



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

Press Release

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THE NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BOARD NAMES NEBRASKA TROOPER CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Long Beach, CA - The [National Child Passenger Safety Board](http://www.nsc.org) (NCPSB) is pleased to announce the 2016 Instructor of the Year is Mark Van Horn, a retired state trooper from Chadron, Neb., who was nominated by, Jeanne Bietz. The NCPSB recognizes one exemplary instructor for their work and dedication to this field annually.

The U.S. has more than 37,000 certified child passenger safety (CPS) technicians and 1,200 certified instructors trained to educate caregivers on the installation and proper use of car seats, booster seats and seat belts for optimal occupant protection.

Trooper Van Horn was one of the nation's first CPS Technicians and Instructors, certified in Lake Charles, La., in July of 1997. He was mentored by NHTSA's Sherri Cannon and completed the instructor certification course in September, 1998, in Lawrence, Kan.

"We are so pleased to honor Trooper Van Horn for the work he has done," said Audrey Eagle, NCPSB Chair. "His efforts are an outstanding example of the important education and training child passenger safety technicians and instructors provide all across the country."

Trooper Van Horn's career has demonstrated the critical use of occupant protection systems and also the life or death consequences. Van Horn is a recipient of Nebraska's *Saved by the Belt* recognition following a multiple roll-over crash he endured while on patrol one afternoon during a high-speed pursuit.

"The most notable evidence of our work in this field is reduction of traffic fatality numbers seen over the decades, particularly involving children," Trooper Van Horn said. "My most significant experiences regarding child passenger safety were participating in investigations of vehicle crashes involving young children who were ejected from the vehicles due to inappropriate installations of their child safety seats. I like to share these stories because the children survived but neither would have been ejected if their child restraints were correct."

The crashes Trooper Van Horn references helped to establish and expand the Child Passenger Safety Certification program in the state of Nebraska, which he led for almost 20 years.

Although Trooper Van Horn is now retired from law enforcement, he remains a passionate traffic safety advocate and is currently employed by the Nebraska Safety Council and Traffic Safety Plus. In addition to instructing national child passenger safety certification courses, he instructs teens as a driver education teacher and instructor.

The Board recognized Trooper Van Horn with the honor of National CPS Instructor of the Year and he also received a monetary award from AAA at the Lifesavers Conference in Long Beach, Calif., on April 2nd.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, managed by the [National Safety Council](#), seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. The program is used to train and certify child passenger safety technicians and instructors. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board's website at www.cpsboard.org.