

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AWARDS**

**PATROLMAN BRIAN MILLER** of the Malone Police Department. The Malone Police Department is a small department that does not have officers specifically assigned for DWI or traffic enforcement. All officers are assigned to regular patrol duties relative to calls for services, investigations and follow-up, arrests and court time. And all officers work rotating shifts. With that duty and work schedule Officer Miller has consistently been the top DWI arresting officer. He is trained in ARIDE, SFST and is a certified law enforcement training instructor. He also recently certified as a DRE. The Franklin County Traffic Safety Board has recognized Officer Miller for his DWI enforcement activity 7 times during his 8 years on the Police Force. Officer Miller conducts presentations to faculty and staff members at area schools and has continued to strive to ensure that DWI enforcement is a priority. He is passionate about keeping our roads safe from impaired drivers and to furthering his education to improve his enforcement skills. Congratulations to Patrolman Brian Miller.

**OFFICER JENNIFER OLIN** of the University Police at SUNY Cortland. Officer Olin has been instrumental in keeping the campus community at SUNY Cortland safe from alcohol and drug impaired drivers. She has consistently been the leader in arrests for such offenses. Officer Olin has also recently been certified as a DRE. As an officer with the University Police, Officer Olin is companionate and professional in her enforcement efforts, is an excellent role model and is recognized as an asset to the department. Congratulations to Officer Jennifer Olin.

**OFFICER SAM WEECH** of the Town of Brighton Police Department. Officer Weech started with the Brighton Police Department in June of 2014. While assigned to road patrol and in less than 7 months Officer Weech made 31 DWI arrests, which was second only to the dedicated DWI officer. Officer Weech is trained in SFST's, is an SFST instructor, is a BTO and is one of only 7 DRE's in Monroe County. He has volunteered to be the Brighton Police Department's dedicated DWI enforcement officer for 2015. Congratulations to Officer Sam Weech.

**DEPUTY SHERIFF JOSEPH A. CORONA** of the Genesee County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Corona has been a road patrol deputy with the Genesee County Sheriff's Office for a bit more than 2 years. He previously served as an Immigration Enforcement Officer with the Department of Homeland Security. He is very aggressive in DWI enforcement, making a total of 43 DWI related arrests in 2014 along with 30 unlawful possession of alcohol under 21 arrests. In May 2014, Deputy Corona was awarded an Exceptional Service Award by the Genesee / Orleans Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse for his efforts in combating DWI. Upon completing basic and field training in March of 2013, Deputy Corona immediately established himself as a dedicated, motivated and proactive Deputy Sheriff. He is very hard working and has earned his reputation as a thorough and knowledgeable deputy. Congratulations to Deputy Sheriff Joseph Corona.

**SERGEANT MICHAEL MINETTE** of the Guilderland Police Department. Sgt. Minette is a first line supervisor for the Guilderland Police Department assigned as a patrol sergeant and supervisor of the Traffic Safety Unit. Through his oversight, there has been an increase in overall department traffic enforcement. In 2014 traffic tickets increased by 33% and DWI arrests increased by 20%. As a supervisor he made 25 DWI arrests and wrote 353 traffic tickets. Sgt. Minette is responsible for Guilderland PD's portion of all county wide enforcement initiatives including DWI blanket patrols, aggressive driving initiatives, disabled parking space enforcement (Project Access), and passing school bus enforcement (Operation Safe Stop) details. Guilderland PD is also the host for the Albany County Victim Impact Panel and Sgt. Minette supervises the preparation and production of the event. Further, Sgt. Minette is an SFST instructor; he assists with the school resource officers during prom season and participates in community outreach with SLA check program participation including instruction to liquor license holders, license review and congratulations to those in compliance. Sgt. Minette's exemplary performance in his position has greatly enhanced the service provided for the residents and visitors of Guilderland. Congratulations to Sergeant Michael Minette.

