

Spring/Summer
2005

Carson Whitlow Retires

NEW SPEED LIMIT



Iowa Department
of Public Safety



July 1, 2005 the speed limit on Iowa's Interstates was raised to 70 miles per hour.

Safety analysts have found that traffic deaths have risen in all of Iowa's neighboring states where posted speeds have been raised to 70 or 75 mph over the past decade. With this in mind, the GTSB is strongly emphasizing the need to always wear seat belts to minimize the increase in deaths on Iowa's highways.

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Carson Whitlow of the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau staff, retired May 31, 2005 after 17 years with the Bureau and 31 years with the State of Iowa.

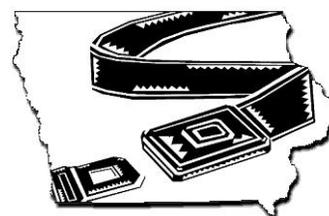
While with the GTSB, Carson was the State Program Administrator, responsible for developing state-level programs concerning traffic safety. He served as legislative resource person for the Bureau and assisted the Bureau Chief in the operational activities of the Bureau. He facilitated the yearly GTSB conference and specialized training workshops and coordinated the Bureau's State Fair Booth.

Prior to his years with GTSB, Carson worked at the Department of Public Health for 14 years. He last served Public Health as the Chief of the Bureau of Vital Records and Statistics.

A retirement reception was held for Carson in the Wallace Building Fourth Floor Conference Room May 31, 2005. Commissioner Techau presented him with a "Certificate of Appreciation" for his dedicated efforts.

Carson states he is only retiring from State Employment as he will be kept busy with his Orchid business and his wife's miniature furniture enterprise. We all give Carson our best wishes on his retirement endeavors.

Buckle Up Iowa



Every Trip - Every Time

sSTEP Waves
2005

July 2-5
August 19 - September 5

Iowa seat belt use	86%
Goal	95%
Midwest ranking	# 2
U.S. Ranking	# 12

Calendar

July 2-5, 2005
sSTEP Wave

August 11-21
Iowa State Fair

**August 19-
September 5,
2005**
sSTEP Wave

**August 19-
September 5**
"You Drink &
Drive, You
Lose" National
Crackdown

**September 12
– 23, 2005**
DRE Training
School, Ames

**November 21-
27**
sSTEP Wave

**November 23-
27**
C.A.R.E.
Thanksgiving
Weekend

**December 1-
31**
National Drunk
and Driving
(3D)
Prevention
Month

**December 16-
18**
C.A.R.E.
Lifesaver
Weekend



Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and Commissioner Kevin W. Techau at the Iowa Laboratories Facility Ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house



New sSTEP Coordinator
Randy Hunefeld

Randy Hunefeld joins the staff of the GTSB as a promotion from the Department of Public Safety Intelligence Bureau. He has been with the Department for 5 years and was previously employed with the West Des Moines Police Department for 12 years as a Senior Police Officer/Detective. Randy is a graduate of Mankato State University.

CrossRoads

Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor
Kevin W. Techau, Commissioner,
Iowa Department of Public Safety
J. Michael Laski, Director
Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau
Wendie S. Nerem, Editor

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We welcome article submissions and ideas pertaining to traffic safety.

Visit our web site at: www.iowagtsb.org.
The latest issue of *CrossRoads* may be viewed in color at:
<http://iowagtsb.org/gtsbcrsr.pdf>
Back issues of *CrossRoads* may be viewed from links at:
<http://www.infoiowa.state.ia.us/DPS/index.htm>

Schedule for 2005 Corridor Projects

Multi-agency traffic enforcement efforts facilitated by the GTSB

Operation TNT

IA 2 to IA 92 & US 34 area

Planning meeting held 04/25/2005 at Osceola,
04/26/2005 at Red Oak and 04/27/2005 at Fairfield
Successful event held 05/26/2005

US 61 HEAT

Planning meeting held 05/18/2005 at Muscatine
Holiday Inn
Successful event held 06/02/2005

