaumburg’s increasing seat-belt use from 64 percent in 1999, to 87 percent in 2006.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF (RETIRED) LARRY D. BALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL
RICHMOND, KENTUCKY**

Larry Ball was selected a 2007 recipient of this prestigious award for his sustained, continuous, and career-spanning extraordinary initiative and creativity in developing, implementing, and improving traffic safety programs and technologies within the Commonwealth of Kentucky and for his willingness to promote nationally significant traffic safety issues.

Larry has served as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council since 2002. Prior to that appointment, he joined in 1997 Kentucky’s Justice Cabinet as an instructor in the In-Service Training Section and was promoted in 1998 to Executive Staff Advisor for Peace Officer Professional Standards, which certifies and tests more than 8,000 Kentucky peace officers.

Holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Science degree in Police Administration from Eastern Kentucky University, he served as an adjunct faculty member for Eastern Kentucky University, for Kentucky State University, and for the University of North Florida’s Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM), as well as a management consultant for both the IACP and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for almost a decade.

Larry retired from the Lexington—Fayette Urban County, Kentucky, Division of Police as Assistant Chief of Police with 25 years’ service during which he earned

133 letters of appreciation, as well as three “employee of the month” and four “professional esteem” awards. His career-spanning highway safety efforts include:

- Introduction to Kentucky of infrared breathalyzers
- Development, implementation, and management of the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) which reduced crashes by 14 percent in high-collision locations
- Introduction to Kentucky of moving radar, educating beforehand the judiciary and thereafter securing a 94 percent conviction rate for speed violations
- Development, implementation, and management of the Traffic Alcohol Patrol (TAP) program which reduced alcohol-related fatalities by 60 percent and achieved a 96 percent conviction rate, once again educating judges as to the program’s aims. TAP was recognized by NHTSA, MADD, and the University of Kentucky.
- Being among the first of Kentucky’s police officers to be trained in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN)
- Initiation of Kentucky’s first crash reconstruction unit, which secured the longest DWI sentence in the country for a double fatality (73 years)
- The design and purchase of Kentucky’s first mobile breath alcohol testing unit (BAT-mobile)
- Lexington’s becoming only the second U.S. city to enact a seat-belt ordinance without the state’s having a seat-belt statute.
- Playing an integral role in developing and funding Lexington’s “Safety City,” the first of its kind in the Nation, to teach all aspects of traffic safety to school-aged children
- Implementation of a police pursuit driver training program that reduced officer-related crashes more than 70 percent
- Conversion of the Neighborhood Watch concept to Safety Watch and implementation of the Citation Jacket to explain the necessity and importance of traffic law enforcement

Chief Ball was instrumental in the development and nationwide presentation of the Police Fleet Safety—Occupant Protection Risk Management program, promoting safety within law enforcement agencies and seat-belt usage, and in the birth and development of the IACP National Chiefs’ Challenge program.

Larry Ball has injected highway safety into every position he has held, has saved an untold number of lives through the programs he actively has initiated and supported, has given law enforcement myriad “firsts” in highway safety, and truly embodies the lifetime contribution which the J. Stannard Baker Award for Highway Safety recognizes.