



*Oregon Department of Transportation*

# NEWS RELEASE

## Transportation Safety Division

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### **Oregon traffic safety advocates, law officers honored**

The life-saving contributions of several Oregon law enforcement officers and safety advocates and organizations were honored this fall in the 2006 Oregon Transportation Safety Awards.

The winners, selected by the ACTS Oregon and the Oregon Department of Transportation Safety Division, were honored at the annual Oregon Transportation Safety Conference at the end of September in Redmond.

These individuals and organizations received awards for community safety efforts:

- Glendale Traffic Safety Committee, youth projects
- Douglas County Communities Aligned to Prevent Substance Abuse, youth projects
- Jim Silence, Malheur County Traffic Safety Commission, local safety hero
- Randy Repp, Josephine County Traffic Safety Committee, local traffic safety hero
- Kevin Loveland, Loveland Funeral Chapel, leadership in community traffic safety organization
- Kelly Pierce, Astoria High School, educational outreach – individual
- Chief Rob Nou, Burns, leadership in community traffic safety – individual
- Sgt. Paul Steigleder, Clackamas County Sheriff, legislative advocacy
- Jefferson Fire District, educational outreach – organization
- Ontario High School KOHS Radio, media outreach – organization
- Stan Swo9l, KZZR Radio, Burns, media outreach – individual
- Lt. David Still, Corvallis Fire Department, child injury prevention
- Scott Batson, City of Portland, engineering projects

And these law enforcement officers received “Looking Beyond the Traffic Ticket” awards:

- Senior Trooper Yvette Shephard, Oregon State Police Portland office, routine stop
- Trooper Jason Lindland, OSP Portland, routine stop
- Senior Trooper Anthony Atkins, OSP Patrol Services Division, routing stop
- Trooper Josh Quick, OSP's Grants Pass, routine stop
- Sgt. Dace Cochran, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, routine stop
- Office Jason Becker, Medford Police Department, routine stop
- Officer John Myers, Portland Police Bureau, best in-car video
- Deputy Jason Denton, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, safety advocate
- Officer Anthony Bastinelli, Beaverton Police Department, dangerous driver
- Officer Jason Buelt, Beaverton Police Department, safety advocate

For more information on the community awards, contact Walt McAllister, ODOT Transportation Safety Division, at 503-986-4187 or [walter.j.mcallister@odot.state.or.us](mailto:walter.j.mcallister@odot.state.or.us). For more information on the "Looking Beyond the Traffic Ticket" awards, contact Steve Vitolo, law enforcement program coordinator at the Transportation Safety Division, at 503-986-4446 or [steve.d.vitolo@odot.state.or.us](mailto:steve.d.vitolo@odot.state.or.us). Or visit [www.Oregon.gov/ODOT/TS](http://www.Oregon.gov/ODOT/TS) or visit [www.ACTSOregon.org](http://www.ACTSOregon.org).

Here are details of the 2006 Oregon Transportation Safety Conference community awards:

- The newly formed Glendale Traffic Safety Committee was honored for recognizing that children were not wearing helmets in activities. They launched a program through City Hall and schools to reward children seen wearing a helmet with a give-away and entry into a contest for a larger prize.
- The Douglas County Communities Aligned to Prevent Substance Abuse was recognized for its "Truth, Lies and Videotape" youth project. Students created their own video public service announcements on alcohol and drug abuse.
- Jim Silence was honored for his continued participation in the Malheur County Traffic Safety Commission despite having retired in 2004 after 35 years with the Malheur County Road Department. The community will miss Silence, who died of cancer early in 2006, the commission said.

