**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Gov. Holcomb recognizes top officers for impaired driving enforcement**

*Labor Day Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign announced*

INDIANAPOLIS — Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Executive Director Devon McDonald presented 65 Indiana police officers with the Traffic Safety All-Star Award for working to save lives and put a stop to impaired driving. To qualify, the officer must have made at least 20 OWI arrests and participated in one of the state’s targeted enforcement campaigns during the previous year.

“I couldn’t be more grateful for the work these officers are doing to keep our roads and communities safe,” Gov. Holcomb said. “They’ve demonstrated their commitment day-in and day-out to curb impaired driving, and people are alive today because of their efforts. I want to congratulate these officers on their well-deserved, hard-earned achievement.”

In addition to the 65 officers, three individuals received the Leadership Award for aiding in the fight against impaired driving: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Officer Tim Abrams, Madison County Deputy Prosecutor Pete Beyel and Speedway Police Department Sergeant Mark Morgan, who recently passed away due to cancer.

In total, the officers recognized made 3,163 OWI arrests across Indiana in 2020.

The recipients were nominated by their departments as some of the top officers for OWI enforcement. In addition to their normal patrols, they often worked overtime picking up extra shifts during state and national enforcement periods – one of which is kicking off today: the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* mobilization.

Now until Labor Day, more than 200 police agencies throughout the state will be increasing patrols and cracking down on drunk driving, which claims the lives of more than 10,000 people every year in the U.S. That’s approximately one person every 52 minutes or 28 per day, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In Indiana, drunk driving has been on the rise. Of the 898 traffic fatalities that occurred last year in the state, 151, or 17 percent, were alcohol related. That’s up from 130 in 2019. During Labor Day weekend alone, there were 12 fatal collisions with one involving a driver over the legal limit.

“Impaired driving continues to take a terrible toll on our state and nation,” McDonald said. “While these overtime patrols are effective and will undoubtedly save lives, we can’t enforce our way out of this issue. It’s up to everyone to drive sober and make smart choices behind the wheel.”

In Indiana, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher. In addition, drivers under 21 with a BAC of .02 or higher are subject to fines and a license suspension for up to one year. Consequences of impaired driving can include thousands of dollars in legal fees, increased insurance rates, loss of license, a criminal record and possible jail time.

To avoid those, plan a safe and sober ride home before going out. Even if only one drink is consumed, designate a sober driver or plan to use a rideshare service, public transportation or taxi. Motorists that encounter a drunk driver on the road are encouraged to call 911.

The following list includes the 2021 Traffic Safety All-Star award recipients, who were recognized during a ceremony at Victory Field in Indianapolis.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Officer** | **Agency** | **DUI Arrests** | **JPG** |
| Bartholomew  | Grant Carlson | Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office | 26 |   |
| Cass | Jacqueline Beebout | Cass County Sheriff's Office | 21 |   |
| Clark | Derek Whitmer | Clark County Sheriff's Department | 22 |   |
| Clark | Bradley Jones | Clark County Sheriff's Department | 24 |   |
| Clark | Justin Mears | Indiana State Police (Sellersburg District) | 110 |   |
| Dearborn | Austin Boggs | Greendale Police Department | 44 |   |
| Decatur | Brandon Meyer | Greensburg Police Department | 52 |   |
| Delaware | Kristopher Duncan | Muncie Police Department | 22 |   |
| Delaware | Kyle Temple | Muncie Police Department | 27 |   |
| Elkhart | Jamie Sterling | Elkhart County Sheriff's Office | 27 |   |
| Elkhart | James Bradberry Jr. | Elkhart County Sheriff's Office | 33 |   |
| Elkhart | Austin Everage | Goshen Police Department | 27 |   |
| Gibson | Uriah Smith | Gibson County Sheriff's Office | 24 |   |
| Grant | Josh Treon | Grant County Sheriff's Department | 21 |   |
| Hancock | Richard Vanosdol | Hancock County Sheriff's Department | 20 |   |
| Hancock | Shawn Brady | New Palenstine Police Department | 27 |   |
| Hendricks | Nick Pugliese | Brownsburg Police Department | 20 |   |
| Hendricks | Anthony Southern | Danville Police Department  | 25 |   |
| Hendricks | Travis Wilson  | Danville Police Department  | 50 |   |
| Hendricks | Tony Goodpaster | Hendricks County Sheriff's Department | 25 |   |
| Hendricks | Jacob Hayn | Hendricks County Sheriff's Department | 28 |   |
| Hendricks | Travis Kahl | Hendricks County Sheriff's Department | 30 |   |
| Hendricks | Michael Taylor | Plainfield Police Department | 25 |   |
| Henry | James E. Nicholson | New Castle Police Department | 26 |   |
| Huntington | Cody Jones | Huntington County Sheriff's Department | 20 |   |
| Johnson | Robert Crocker | Edinburgh Police Department | 32 |   |
| Johnson | Dillon Dallas | Johnson County Sheriff's Office | 28 |   |
| Lake | Aaron Crawford  | Lowell Police Department  | 74 |   |
| Lake | Israel Rosillo | Indiana State Police (Lowell District) | 95 |   |
| Lake | Dennis Griffin | Indiana State Police (Lowell District) | 96 |   |
| LaPorte | Austin Wells | LaPorte County Sheriff's Department | 24 |   |
| LaPorte | Daniel Revoir | Michigan City Police Department | 34 |   |
| Madison | Tyler Irwin | Elwood Police Department | 25 |   |
| Marion | Erica Eder | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 21 |   |
| Marion | William Miller | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 21 |   |
| Marion | Randall Burns | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 24 |   |
| Marion | Kenneth Owen | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 27 |   |
| Marion | Justin Baker | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 29 |   |
| Marion | Abdessamed Boudaia | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 30 |   |
| Marion | John Keough | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 30 |   |
| Marion | Clayton Portell | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 30 |   |
| Marion | Henry Turner | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 30 |   |
| Marion | Ryan Bowersox | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 34 |   |
| Marion | Jerry Leary | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 39 |   |
| Marion | Jalen Christian-Moss | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 41 |   |
| Marion | Donald Weilhamer | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 42 |   |
| Marion | Michael DeHart | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 44 |   |
| Marion | Mark McCardia | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 51 |   |
| Marion | Zachary Foster | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 66 |   |
| Marion | Albert Teaters | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 68 |   |
| Marion | Duran Brown | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 89 |   |
| Marion | Adam Jones | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 95 |   |
| Marion | Jaime Thorn | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 125 |   |
| Marion | Craig Wildauer | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 167 |   |
| Marion | Curtis Johnson | Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department | 313 |   |
| Marion | Karl Brown | Speedway Police Department | 67 |   |
| Marshall | Jerrid Arnold | Plymouth City Police Department | 28 |   |
| Marshall | Mick Dockery | Indiana State Police (Bremen District) | 154 |   |
| Marshall | Benjamin Beers | Indiana State Police (Bremen District) | 103 |   |
| Monroe | Leland Hutchens | Monroe County Sheriff's Department | 64 |   |
| Noble | Carey Coney | Noble County Sheriff's Department | 26 |   |
| Porter | Austin A. Haynes | Burns Harbor Police Department | 22 |   |
| Vermillion | Brandon Mahady | City of Clinton Police Department | 29 |   |
| Vigo | Andrew Thomas | Vigo County Sheriff's Department | 24 |   |
| Wayne | Julia Ridgeway | Richmond City Police Department | 46 |   |

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