

SOUTH JERSEY TRAFFIC SAFETY ALLIANCE

2005 Awards Program

The 2005 Awards Program is dedicated to Lieutenant Louis Raniszewski, one of the Alliance's original Executive Board Members.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Lieutenant Louis Raniszewski

Lt Lou Raniszewski served nearly 45 years in law enforcement. He began his career in 1960 as a summer police officer at the Wildwood Police Department on scooter patrol. During his rise up the ranks, Raniszewski was an early driving force for many programs still underway, including fingerprinting and impaired driving education. After retiring from Wildwood in 1990, Raniszewski joined the Cape May County Sheriff's Office as the Work Release Administrator. This gave Lou the opportunity to help those who had committed Crimes but were trying to rehabilitate. He continued to be involved with traffic safety and crime prevention programs, even dressing up as Officer McGruff when needed. He also took it upon himself to fill a need in the community by collecting clothing and old eyeglasses.

As an Executive Board Member, Lt Raniszewski is credited with heading up the on-going Buckle Up Stencil Program. In Cape May County, he was instrumental in starting the Boost America and Bounty Campaigns, and in developing the Delaware River and Bay Authority partnership. Most recently he helped establish the Cape May County Monthly Fitting Station for child safety seats.

Sadly, Lt Raniszewski passed away May 18, 2005, only a day after attending the Alliance's General Membership Meeting. He will be greatly missed.



EDUCATION



Barbi Harris, RN

As a pediatric nurse with emergency room experience, Ms. Harris knows the importance of injury prevention. After being certified as a child safety seat technician, she began hosting events and educating parents. She trained the nursery and neonatal nurses at her hospital and developed a one hour in-service program for rescue squad personnel on transporting children in ambulances.

Ms. Harris also visits schools, partnering with the school nurses, to address bike, pedestrian and water safety with the younger children and seat belt use, impaired driving and drug abuse with high school students. To date, Barbi estimates she has presented Dying High in the ER, a lesson on what a teen can expect to experience in an emergency room after experimenting with binge drinking, substance abuse or impaired driving, to over 1,800 students.

Ms. Harris founded SAFE KIDS of Atlantic and Cape May Counties, under the auspices of the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, in 2003. SAFE KIDS chapters focus on preventing accidental injuries to children ages 14 and under.

ENGINEERING



Wildwood Crest Police Department

Crest Memorial School Project

In the Spring of 2005, the Wildwood Crest Police Department instituted a new traffic pattern for drivers and students at the Crest Memorial School. The K-8 school has 330 children and no school bus transportation, creating a traffic and safety nightmare before and after school.

The project included painting islands and using standard movable traffic cones to funnel vehicles picking up or dropping off students into one lane of traffic in each direction. New crosswalks were painted so that students would cross at the intersections. Prior to implementation, the Department organized a parent notification program and included reminders in the school's weekly newsletter.

The result, traffic flows smoothly through the pick up and drop off zones, and children have clearly marked places where they are to walk and to wait.

PLANNING



Salem Main Street

A program of Stand Up for Salem, Inc.

Both Market Street and Broadway are NJ State Highways that intersect in downtown Salem City creating a hazardous crossing for pedestrians. Working with professional transportation, environmental and urban planners, the volunteers of the Salem Main Street Program were able to create a plan with pedestrian friendly streets, crosswalks and medians.

Specifically, travel lanes on Market Street and Broadway are proposed to be set at a standard width of twelve feet with eight foot wide parallel parking spaces. All intersections and mid-block locations are designed with sidewalk "bulb-outs" and in most locations there will be an eight foot median.

Along the main retail section of Broadway, between Fifth and Seventh Streets, the Plan provides for back-in angled parking, regarded as the safer street parking approach.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS



Bennett Chevrolet

Monthly Fitting Station
2nd Saturday
11 am – 2 pm

In the Spring of 2004, Bennett Chevrolet began hosting a monthly fitting station the second Saturday of each month from 11 AM to 2 PM. In addition to providing secure storage for supplies and garage bays during inclement weather, the sales and service teams have embraced the program, regularly referring their clients.

Teaming up with SAFE KIDS and the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office to provide this service reflects Bennett Chevrolet's commitment to the community. Plans for enhancing the fitting station include a banner and promoting the program at the end of their radio advertising.

A Fitting Station is an established location, with specific times and dates, when certified child safety seat technicians are on hand to check the installation of child safety seats.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS



Debbie and Nelson Albano

Michael's Law and the FATAL program.

Effective 1/10/04, Michael's Law requires a person who commits a third or subsequent DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) offense to serve a 180 day prison term. It is named after Debbie and Nelson's son who was killed by a drunk driver who had numerous drinking and driving violations.

Debbie and Nelson Albano also travel to local high schools telling their story in an effort to keep teenagers from drinking and driving. During 2004 and 2005 it is estimated that the Albanos addressed over 3,500 students as part of a team of presenters making up the FATAL Program (Facts About Traffic Accident and Loss), sponsored by the Cumberland County Traffic Safety Program.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS



Sergeant Charley Simonson

Traffic Safety Trailer

Recognizing the need for increased traffic safety outreach in Ocean City, Sgt Simonson decided to try something new. He reached out to local civic groups and business owners and explained to them the importance of traffic safety education for the residents and visitors.

The most visible product of this new partnership is a traffic safety trailer. Now seen all over Ocean City, the trailer itself is a mobile message board with changeable panels. Outfitted with lights, a sound system, and generator, the trailer works to promote traffic safety 24 hours a day.

As an added bonus, the trailer provides storage for safety items, such as bicycle spoke reflectors, horns, lights, and tee shirts distributed at parades and other public events.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Cape May Fire Police Station 52

Cape May Fire Police Station 52 is a nine-man volunteer organization established in May of 2004 to support and assist the Cape May City Police Department and other emergency personnel. They answer calls for traffic safety services, ranging from traffic posts for parades to serious motor vehicle crashes, structure fires and weather related incidents. The ability to handle these calls frees up local police officers and other emergency personnel to carry out other necessary tasks that would have otherwise been delayed.

Having proven to be a vital part of traffic safety for the City of Cape May, Station 52 recently expanded their area of responsibility to assist the West Cape May and Cape May Point communities.

Above: Captain Neils Favre, Lt Skip Loughlin, and Officer Jim Wyatt accept the award.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Lieutenant Barry Wythe

Executive Board Member 2000-2005 Chairman, 2002 and 2003

Retiring July 1, 2005, Lt Barry Wythe leaves the Alliance with the distinction of being one of the original board members.

As a board member, Lt Wythe provided direction and set policy. His ability to stay focused and on point are why his fellow board members elected him chairperson for the two year period.

Lt Wythe retires with 26 years in law enforcement. The first 14 were spent in the traffic unit at the Egg Harbor Twp Police Department. In 1993, he joined the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, heading up the County's Fatal Collision Investigations Unit.

Above: Wythe thanks Bonnie Loymer for her work with the Salem County United Way.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Corporal Michael Bernard

Executive Board Member 2000-2005

Corporal Michael Bernard retired July 1, 2005, resigning from the Alliance's Board where he served as an original board member.

During his tenure on the Board, Bernard pushed for bike safety programs, hosted the defensive driving course and set up booths at local community events, distributing safety items and brochures.

Corporal Bernard retires with 31 years of service with the Lower Alloway Creek Police Department. He was their Traffic Officer, Radar Instructor, Exposure Control Officer, Emergency Worker Trainer and Work Zone Safety Officer.

Above: Bernard poses with SJTSA Program Manager Teresa Thomas while inducting a family into the Saved By The Seat Belt Club.