- Randy Repp was honored for his role in the Josephine County Traffic Safety Committee's safety media campaign after his 18-year-old daughter was killed in a car crash on US 199. Repp and his wife, Shannon, helped raise public awareness about safe travel in the Redwood Highway Safety Corridor.
- Kevin Loveland of Loveland Funeral Chapel was honored for establishing a designated-driver service for holidays and other times of increased alcohol consumption in Union County. In addition to providing the service, he also speaks to high school students about the death of his best friend from drinking and driving.
- Astoria High School senior Kelly Pierce was honored for investing over 700 hours in developing and presenting an elaborate DUII fatal-crash scenario for the entire Astoria High student body. The re-enactment used real vehicles, emergency responders and student actors.
- Burns Police Chief Rob Nou was recognized for 25 years in law enforcement as a safety advocate, including membership in the Law Enforcement in Traffic Safety (LETS) Committee for 10 years. He was heavily involved in the Highway 18 Safety Corridor project and led the multi-agency traffic team in Yamhill County from 1994 to 2003. As Burns Police chief since 2004, he helped form the Harney County Safe Communities Coalition, which he has led even through serious illness.
- Sgt. Paul Steigleder of the Clackamas County Sheriff's office was recognized for his work on House Bill 2569 in the 2005 Oregon Legislature. The bill exempts law enforcement officers from accident-reporting requirements when using the "pursuit intervention technique" in the performance of law enforcement duties.
- Jefferson Fire District was honored for its 10 years of sponsorship of safety fairs for residents of Marion, Linn and Polk counties. About 40 presenters provide information and safety activities, and the bike rodeo gives out 75 to 100 helmets to children.
- The Ontario High School KOHS Radio program was honored for its initiative in producing traffic safety public service announcements on graduated driver licensing, traffic laws, seatbelt use and DUII prevention.
- Stan Swol of KZZR Radio in Burns was honored for his support of the Harney County Safe Communities Coalition. In addition to promoting the group on air, he also has promoted traffic safety on air, often without cost, with topics such as child seat clinics, bike rodeos and safety belt and pedestrian law enforcement blitzes.

- Lt. David Still of the Corvallis Fire Department was recognized for sponsoring a child passenger safety fitting station on a monthly basis for the past several years. Still devotes several hours each month to the events.
- Scott Batson of the City of Portland was honored for his work in traffic management and calming improvements as lead engineer for Portland's Safe Routes to School program. He developed a model that involves kids, parents, school staff, neighborhoods, the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, Trauma Nurses Talk Tough, ACTS Oregon and other stakeholders to identify traffic safety concerns and potential solutions.

These are the incidents that led to this year's "Looking Beyond the Traffic Ticket" awards:

- OSP Senior Trooper Yvette Shephard was recognized for a March 2006 traffic stop during a DUII-emphasis patrol on St. Patrick's Day. Shephard stopped a vehicle being driven by a possible intoxicated driver. After taking the driver into custody, Shephard located evidence of a suspected ID theft operation. An investigation led to the execution of five search warrants and the seizure of four computers containing numerous identity profiles, the identification of six suspects, and the driver being indicted on 63 counts of ID theft and forgery charges. Shephard, 40, is a 12½-year veteran of OSP and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division at the Portland Area Command office.
- Trooper Jason Lindland was honored for an April 2006 traffic stop of a driver traveling 100 mph in a 55-mph speed zone. During the stop, Lindland obtained consent to search the vehicle and later a residence. The investigation has led to the seizure of over \$110,000 cash and 1.2 kilograms of heroin. Lindland, 33, is a 6-year veteran of OSP assigned to the Portland Area Command office. For the past two years, Lindland has been a member of the OSP Motorcycle Unit.
- Senior Trooper Anthony Atkins received his award based upon an October 2005 incident on Highway 730 related to a traffic stop for a speeding violation. While contacting the driver, Atkins could smell an overwhelming odor of marijuana. Upon getting out of the car, the driver attempted to flee on foot but was taken into custody after a short distance. A search of the vehicle led to the discovery of 55 marijuana plants, and an investigation led to a search warrant being served in the Kennewick area by the local drug task force. An additional 1,500 plants were seized and additional suspects arrested. Atkins, 36, is a 12½-year veteran of the OSP. He has worked out of the Pendleton office since 1995 and is currently assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

