

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

January 9, 2015

Ms. Madeline Neumann
National President
Concerns of Police Survivors
P.O. Box 3199
Camdenton, MO 65020

Dear Ms. Neumann:

Every day, law enforcement officers across the Nation work hard and risk their lives to keep our roadways safe. So it is appropriate for every American to join you, your organization, and your partners in marking National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day today. At the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), we are keenly aware of the risks that Americans face every day on our roadways and we recognize the critical role that law enforcement officers serve in protecting motorists by enforcing drunk driving laws; controlling travel speeds; and encouraging motorists to wear seat belts, avoid distractions and drive responsibly. We are committed to a scientific and evidence-based approach to improving traffic safety and our evaluations repeatedly show that strong laws and strong enforcement are among the most effective approaches to changing high risk driver behaviors. Indeed, traffic enforcement programs have saved many thousands of lives by reducing drunk driving and increasing seat belt use.

The role law enforcement officers have played in saving these lives is essential, but it is also difficult and dangerous work. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reports that 126 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in 2014 and 49 of those officers were killed in traffic-related incidents, an 11 percent increase from the previous year.

My role at NHTSA makes highway safety, for law enforcement officers and all Americans, my daily mission. However, this has been a very personal priority for me since my earliest days. My father was a San Francisco Police Officer killed in the line of duty by a driver who ran a red light. Through this single and profound event in my own life, I share in the individual and personal stories of so many people who have been affected by preventable tragedy on our roadways, and in particular the families you serve.

NHTSA**

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We at NHTSA are proud to join you in appreciation of the law enforcement profession and in observance of this special day. On National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day each of us will pause to consider the importance of this profession and of the commitment and dedication of those who choose to serve us in this critical role. Thank you for calling attention to their contributions and reminding us that an occasional word of thanks to a law enforcement officer from each of us would go a long way toward demonstrating our gratitude.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Rosekind, Ph.D.