

Celebrating the History of

SMC

TXTA SAFETY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



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In recognition of the need to promote and develop leadership in the field of Motor Carrier Safety, in and for the state of Texas, the TXTA Safety Management Council (SMC) is hereby structured to ensure that all functions of this council are of the highest standards of safety leadership. The SMC shall, through its efforts, carry out this mandate and maintain programs and procedures that fulfill the intended purposes of the Council.



2015 Pathfinder Award Recipients David Hedgpeth, Ronnie Gillaspie, Ray Martin, B.L. Manry and Joyce Coologhan (left to right)



TXTA Safety Council

The motor transportation and trucking industry was born in the early 1900s with the invention of the motorized vehicle. The evolution of the motor vehicle and the American highway system enabled goods and services that previously were inventoried in bulk by rail, to be delivered in smaller quantities and remote communities throughout the country. Community businesses that previously had to pick up and transport their own cargo from rail centers could now have motor transportation service right to their doors.

As the use of trucking transportation increased, the need for providing uniformity in the quality and safety of motor vehicle operations also increased. The Federal Motor Carrier Act of 1935 created a focus on motor transportation safety that had not previously existed. Truckers continued to experience changing business trends; however, they also experienced increased exposure to losses, public criticism and compliance demands. As a result, many trucking groups and associations began providing educational materials and seminars necessary to address heightened safety awareness within the industry. It was not until the late 1940s and early 1950s that truckers began to create safety groups to address driver safety, training, compliance and loss control through cooperative efforts within the motor transportation industry.

In 1953, member companies of Texas Motor Transportation Association (TMTA), created the TMTA Texas Council of Safety Supervisors as a cooperative effort to develop industry standards in safety education, driver development, image enhancement, loss prevention and other topics to strengthen quality performance within the industry. Strong safety networking was established between carrier members and participants within the council. In addition to education sessions, action programs were created that fostered cooperative work efforts among council members who worked together with the compliance enforcement bodies on projects designed to promote compliance, reduce losses, improve quality and safety, as well as enhance the public image of the trucking industry.

Each year since 1962, the Safety Council Program has received the Summa Cum Laude Award, the highest safety award possible, from American Trucking Associations (ATA) in recognition of the continued involvements and accomplishments of the SMC.

TMTA Becomes TXTA

Texas Motor Transportation Association (TMTA) was established in 1932. The organization went through rebranding in 2013 and changed the name to Texas Trucking Association as a way to increase recognition and clarity of representation, renewing the focus as the unified voice of Texas trucking. For accuracy, TMTA has been used where historically appropriate.



SMC Chairmen

*Indicates two consecutive terms served

1953-54
Harold Dudley
Southern Plaza Express

1954-55
Leon Wilson
Sunset Motor Lines

1955-56
E.G. Niblo
Merchants Fast Motor Lines

1956-57
Henry B. Lewis
Central Freight Lines

1957-58
Robert Jones
TxDPS

1958-59
Charles Norton
Merchants Fast Motor Lines

1959-60
Belton Duckett
Tyler Pipe Industries

1960-61
Johnny Johnson
Red Ball Express

1961-62
A.C. Blevins
(Flatbed Carrier)