Operation Double Aught

Planning meetings to be held 07/19/2005 at Center
Point/Urbana and 07/21/2005 at Lake City
Event to be held 08/04/2005

Operation Northern Lights

IA 3 to IA 9 & US 18 area
Planning meetings to be announced
Event to be announced

Operation I's I-35, I-80 & I-29

Planning meetings to be announced – will be held at
Clear Lake Best Western Holiday Lodge, Osceola
Lakeside Conference Center, the Pottawattamie
County area I-29 or I-80, Johnson County area I-80
and Central Iowa area
Event to be held September 1

The schedule for corridor and cooperative
enforcement projects for 2005 is filling and
progressing as the year passes.

The planning meetings have been well attended.
Both veteran participants and first time partners have
joined in the problem review and planning process
that leads up to what have always been very
successful events. The proposed agenda of projects
for this year will again encourage and allow for
participation from local law enforcement in all 99 of
Iowa's counties. It is this concept of mutual aid and
cooperation demonstrated in the traffic safety and
enforcement venue that sets Iowa apart and above
most of the U.S. in achieving credible highway safety
results.

Southern Iowa's Operation TNT was another amazing
success with activity stretched across 31 counties and
all local roads near highways US 34, Iowa 92 & IA 2.

US 61 in eastern Iowa was again targeted for 61
HEAT. This event is just one of several cooperative
projects joined in each year by agencies in that
region. The success and recognition of the Highway
Enforcement Action Team speaks volumes for the
efforts of agencies participating.

Operation Double Aught, including all counties
along and encompassed by US 20 and US 30 is
being planned for early August.

Operation I's covering the interstates is scheduled
for its traditional Thursday before Labor Day. The
2005 project on September 1 is shaping up to again
be multi-state and may well run from Duluth, MN to
Laredo, TX, as it has for several years. It's Iowa's
leadership that anchors this tremendous six state
effort.

Northern Lights will again be encouraged for a
project across the breadth of north Iowa and all
counties that share US 18, IA 2 or IA 9.

All these events are important parts of the traffic
safety effort in Iowa. It is intended to have these
projects scheduled so as to bring the enforcement
message, especially seat belt compliance, home to
Iowa motorists in an ongoing & consistent fashion.

Bob Rushing, GTSB
Iowa Law Enforcement Liaison
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Message from the sSTEP Coordinator

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the
sSTEP Contractors and volunteer agencies who
participated in the May 23 - June 5, 2005 sSTEP
wave. The results that have been compiled show
25,532 traffic contacts, 50 felony arrests, 175
narcotics arrests and 255 arrest warrants were
served. These results are from 181 agencies.
Congratulations on a job well done! Keep up the
good work, you all are making a difference in
saving lives.

Randy Hunefeld
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The National Highway Traffic Safety Public Service Award for 2005



The National Highway Traffic Safety Public Service Award for 2005, the highest award given by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), was presented by Brian McLaughlin, Senior Associate Administrator, Traffic Injury Control, NHTSA, to the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau March 28, 2005 at the Governor's Traffic Safety Conference. The award is in recognition of Iowa's exemplary highway safety programs in Safety Belts; Impaired Driving; Traffic Records and Police Traffic Services, which helped the state achieve the lowest traffic fatalities in 59 years.

Kevin W. Techau, Commissioner, Iowa Department of Public Safety; Mike Laski, Director, Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau; Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of Iowa; Brian McLaughlin, Senior Associate Administrator, Traffic Injury Control, NHTSA



GTSB Staff: Carson Whitlow, Bob Rushing, Adam Buck, Mike Laski, Commissioner Kevin W. Techau, Brian McLaughlin, Lu Simpson, Sandy Bennett, Shelley DeForest, Wendie Nerem, Ihla Hochstetler, Denny Becker and Bob Thompson

The Kip Hayward Award



Mike Laski, Director, Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, Denny Becker, Iowa Drug Evaluation and Classification Program Administrator; and Officer Tom Gill of the Sioux City Police Department.