**OFFICER JOHN McGUIRE**, of the University Police at SUNY-Albany. Officer McGuire has been the most consistent and productive member of the evening shift for over a decade. He has embraced traffic safety and education as a corner stone of his policing philosophy and in 2008 received recognition from Albany County STOP-DWI for his personal efforts in DWI detection and prevention. Additionally, he has received the University Police Community Policing Award twice for his community based educational efforts including fatal vision instruction and dangerous drug awareness. The curriculum for Dangerous Drug Awareness was developed by Officer McGuire and has been recognized statewide by SUNY as a model program. Congratulations to Officer Kevin C. Brown. Officer McGuire is the lead instructor for the Breath Analysis Operator and SFST portions of instruction at Zone 5 Law Enforcement Training Center. After becoming a certified DRE in 2012, he joined the instructor ranks in 2013 and routinely trains other DRE's nationwide. Officer McGuire's dedication and devotion beyond the confines of his own patrol assignment make him worthy of this recognition. Congratulations to Officer John McGuire.

**SERGEANT MARK LEFFLER**, of the Saratoga Springs Police Department. Sgt. Leffler is a 25 year veteran of law enforcement. From 1997 – 2010 he was a K-9 handler partnering with "Joky" and "Dara". He always demonstrated a proactive approach to law enforcement focusing his efforts on DWI enforcement. In March of 2014 Sgt. Leffler was promoted to Investigator, taking him out of uniform patrol. His dedication to DWI enforcement did not cease, he continued to sign up for DWI patrol details and returned to uniform patrol on the weekends. In 2014 he effected 44 DWI arrests, 5 Penal Law arrests and issued 209 Vehicle and Traffic tickets. Sgt. Leffler was a recipient of the 2012 STOP-DWI / MADD Individual Law Enforcement Award. He continues to actively participate in DWI checkpoints and Holiday Crackdowns and as a result of his February 2015 promotion to Sergeant, he is currently enrolled in Supervisors School. Congratulations to Sergeant Mark Leffler.

**OFFICER JOSHUA VANSKIVER** of the Elmira Police Department. Officer VanSkiver began at the Elmira Police Department in 2008 and from day one has focused his efforts and energy into enforcing DWI related offenses and although he was assigned to a regular patrol shift he led the department in DWI arrests each year. In 2011 Officer VanSkiver was appointed the STOP-DWI Officer for the Elmira Police Department. During 2014 he made a total of 114 DWI arrests, 17 felonies, 8 DWAI – Drugs, 7 included AUO 1<sup>st</sup> and alarmingly 5 included Leandra’s Law violations. In addition to DWI enforcement, Officer VanSkiver also spends a considerable amount of time doing DWI prevention and awareness training. He participates in the Victim Impact Panels and conducts educational meetings with the public. Officer VanSkiver is very engaged in youth presentations and programs including: mock scenarios and prevention presentations, all with a message of the effects, dangers and results of DWI. He also serves as an instructor for the Elmira Regional Training Center on the topic of DWI enforcement. Officer VanSkiver’s conduct, performance, professionalism and dedication are second to none and the Elmira Police Department is lucky and proud to have Officer VanSkiver representing them. Congratulations to Officer Joshua VanSkiver.

**OFFICER RICHARD CHU** of the Albany Police Department. Officer Chu is an outstanding officer who is wholeheartedly committed to DWI enforcement efforts within the Albany PD. He received the Albany County STOP-DWI Guy J. Barringer Community Service Award for his incredible effort toward DWI enforcement throughout 2014. Officer Chu has dedicated himself to the efforts of DWI enforcement and through continuing education has increased both his knowledge base and enforcement capacity within the department. He constantly seeks out educational seminars and schools devoted to DWI enforcement and prosecution. Officer Chu is certified in BTO, SFST’s, ARIDE Radar, Crash Reconstruction and is currently completing his DRE certification. Congratulations to Officer Richard Chu.