- Trooper Josh Quick was honored based upon an incident that occurred in August 2005 while on patrol near Fruitdale. He observed a safety belt violation, and after initiating a traffic stop, the driver ran from the scene and was not immediately captured. However, two passengers remained with the vehicle. Further investigation resulted in search warrants being obtained and the discovery of 11 firearms, some of which were stolen, body armor, a large amount of methamphetamine, and other drug-related evidence. In addition, the driver was later determined to have local gang connections. Upon trying to locate and arrest the driver, the suspect eluded police in a two-county pursuit that involved a detective's vehicle being rammed, shots fired at troopers, and additional shots being exchanged with SWAT team members at a residence. The driver later was located and taken into custody for kidnapping, assault, manufacturing and distribution of drugs, and weapons charges. The driver was sentenced to nearly 20 years in prison. Quick, 31, is a 7½-year veteran of the OSP assigned to the Patrol Services Division at the Grants Pass work site.
- Sgt. Dace Cochran of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office received his award based on a traffic stop of a car traveling 70 mph in a 55 mph zone. The driver was suspended, and the car was impounded. Upon inventory of the vehicle, a meth pipe and a loaded .45 caliber ammunition clip were found, and the driver was arrested. A passenger was carrying 12 shotgun shells, and further investigation revealed that he was a convicted felon. He was arrested. A search warrant was obtained for the vehicle and the following items were found: two stolen firearms and other property from an unreported burglary. About \$2,400 of \$3,600 in stolen property was recovered, and a total of five suspects were arrested in this case.
- Officer Jason Becker of Medford was honored for an incident in which he observed a male driver run a stop sign. After contacting with the driver, he discovered the driver's license was suspended. Becker inquired about a backpack in the vehicle, and none of the occupants would claim ownership. Becker called for a tow truck due to the driver being suspended. Upon inventory of the vehicle, Becker opened the backpack and observed a large amount of money inside. About \$86,000 in cash was in the backpack, and the occupants were arrested as suspects in several bank robberies in the area.
- Officer Anthony Bastinelli of the Beaverton Police Department earned his honor in his response to a robbery of a convenience store. While en route, he observed two males matching reported descriptions getting into a vehicle quickly and leaving the area. Bastinelli attempted to stop the vehicle and a pursuit ensued. After crashing, the suspects attempted to flee on foot. With the assistance of a K-9, one suspect was apprehended. The second was arrested at a later date in Corvallis. Upon examining the vehicle, it was determined that it was owned by a

homicide victim from Portland. Both suspects were suspects in a carjacking homicide. Due to Bastinelli's diligence, keen eye and response, this event assisted the Portland Police Bureau in linking the suspects to three violent homicide cases in Portland.

- Deputy Jason Denton was honored for his work as a safety advocate for the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. He is a crash reconstructionist; instructor for traffic school, safety belt classes and radar/laser use; and services on a victim-impact panel. In addition to all of his safety advocate duties, Denton regularly spends days on which he has written over 50 citations in a 10-hour shift. He sets the bar high and strives for excellence.
- Officer Jason Buelt of the Beaverton Police Department was honored for his diligence in traffic safety enforcement. In the past three years, he has issued nearly 6,000 citations – 2,200 of those were for seat belt violations. He is a member of the Crash Reconstruction Response Team and a drug recognition expert. He routinely participates in the Stop Kids Intoxicating Driving presentations at high schools. He was recently chosen to teach at the new Student Academy on issues of traffic safety, DUII and crash investigations.
- Officer John Myers of the Portland Police Bureau was honored for best in-car video. He observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. He began to follow and pace the vehicle, then activated his in-car camera to record the incident. Myers paced the car at 90 to 105 mph. He then activated his lights to make a traffic stop and observed the driver lose control of the vehicle, crossing the center and right lanes of traffic and then crashing into the center barrier, nearly striking other motorists. As Myers began to approach the vehicle, the driver backed the vehicle and attempted to flee. After a short pursuit, the driver pulled over to the right side of the road. Myers took the driver into custody, and a sobriety test indicated a blood-alcohol content of 0.18 percent, above Oregon's 0.08 threshold for DUII. The driver was charged with DUII, reckless driving, hit and run property, criminal mischief 2, speeding, following to close, open container of alcohol.

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