Officer Tom Gill of the Sioux City Police Department was nominated by Sergeant Rex Mueller. Drug Recognition Experts chose Officer Gill for the Kip Hayward Award from a field of qualified nominees. Officer Gill has demonstrated an excellent work ethic in his quest to get impaired drivers off the road and to educate local law enforcement and the general public in the area of traffic safety. Since his appointment to the department's Alcohol Safety Action Program in 2002 Officer Gill has processed and arrested over 600 impaired drivers. In 2004, he arrested 216 drivers for operating while intoxicated and processed 9 underage persons for .02 administrative violations. His dedication and commitment to traffic safety issues has enabled him to remove a large number of impaired traffic offenders from the streets and to provide safer roads for all.

Commissioner's Special Award for Traffic Safety

The Commissioner's Special Award for Traffic Safety was presented at the 2005 Governor's Highway Traffic Safety Conference March 31, 2005.



Law enforcement recipients are Officer Creighton Regenwether; Davenport PD, Officer Tyler T. Tompkins; Johnston PD; Sergeant Tom Stahowick, Polk Co SO; Officer Allen D. Ludeking, Decorah PD; Assistant Attorney General Darrel Mullins, Office of the Attorney General; Officer Dustin G. Bjornson, Polk City Police Department, Detective Joseph P. Siembieda, Johnston PD; James Bleskacek, Criminalist, Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalists Laboratory; Department of Public Safety; Officer David Schultz, Ames Police Department

Officer Creighton Regenwether, Davenport PD, an enthusiastic and self-motivated police officer who is especially interested in traffic enforcement. He is always looking for that traffic violation that may turn into an OWI, drug arrest or wanted person. Creighton is one of the top officers for OWI arrests in the department.

Officer Tyler T. Tompkins, Johnston PD, is an aggressive traffic enforcement officer with over 16 OWIs and 725 traffic citations in 2004. He is very professional in his demeanor and a credit not only to the Johnston Police Department, but to all law enforcement officers in the State of Iowa.

Sergeant Tom Stahowick, Polk County Sheriff's Office, has demonstrated a strong commitment and leadership in traffic safety in Polk County. As chair of the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force, enforcement projects were increased to four a year. He facilitated 28E agreements for the Task Force and was instrumental in the inclusion of all Polk County agencies in the Task Force. In addition, he oversees daily planning and project management for the Polk County Sheriff's Office, resulting in dramatic increases in traffic enforcement activities.

Officer Allen D. Ludeking, Decorah PD, who has served the Decorah Police Department since 1991. He has had a strong interest in reducing impaired driving in the community and his enforcement efforts are a testimony to that. Allen is also a certified Drug Recognition Expert, conducting over 60 evaluations. He is a certified Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals instructor and has conducted over 106 hours of training.

Attorney General Thomas J. Miller who was unable to attend, and **Assistant Attorney General Darrel Mullins** Attorney General Tom Miller has a long history of promoting traffic safety issues. Thus, it was not out of character for him to seek a review by the United States Supreme Court in the case of Iowa vs. Tovar, one which Assistant AG Mullins had identified as having far-reaching implications on the effectiveness and enforcement of OWI laws if not reversed. Against great odds, the highest court

in the land agreed to hear the case. Through the efforts of Assistant AG Mullins, and with the support and guidance of Attorney Miller, the case was heard and overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Officer Dustin G. Bjornson, Polk City Police Dept., who has made a real impact in the Polk City community by reaching children and parents. Dustin was instrumental in the presentation of the Every 15 Minutes program at North Polk Jr. and Sr. high, educating students about the real world consequences of impaired driving. He is also active in the community's summer youth program and serves as a certified child safety seat technician.

Detective Joseph P. Siembieda, Johnston PD, is an excellent traffic enforcement officer as well as an accident investigator. Though assigned in September to the detective position, his January to September traffic safety enforcement efforts were significant. With minimal assistance, he investigated his second fatality and, through his efforts and accurate detail, the suspect in the case plead guilty to Vehicular Homicide charges.