1962-63
Perry Dawson
Brown Express

1963-64
Kenneth Cole
Strickland Transportation

1964-65
John Barr
Southern Plaza Express

1965-66
D.P. Henley
Carolina Casualty

1966-67
Jack Lowry
Consolidated Freightways

1967-68
Joe Perry
TxDPS

1968-69
Tommy Smith
Pacific Motor Transport

1969-70
Allen Hume
Roadway Express

1970-71
Bobby Krause
Hunsaker Truck Lease

1971-72
Mark Harris
Central Freight Lines

1972-73
Pete Collinsworth
Beasley Tire Service

1973-74
Murray Chapman
Chemical Express

1974-75
Willard Hale
TxDPS

1975-76
Chuck Wheeler
USDOT

1976-77
Joe Jenkins
J. Weingarten

1977-78
Ralph Henderson
Ryder Truck Rental

1978-79
Leroy Mallory
Tyler Pipe Industries

1979-80
Jim Cox
Texas Oklahoma Express

1980-81
Carl Bohls
Zero Motor Freight

1981-82
Gilbert Ray
Gilbert Ray and Associates

1982-83
Will Cox
Ryder Truck Rental

1983-85
Gary D. Thomas*
Central Freight Lines

1985-86
Jack Corb
Industrial Safety Association

1986-87
Glen Honeycutt
Aggregate Haulers

1987-88
Kirby Pugh
Merchants Fast Motor Lines

1988-89
Dub Long
Texas Safety Consultants

1989-90
James Turner
Associated Milk Producers

1990-91
Ted Chappell
Western Commercial

1991-92
Roger Leathers
TxDPS

1992-93
Rob Lehnerr
Mission Petroleum

1993-94
George Gaston
Grocers Supply

1994-95
Jerry Riley
Specialized Motor Transport

1995-96
B.L. Manry
Palletized Trucking

1996-97
David Hedgpeth
Frozen Food Express

1997-98
Ronnie Gillaspie
Ray Bellew and Sons

1998-99
Alex Ayala
H.E.B. Grocers

1999-2000
Joyce Coologhan
Riverstone Enterprises

2000-01
Don Alexander
Plains Marketing

2001-02
Richard Miyauchi
Walmart

2002-03
Mike McConnell
Transport Industries

2003-04
Ray Martin
Fruehauf Trailers

2004-05
Elaine Briles
Dart Transit

2005-06
Dwight Jennings
Empire Truck Lines

2006-07
Darrell Woody
Redifuel

2007-08
Mike Meredith
Texas Disposal Systems

2008-09
Scott Sullins
Great West Casualty Co.

2009-10
David Powell
Texas Disposal Systems

2010-12
Mike Honeycutt*
Transafe Inc.

2012-13
Lonnie Bennett
Conway Freight, Inc.

2013-14
Judy D'Agostino
FedEx

2014-15
Larry Miller
Great West Casualty Co.

2015-16
Tom Hartman
Commercial Fleet Data Systems

2016-17
Mike Vix
Sun Coast Resources

2017-18
Barry Detlefsen
Coastal Transport

2018-19
Bubba Fiveash
Great West Casualty Co.

2019-21
Ed Brady*
ENR Consulting LLC



Henry B. Lewis



Gary D. Thomas



Lonnie Bennett



Judy D'Agostino



Ed Brady



The Courtesy Road Patrol

Initially named the Holiday Road Patrol, this program was activated in 1959 to offer assistance to enforcement officers on patrol and disabled motorists along Texas highways during the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays. Members of the Safety Council would pair off in teams throughout the state and patrol heavily traveled portions of major Texas highways. Teams carried tools, first-aid supplies, cans of gasoline, water, reflective triangles, jumper cables, soft drinks and snacks to offer assistance to motorists in need.

Because this activity continually took away family holiday time from Safety Council members, the activity was later renamed the Courtesy Road Patrol and is now activated at various times during the year. Planned activities throughout the state are coordinated with each of the local safety councils.

The Cooperative Safety Road Patrol

This program is part of ATA's national effort to observe and report the behavior of truck drivers on the highway. Patrol members are assigned a confidential member application number and provided observation forms to be completed when a performance evaluation is made on an observed trucker. The written report includes time and location and any performance failures, as well as improper driving. These reports are provided to the driver's company for disciplinary action. Commendable driving is also recognized and reported to the company's safety director.

Muster Patrol

Over the years, the SMC has created a Muster Patrol Program which combines the designs of the Courtesy Road Patrol and Cooperative Road Patrol Programs for concentrated patrol emphasis on highway coverage throughout the state. In a cooperative effort with the local safety councils, members pair off as two person teams and are assigned to particular sections of Texas highways. Each member determines the times of day/night that each will patrol. Each team is asked to commit to patrolling a minimum of 15 hours during the seven days of the Muster Patrol Program emphasis week.



MEMBER of Texas Council of Safety Super-
bers counted 21 two-man teams on a
l that covered the main truck routes in
rk Harris, left, and Henry B. Lewis of

Central Freight Lines made 48
warded to companies whose tri
along Highway 81 between Wac
Lewis is chairman of TCSS Roa



Let's Keep CB Air Clean

To help reduce offensive language on the CB radio airways, this Texas trucking industry program provided brightly colored adhesive posters for placement on rear trailer doors as a reminder to all CB users that rough, foul language must be avoided. These posters were produced between 1975 and 1980.

Public Information Committee

This program keeps SMC members informed and updated on current issues critical to our organization and the industry. Coordinated with the state council executive committee and TXTA, these activities include working closely with city councils, traffic research groups, local law enforcement, Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) and U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). This committee seeks to develop membership awareness of important issues facing our industry, recommend methods of building a more positive image, as well as promote a greater public acceptance of our industry.