**TROOPER THOMAS LOEWKE**, of the New York State Police. Trooper Loewke joined the State Police in April 2000 and is currently assigned to the Troop E barracks in Rochester. Trooper Loewke has led Troop E in DWI arrests for 10 straight years, most recently, in 2014 with 92 DWI arrests. On average, he makes one DWI arrest for every two days he works. In addition to his DWI efforts, he also issued more than 1,070 Vehicle and Traffic Law tickets and had 159 criminal arrests; in which 35 were drug related. Earlier this year Trooper Loewke was honored by the Monroe County STOP-DWI program as the recipient of the "Top Cop" award. Trooper Loewke's dedication to traffic safety, specifically DWI enforcement last year and throughout his career has undoubtedly saved the lives of many New Yorkers. Congratulations to Trooper Thomas Loewke.

**TROOPER BRENDAN D. FILLI** of the New York State Police. Trooper Filli joined the State Police in April 2012. He transferred to Troop T in March of 2014. In the 9 ½ months he worked in Zone 2, SP Albany, he led the station with 67 DWI arrests, he also made 24 DWI arrests in Troop F, SP Highland, totaling 93 for year in 2014. He also made 69 Penal Law Arrests and issued 1,251 Vehicle and Traffic Law tickets. Trooper Filli’s commitment to DWI enforcement is unparalleled. He makes it his objective to arrest intoxicated drivers, and it is not out of the ordinary for him to make multiple arrests in one night. Trooper Filli is to be commended for his commitment to making the roadways a safer place to drive, by removing these intoxicated operators. Congratulations to Trooper Brendan Filli.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AWARDS**

**GUILDERLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** from Albany County. The Guilderland Police Department has been a strong participant in the Albany County STOP-DWI program since the program's inception in 1981. There are currently 2 officers assigned as DWI officers. In 2014 the PD participated in many traffic enforcement initiatives including all of the Albany County blanket patrols and the department's DWI arrests increased by 20%. The Guilderland PD is the host to the Albany County STOP-DWI Victim Impact Panel, provides instructors for the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Academy on the topics of accident investigation and SFST and provides a school resource officer for the Guilderland High School. Each year during prom season the SRO conducts programs on the dangers of drinking or drugged driving and the department assists in staging a mock DWI crash. At their substation at the Crossgates Mall, the Guilderland PD provides a large television kiosk with crime prevention tips, safety tips and several times during the year, drinking and driving messages. Further the department conducts SLA checks randomly during the year, in 2014 - 43 locations were tested resulting in 5 arrests. The department doesn't stop at the compliance checks, they take the proactive step and review the laws and procedures to educate and emphasize the responsibility of the liquor salespersons. Also, after the checks the PD revisits the establishments to congratulate them on their compliance with the law. The Guilderland PD remains committed to DWI enforcement and vigorously participate in all aspect of this lifesaving effort. Congratulations to the men and women of the Guilderland Police Department.

**YATES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** in Penn Yan, New York. The Yates County Sheriff's Office is a small agency with 18 full time and 2 part time personnel nestled in a county with a total population of about 25,000 people. In 2014 the department certified a Deputy Sheriff as a DRE to assist their department, local agencies and the New York State Police working in Yates County with drug recognition. The agency further took park in a community coalition of public health providers, educators and schools regarding the heroin problem and DWAI – drug problem relating to heroin use. The Sheriff put together a 32 slide power point program and made presentation to all 13 town and village boards in the county, all schools, and at community fraternal and civic organizations like the Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs to educate the community on the facts relating to DWAI-drugs and drug use. Further the agency developed a billboard to educate the public on the harms of DWAI – drugs relative to heroin and receives continued community praise for their efforts. Congratulations to the men and women of the Yates County Sheriff's Office. (Executive Director of the Sheriff's Association, Peter Kehoe is accepting the award today).

**BROCKPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT**, in Monroe County. During 2014 the Brockport Police Department continued to make aggressive strides in DWI and DWAI-Drugs enforcement. Countless hours of training, enforcement, arrests, courtroom preparation and testimony were recognized in February when Chief Varrenti accepted a Monroe County STOP-DWI award as a top agency in their county. The PD deploys patrols during popular bar nights and special enforcement details to target underage drinking at the SUNY Brockport college community. With officers working undercover during peak ‘party’ weekends the Brockport Police were active in arrests for littering, open container, disorderly conduct and possession of alcohol under the age of 21. Recognizing the need for advanced DWI and Drug education and awareness and officer was certified in ARIDE, this is the first certified in the 185 year history of the department. The 6 trained BTO’s are scattered through Brockport’s 3 patrol shifts and are available for other departments as necessary. Thought the department is small with only 13 road patrol, it does not preclude them from putting forth a large effort to help the county and state initiatives relative to impaired driving. Brockport PD participated in the “Lights on for Life Motorcade” and the annual Red Wings Baseball “STOP-DWI Awareness day”. This team of passionate, talented officers in 2014 made 70 DWI arrests. Chief Varrenti is often heard saying, “I think every DWI arrest is a life-saving event.” Congratulations to the men and women of the Brockport Police Department.

**NEW YORK STATE POLICE – TROOP L.** This year’s winner for the State Police Troop award is Troop L. On January 1, 1980, the existing duties and responsibilities of the New York State Police on Long Island were significantly increased when Troop “L” was established through a legislative bill that called for them to absorb the 200 miles of Long Island Parkway System. As a result, the State Police then became the primary law enforcement agency for these Parkways and as part of the transition, 193 Parkway Officers became New York State Troopers. Today, approximately 249 State Police Personnel are assigned to Troop “L” where they provide a myriad of services on Long Island, including vehicle and traffic enforcement on the Parkways as well as other roadways throughout both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. During 2014 the members of Troop L responded to 24,911 calls for service, conducted 6,837 collision investigations, completed 961 DWI arrests and issued 69,906 uniform traffic tickets. Congratulations to the men and women of the New York State Police – Troop L.

## **NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS**

**MARY KAVANEY**, an Attorney formerly with the Executive Office of the Governor. Prior to her employment with the Governor, Mary was the acting Secretary for Public Safety, Assistant Secretary for Public Safety and a part of DCJS. Ms. Kavaney has spearheaded reforms to vehicular crimes statutes and regulations that have made a substantial difference. She has demonstrated a unique capacity to listen to the issues that concern law enforcement, prosecutors and victims and has tenaciously fought to accomplish change. There is no question that Leandra's Law would not exist in New York State without Mary Kavaney. She was the moving force behind getting the legislation drafted, negotiated and passed. Beyond the passage of the law, Ms. Kavaney also led the essential process of developing the regulations that form the framework of Leandra's Law implementation. When roadblocks were created she worked to close the loopholes through support of amending legislation and working with DMV to provide better access to registration data to be used in the process. In her role in the Governor's office, she worked to give law enforcement access to DMV data, guided the creation of regulations and procedure to allow access to LAWMAN (DMV registration files) and LENS (license event notification system), DMV photo file, lifetime driving records and permitting the adjournment of the safety hearings until after the conclusion of the criminal case to avoid compromising the prosecution. She pushed for permanent denial of license reapplications after a defendant has 5 or more alcohol related incidents. This denial functions in conjunction with our interlock laws. STOP-DWI, MADD, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors and victims lost a true friend and advocate when Ms. Kavaney decided to continue her legal career in the private sector. She deserves our thanks for all of her tenacity, effort and accomplishments on behalf of justice. Congratulations to Attorney Mary Kavaney.