James Bleskacek, Criminalist, DCI Laboratory, played a critical role in the installation and law enforcement training with the DataMaster evidentiary breath test instruments. His work established the margin of error for the DataMaster, a critical step in establishing the acceptance of this instrument by the courts throughout the state.

Officer David Schultz, Ames PD, has shown leadership in traffic safety by vigorously enforcing city and state statutes. He has lead the efforts in using TraCS data for traffic enforcement in high accident areas, is an expert in instructing fellow officers on the procedures and rules involving OWI, and has been involved in McGruf the Crime Dog and other traffic safety presentations in the community. He presents a positive image and continues to be a vigorous advocate of traffic safety.

Commissioner's Special Award for Traffic Safety

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Health Professionals, Business, Children & Youth Advocate recipients are Clinton Police Academy of Clinton accepted by Travis Winter, President; Farmland of Carroll, Iowa accepted by Shaun Burley, Supervisor and Michelle Shook, Human Resources Manager; Blood Center of Iowa accepted by Sheri Vohs, President; Waverly-Shell Rock High School, DECCA Chapter accepted by Carol Meyers, Teacher, Jessica Ballweg and Megan Englin, students; George A. Reinkens, Jr. Norseman Trucking, Lake Mills; and John Rusnak, Fareway Stores of Iowa, Boone.

Citizen Police Academy Alumni of Clinton

Iowa accepted by Travis Winter, President, consists of approximately 70 members. Through their efforts, they have sponsored a free Child Safety Seat inspection, assisted the Clinton Police Department in conducting seat belt surveys, and were instrumental in getting the community a radar trailer. They provide strong support for highway safety efforts in the community.

Farmland of Carroll, Iowa accepted by Michelle Shook, Human Resource Manager, has increased the use of seat belts to 100%. This has been accomplished through a continued campaign using poster, video presentations, surveys, safety presentations and the "crash dummies" costumes. The company has shown a serious commitment to employee safety, both on and off the job, and continues to work toward a zero injury goal.

Blood Center of Iowa accepted by Sheri Vohs, President. Since undertaking the contracts to supply blood to hospitals, Sheri and the Blood Center have significantly reduced the need for "emergency blood runs" by Iowa State Patrol officers. This frees Troopers from the time spent on this to focus on other needed duties. Moreover, sufficient supplies of blood are immediately available at the hospitals when needed.

Waverly-Shell Rock High School, DECCA

Chapter - Accepted by Carol Meyers, Teacher and Megan Englin and Jessica Ballweg – Students. This group undertook a project they called "Drive for Tomorrow." They took two traffic tragedies that occurred in their community and utilized them as educational tools for safe driving. They developed a DVD which was shown in a local theatre and has been made available for distribution. They designed and placed a billboard on US 218, undertook a "black ribbon" program to remind people of the senseless deaths, and have given presentations to grades 6-12 in Tripoli, a town near Waverly.

George A. Riekens, Jr., Norsemen Trucking, is the Safety Director for the firm. He accepted a number of the "Buckle Up America" adhesive banners and had them placed on their trailers at eye level for any driver following the trailers. This was a meaningful adaptation of presenting the banner, making it readily seen by other drivers.

John Rusnak, Fareway Stores of Iowa, supervises over 90 drivers for Fareway Stores and provides safety updates and refreshers to all drivers on a regular basis. According to officials from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, drivers under his supervision have, over the years, established an exemplary safety record.

Commissioner's Special Award for Traffic Safety

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Individual recipients are Frank F. Redeker; Iowa Department of Transportation; Sergeant Russell Morey; Iowa State Patrol; Susan Grove, Tri-State DWI/DUI Victim Impact Panel, Sioux City, IA; Officer John Jason Pace, Dubuque Police Department; Terry Dillinger, Iowa Department of Transportation; Betsy Dittimore, Legislative Liaison, Iowa Department of Public Safety (retired); Jeff Poulter, UPS of Central Iowa; Katrina Altenhofen, Iowa Department of Public Health; Senator David Johnson, Iowa State Senate, Senate District 3, Osceola

Officer Frank F. Redeker, Traffic Technician, Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and **Sergeant Russell Morey**, Iowa State Patrol. When the State Patrol decided to run a speed team to concentrate on high violation areas in District 13, Sgt. Morey came up with an idea of evaluating their efforts. He contacted Frank Redeker at the DOT and worked out a plan to place portable traffic analyzers before and after the enforcement activity at the three locations selected. In so doing, the success of the projects was well documented and it is one of the first times this evaluative approach has been undertaken in the state.