Vehicle Safety Inspections

This program is a joint effort between the safety and maintenance councils with assistance from members of TxDPS and USDOT. At various times throughout the year and at designated locations across the state, vehicle safety inspection stations are set up to provide a voluntary examination of trucks on the Texas highways. This effort is made in an attempt to reduce the number of defective vehicles on Texas thoroughfares, thereby promoting safer highways and enhancing the public image of the trucking industry. A copy of each written vehicle inspection report is sent to the trucking company's principal place of business.

State Adoption of Federal Regulations

From 1987 to 1989 members of the Safety Council worked closely with TXTA's legislative committee, leadership at TxDPS and directly with members of the Texas Legislature in concentrated efforts to support the passage of legislation that would adopt Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulations on the state level as compliance standards for motor transportation within Texas. The cooperative efforts of all concerned groups proved successful.



the Holiday Road Patrol maintained by the Safety Supervisors over the Labor Day weekend (above) of Truck Insurance Exchange, Austin. units were manned by 18 TMTA members firm



Directors of Safety

1953-1960

Charles Ogle

Charles Ogle is recorded as the first official director of safety and maintenance. In addition to his duties with the Safety Council, Charles was also involved in the promotion of transportation education programs, legislative activities, the coordination of meetings and conferences and working with TxDPS, TxDMV and USDOT.



Charles Ogle

1960-1982

Jack Bryan

Jack Bryan was born in Buffalo, Texas, on May 15, 1916, and maintained a residence in that city throughout his 66 years. Jack's interest in politics began at an early age when he was elected president of his high school senior class at Buffalo High School. Jack served as president of the student body at Sam Houston State University, president of his college fraternity, president of his dormitory hall and was listed in the 1941 Who's Who in American Universities. While attending Sam Houston State, Jack worked as a part-time driver for Bowen Bus Line. Later during World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a crew member on a B-17 bomber.

Jack served five terms from 1947-1957 in the Texas Legislature as a member of the Texas House of Representatives. During his period of service in state government, he became one of the most beloved and respected members of the legislature. Jack gained this respect due to his lovable nature and the honesty and integrity he constantly demonstrated throughout the fulfillment of his duties.

Jack joined TXTA in 1958. His experience and contacts with members of the legislature made him a highly effective lobbyist representing the interests of the Texas transportation industry. He faithfully served both the safety and maintenance councils until his death on August 3, 1982.



Jack Bryan

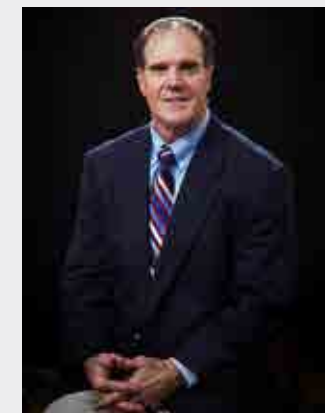
1982-1991

John Danks

John Danks was born and raised in Kentucky. After graduating from high school in 1976, he moved to Austin, Texas, and attended The University of Texas at Austin (UT) on a basketball scholarship. During his days as a UT athlete, he became a four-year letterman, was a leader on the N.I.T. Championship basketball team in 1978, and served as team captain in 1979-1980.

After graduating in 1981 with a degree in communications and public relations, John remained at UT working as an assistant basketball coach and recruiter. John joined TXTA on September 20, 1982 as director of safety and maintenance, but soon saw his duties expand into other vital service areas which included director of industry relations, legislative staff coordinator, and overseeing the legislative policy committee. John's assignments included developing, promoting and implementing training programs; coordinating meetings, conferences and trade shows; extensive lobbying; and coordinating political action activities.

As senior staff lobbyist, his responsibilities included working with the Texas Railroad Commission, TxDPS, TxDMV and USDOT. He was involved in truck safety legislation, national commercial drivers' license laws, worker's compensation reform and clean air legislation. John resigned from his position at TXTA in May 1991 and assumed a new role as Texas LP Gas Association Executive Vice President.



John Danks

1991-Present

Lance Shillingburg

Lance Shillingburg was born in Lubbock, Texas, and spent his early years in Big Spring. In 1973, his family moved to central Texas, where Lance graduated from Georgetown High School. In 1984, he graduated from Southwestern University with a B.A. in physical education.

