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Press Release

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THE NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BOARD NAMES NORTH CAROLINA'S MICHAEL "CHRIS" MORRIS NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

San Antonio, TX – Michael "Chris" Morris, a child passenger safety technician for the University of North Carolina/REX Healthcare, just added "National Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year" to his long list of accolades; an impressive title considering our nation currently has more than 41,000 child passenger safety (CPS) technicians who work to keep kids safe across America.

After serving our nation in the U.S. Army from 1970-1974, Morris joined the Raleigh Police Department in 1974. Four years in municipal law enforcement led to a transition to North Carolina's State Highway Patrol in 1978. Morris served as a Trooper until retiring in 2003.

In 1985, he became one of the first child passenger safety instructors in the nation, a program that resulted from the Safe Roads Act of 1985. His 33 years of work and experience in the CPS field predates the national standardized curriculum developed by NHTSA.

"I have worked in areas where child passenger safety laws were not respected," said Morris. "After I left those areas, people began to respect the importance of child safety and use of car seats."

His passion for child passenger safety led him to establish a Child Passenger Safety program at UNC/REX Healthcare in 2003. Innovative programs such as "I Love U, Baby" – an annual car seat check and educational event held on Valentine's Day – contribute to community education for parents and caregivers.

"I have always made myself available to parents and spent as much time as needed," said Morris. "I want to make them feel confident that they have the knowledge to ensure their child will ride as safely as possible."

The 2018 National Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year award is not the first award Morris has received in the field. In 2008, he was named North Carolina's Child Passenger Safety

Technician of the Year. He also has been recognized as “Tar Heel of the Week” – an award from the Raleigh News and Observer newspapers – and has been honored with the “Colonel’s Coin” from the North Carolina Highway Patrol for work in child passenger safety.

Morris, a resident of Knightsdale, NC, said the best reward he has received in his career is knowing there have been children who survived crashes in seats that he installed.

The National Child Passenger Safety Board recognized Morris with this honor on April 21st at the Lifesavers Conference in San Antonio. He also received a monetary award from AAA. The Lifesavers Conference is a national highway safety conference attended by hundreds of professionals in the fields of law enforcement, traffic safety, statewide and national highway safety planning, injury prevention and public health.

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