**ROBERT HAYDEN**, Deputy Bureau Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Unit of the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. ADA Hayden has been an Assistant District Attorney since 1983 and Vehicular Crimes Deputy Bureau Chief since 2007. He has prosecuted dozens of vehicular crimes cases including the case of Martin Heidgen. Mr. Hayden was co-counsel on this trial and his strategy, skill and presentation of evidence was largely responsible for the depraved murder conviction. The record he created was used to support the conviction in both the Appellate Division and the Court of Appeals. ADA Hayden's caring way comforted the victims in the cases he prosecuted. He is the unsung hero of vehicular crimes in Nassau County. Mr. Hayden has brought his unmatched experience to devising procedures that make the vehicular crimes bureau a model of justice and efficiency. He literally assesses every felony vehicular crimes charge that comes into the office and determines what additional investigation needs to be done or what else is necessary for the case to move forward. His efficiency has resulted in the vast majority of felony DWI cases being resolved in approximately 6 months and no felony case is returned to District Court for prosecution in Nassau County. ADA Hayden's steady, calm and professional demeanor can always be relied upon to bring sanity to insane trial situations. The hard work of ADA Hayden and the bureau has resulted in Nassau County moving from 41<sup>st</sup> in the state in 2003 to 4<sup>th</sup> in the state in 2013 for convictions. Nassau is now ranked #1 among counties with over a million people and #1 among counties with more than 500 DWI's per year. ADA Hayden's role in Nassau's success cannot be overestimated. Congratulations to Deputy Bureau Chief Robert Hayden.

**JOSEPH P. MIRABITO**, of Mirabito Energy Products. Between January 2012 and December 2014, Mr. Mirabito and his company Mirabito Energy Products have donated over \$145,000 and hundreds of hours of staff time to enhance the well-known Mirabito STOP-DWI Holiday Classic basketball tournament held annually in Binghamton. This holiday classic is held to promote an anti-substance abuse and impaired driving message to student athletes. The event is an educational experience that uses basketball as a tool to create a unique and exciting learning environment for youth. Through involvement in the Holiday Classic high school athletes are encouraged to become leaders in the effort to deal with alcohol and substance abuse in their school and community. 16 teams, over 300 high school athletes and over 5,000 fans participate each year! With the support of Mr. Mirabito, Broome County STOP-DWI has increased its presence in 20 school districts around the Southern Tier by conducting 79 impaired driving presentations to about 4,300 students. He also co-sponsors a Teen Traffic Safety Day with over 1,300 students for a full day of interactive activities, guest speakers and traffic safety competitions. With the support of Mr. Mirabito Broome County STOP-DWI has been able to fund a law enforcement presence at high profile high school events to deter and detect alcohol use among students. He also placed underage drinking posters throughout their entire convenience store division on the Southern Tier. The support of Mr. Mirabito has no doubt had an immediate and long lasting impact on the mindset of our young drivers in Broome County and will save lives for many years to come. Congratulations to Joseph Mirabito.

**GISELE KRESS** of MAC's Safe Ride. Mrs. Kress lost her son Matt on October 11, 2009 as the result of the actions of a drunk driver. Since that day she has put in countless hours in an effort to stop drinking and driving. MAC's Safe Ride has given numerous rides to those who have been out drinking in the Old Forge area. The program is led by Mrs. Kress, run by volunteers, budgeted with donations and has kept countless drunk drivers off of the roads. It has truly become a community oriented service. Further, Mrs. Kress has developed a program that she presents in schools and to driver education classes about her story and the loss of her son. She relives the worst night of her life in an effort to get the message to young people. It is heart wrenching and personal and you can watch the impact on the faces of the students she is presenting to. Mrs. Kress has taken a tragedy in her life and used it to educate others in the Old Forge area. Congratulations to Gisele Kress.

**MIKE ORSO** President of Nick Orso's Body Shop in Syracuse. Mr. Orso is very active in improving social awareness for STOP-DWI, Zero Tolerance programs, distracted driving and New York move-over law efforts. Over the years, he has promoted DWI awareness by speaking to various audiences, his radio talk show "The Nick Orso Show", billboards or TV advertisements. Mr. Orso has increased public awareness on both drunk driving and underage drinking. As a board member of the Onondaga County Traffic Safety Council, he has spent countless hours educating the public and young drivers on safe driving. His radio show and billboards have supported efforts of the New York State Troopers' STOP-DWI efforts and zero tolerance road checkpoints and the Onondaga County Sheriff's STOPPED program. The local police agencies have all benefitted from his DWI awareness ads. He has also donated vehicles to the Syracuse Fire Department for use in rescue training. Mr. Orso has participated in high school STOP-DWI programs with prom night displays and displays at the New York state fair of wrecked cars, crash reenactment and rescue scenes. He is involved, dedicated and caring of his community. Congratulations to Mike Orso. (Mr. Orso is not present today, however he will be presented with this award by Onondaga County Sheriff Conway at an event held in Syracuse on April 28<sup>th</sup> )