While attending college, Lance worked as a part-time dock loader for Central Freight Lines, Inc. in Austin. After graduating, he and a friend began a small trucking company called L & L Materials, Inc. which dealt mainly with the transportation of aggregate materials throughout central Texas. It was during this time he gained valuable business and trucking experience that would prove extremely beneficial in the years ahead.

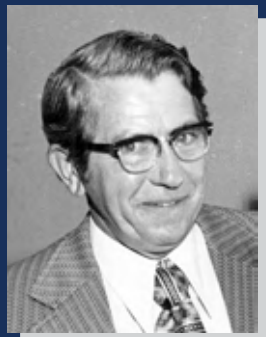
In September 1988, Lance joined the TXTA staff and served in the membership and member services areas. By 1990, Lance had been promoted to director of education/conferences and he continued to excel in his duties at TXTA. As a result, Lance was again promoted in 1991, when in addition to his duties as director of education, he was asked to assume the role of director of safety and maintenance, following the departure of John Danks.

Since that time, Lance has continued to faithfully serve TXTA and its membership. Members of the safety and maintenance councils and those who attend the educational courses offered by the association all agree that Lance's commitment to excellence is not only evident but very contagious.

Lance Shillingburg

Pathfinder Award

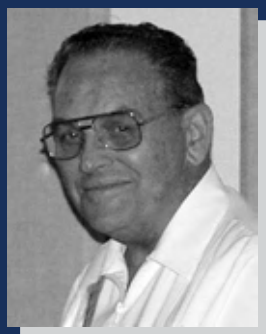
The Pathfinder Award was created to honor those members of the TXTA Safety Management Council who have provided dedicated service, leadership and participation within the state council for 30 years or more. Each recipient has provided service that has promoted and enhanced the highest degree of professional performance in the field of motor carrier safety. Since 1985, this award has been presented on decade anniversary years to selected members approved by the executive committee of the council.



Pete Collinsworth



Jack Corb



Chuck Wheeler



Glen Honeycutt

Pathfinder Recipients

1985

- Bill Barton
- E.B. Beasley
- C.H. Cheshire
- Pete Collinsworth
- Belton Duckett
- Harold Dudley
- Johnny Johnson
- Henry B. Lewis
- Charles Norton
- Tommy Smith

1995

- Jack Corb

2005

- Don Alexander
- Alex Ayala
- Glen Honeycutt
- Joe Jenkins
- Gilbert Ray
- Jerry Riley
- Gary D. Thomas
- Chuck Wheeler

2015

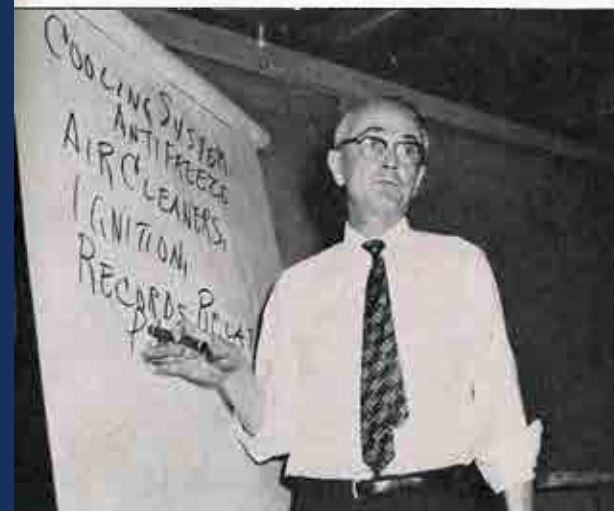
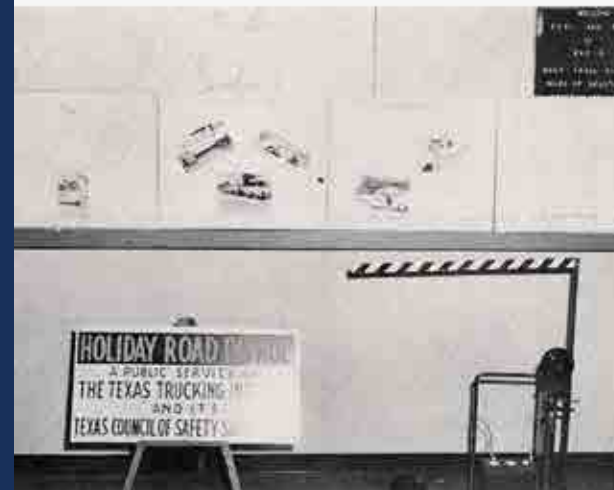
- Joyce Coologhan
- George Gaston
- Ronnie Gillaspie
- David Hedgpeth
- B.L. Manry
- Ray Martin