Susan Grove, Director, Tri-State DWI/DUI Victim Impact Panel. Following the death of her husband by a drunken driver, Susan set out to illustrate the pain and suffering which those left behind suffer when losing their loved ones. On her own and with her own funds, she set up the Tri-State DWI/DUI Victim Impact Panel. This organization arranges for panels to present their loss to offenders of drunk driving laws, often ordered there by the judiciary, as a means to reduce further offenses.

Officer John Pace, Dubuque PD. Since the time he joined the Department in 2001, Officer Pace has been among the agency's leaders in OWI arrests and apprehension of suspended drivers. In 2004, his traffic stops ultimately resulted in the destruction of 3 meth labs and the arrest of several suspects.

Terry Dillinger, Director, Iowa Department of Transportation, Office of Drivers Services, championed the development of Iowa's TraCS system, a state-of-the-art computer system which

enabled law enforcement officers to capture crash and citation data electronically. The system, now known throughout the United States as the National Model, is utilized in 26 other states and two Canadian provinces.

Betsy Dittimore, Legislative Liaison, Public Safety (retired) a strong and consistent advocate for highway safety who played an important role in the passage of several key highway safety bills relating to zero-tolerance, .08 blood alcohol level, and the strengthening of Iowa's child passenger safety laws. Thanks to Betsy's effort, Iowa qualified for over \$5 million in alcohol program funds.

Jeff Poulter, Compliance Manager, United Parcel Service, who is responsible for the safety performance of over 800 drivers. Under his leadership, UPS was a charter member of the Iowa Deer-Vehicle Collision Task Force and a major user of the "Don't Veer for Deer" brochure for his drivers. They provided considerable support for the development and distribution of the "Don't Veer for Deer" video.

Katrina Altenhofen, Bureau of EMS, Dept. of Public Health, a strong proponent for child safety and protection, donated many hours to safety efforts throughout the state. Katrina is a certified child safety seat inspector and committed to providing Iowans with the information necessary to protect their children.

Senator David Johnson, Iowa State Senate, who from 2002 through 2004, worked tirelessly to strengthen Iowa's child passenger safety law. His strong leadership resulted in the passage last session of an amended, stronger law for protecting our children in motor vehicles.

The following individuals, who were unable to attend the conference, received awards at a later date:

Chief Robert Cox, Clive Police Department, who has been a very strong advocate for highway safety - In addition to playing an active role in the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force, he has provided officers to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy to train other officers in the areas of occupant protection, field sobriety, radar/lidar instruction and child passenger safety. He also established a special unit for bar checks to reduce negative consequences which result from impaired driving.

Tina R. Heeren, Event Coordinator, Band-4-Bandz, Waterloo, developed the concept of a music festival to promote and support National Alcohol Awareness Month through live music. Events included educational venues as well as music provided by seven different bands. The emphasis was on responsible drinking and designated drivers. This event, which began in Waterloo, was so successful that it has been expanded and now covers a number of communities.

Tom W. Fuller, Fuller Standard Service, Tom has always been receptive to having traffic safety messages posted at his service station, even providing handout materials on his own. He is continually supportive of traffic safety efforts.

Article Submissions

To submit articles for the CrossRoads Publication send to Wendie Nerem, Editor, Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0248, FAX 515-281-6190 or e-mail to nerem@dps.state.ia.us.

Be sure to indicate that you would like to have the article published in the CrossRoads.

If you have any comments or questions contact Wendie Nerem at 515-281-5430.

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