**LARRY WAIMON** of Queensbury, NY. Mr. Waimon was a Police Officer in New Jersey and now in his retirement has continued his public service as a volunteer in the Warren and Washington County area. He authored a book “When Tears Don’t Work” telling his family story, his grandmother was killed by a DWI driver, his father was killed by a DWI driver and Mr. Waimon himself was struck by a drunk ambulance driver. The book was distributed free to 50,000 people. Also, since the inception of the Warren/ Washing County Victim Impact Panel in 1999 Larry has been a volunteer speaker. He has also participated in numerous impact panel awareness events for high schools; he is a dynamic speaker who engages the audience as he tells his tragic story of deadly encounters with drunk drivers. Mr. Waimon has also spearheaded efforts locally to combat the growing problem of texting while driving. He is also a black belt in martial arts and trains local law enforcement free of charge in defensive tactics along with offering training to women of all ages in self-defense and situational awareness. Everything Mr. Waimon does is with compassion and though technically a senior citizen, we challenge anyone of any age to try to keep up with him! Congratulations to Larry Waimon.

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

**SERGEANT/ STATION COMMANDER FRED R. ATKINSON** of the New York State Police Troop B. Sgt. Atkinson is a 20 year veteran of the New York State Police and is stationed at Plattsburgh, in Clinton County. During his tenure as a uniformed Trooper Sgt. Atkinson took a condensed patrol area and actively enforced both Penal and Vehicle and Traffic Laws. His hard work of increasing highway safety through education and enforcement led him to earn the 'TOP DWI Officer' title for many years. Station Commander Atkinson positively changed the Keeseville station area, creating a network of designated drivers, preventing countless alcohol related accidents. In the early 1990's Sgt. Atkinson became a certified DRE and has stayed active as a DRE. In 2014, as a supervisor, Station Commander Atkinson made 33 arrests for DWI and is an ambassador of the Clinton County STOP-DWI Program. He is an exemplary leader and his continued enforcement of DWI statutes as a seasoned supervisor makes him a true role model for all of our Troopers, Deputies and Police officers working road patrol. Congratulations Sergeant / Station Commander Fred R. Atkinson.

## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**NEAL McCLELLAND** retired Assistant District Attorney from Ontario County. ADA McClelland worked for the Ontario County District Attorney for more than 30 years and most of his career was dedicated to DWI prosecution. He has tried over 400 DWI cases, more than any other prosecutor in New York State. According to the annual DMV conviction statistics, Ontario County has enjoyed the highest DWI conviction rate in the state for 29 of the last 30 years. In 2013 the conviction rate was 95.99% - the highest ever recorded for any county in New York State. Mr. McClelland has contributed mightily to that achievement. His trial preparation has always been meticulous. In addition to his courtroom work, he has lectured on DWI prosecution locally and throughout the state. He actively participated in the STOP-DWI sponsored prosecutor's list serve discussing topical issues involving DWI cases, strategies and law with hundreds of other prosecutors around the state. Throughout his time at Ontario County, he has always been passionate about his work. His dedication to each and every DWI case has made the highways in Ontario County safer for all who travel there. On January 30, 2015 ADA McClelland retired, known to his colleagues statewide as a passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable ADA. Despite his retirement, he has agreed to return to participate in Ontario County Law Enforcement Training and present "From Roadside to the Courtroom. What the Prosecutor Needs." We thank you for your years of dedication and service to Ontario County. Congratulations to Neal McClelland.