SAFETY SEMINAR SNAPSHOTS



SEMINAR SPEAKERS at the Bar K safety seminar on October 11 included, left to right, above: State Senator Tom Craddick, State Senator T. G. Ferguson, Department of Public Safety, Austin; and H. R. Vinson, Texas Professional Driver Education, Aom Dallas. BELOW: A special exhibit, spotlighting the Texas Council of Safety's Holiday Road Patrol activities, was prepared for display at Bar K Lodge during the three-day seminar.



Safety Meetings & Seminars

Full council meetings are held throughout the year. Additionally, the council hosts fall and spring seminars, as well as one in conjunction with the TXTA Annual Conference. Attendees are not required to be members of TXTA or SMC; however, TXTA members receive discounted registration rates. The only prerequisite is that attendees possess a willingness to participate in activities and promote transportation safety across the state.

Ten Percent Program

Through this certification program, which ran from 1977 through 1996, TXTA issued certificates to approximately 5,000 commercial drivers whose companies were evaluated, approved and qualified under the Texas State Insurance Board certification program. The program provided qualifying drivers a 10 percent discount on personal automobile insurance, recognizing the fact that the continuous training and certification process for professional drivers make them among the safest drivers on Texas highways.

Promote the Professional

This campaign, which ran from 1964-1968, utilized a series of billboards and posters to communicate with both drivers and the public in an effort to enhance the image of the professional trucker.

The first part of the campaign featured billboards displayed at peak traffic locations around the state. The messages on the billboards promoted Texas truckers as skilled, courteous and safety-conscious professionals.

The second part of the campaign featured a series of six posters that compared truck driving to other skilled professions. The posters included: (1) Drivers' hands hold the steering wheel and responsibility for many lives, like medical surgeons; (2) Drivers must know the rules and regulations of the profession, like attorneys; (3) Drivers must strive to be champions in their profession, like professional athletes; (4) Drivers are willing to serve in all conditions and wear safety ribbons and pins with great pride, like career soldiers; (5) Drivers provide a service to the economy by using the roadways designed by highway engineers, like civil engineers; (6) Drivers must perform in a manner that is pleasing to the public, like talented performers on stage and screen. More than 22,000 posters were distributed throughout the state of Texas to locations that truck drivers and the public frequented.



Thanks for Being a Pro

This program, which was active from 1981 until 1993, was created to recognize truckers who were observed driving like true professionals, rewarding these drivers with letters of commendation and a chance to win \$1,000. The program, designed by Henry B. Lewis, began on June 1 of each year and continued through May of the following year. If a driver was observed driving professionally, controlling speed, maintaining good lane travel, applying safe practices and/or acts of courtesy, they became a candidate for nomination. When a professional act was observed, the authorized observer would complete a two-part observation card. One part of the card was presented to the truck driver and a follow-up letter was sent to the driver's company. The other part of the card, which listed the trucker's name, their company and the reason for the nomination, was sent to TXTA. Later, during the TXTA Annual Conference, a drawing was held to determine the winning name.

Media Ride Along

This TXTA image enhancing program involves SMC members and noted company drivers who work directly with members of the media in efforts to educate the media and public of highway safety and how automobiles and trucks can "Share the Road" safely. This program, which also involves members of TxDPS and FMCSA, occurs in all major Texas cities. Members of the media are invited to ride along with a professional trucker in order to observe the skills of a professional driver and gain a trucker's perspective.

TXTA LEADERSHIP

Serving as TXTA President & CEO since the formation of the Safety Council



1949-1966

Gen. James Taylor



1966-1986

Terry Townsend



1986-1994

Robert Floyd



1994-1996

Rep. Bill Haley



1996-2006

Bill Webb



2006-Present

John D. Esparza



Distinguished Safety Award



2014 Distinguished Safety Award Recipient Steve Blake (far right), receives his award from sponsors Glen and Mike Honeycutt, Transafe Inc. and Ron Bair, Bair Hilty P.C. and 2013-14 SMC Chair Judy D'Agostino (left to right)



2020 Distinguished Safety Award Recipient Ken Sellers (center) receives his award from 2020-21 SMC Chair Ed Brady (left) and award sponsor Mike Honeycutt, Transafe Inc. (right)

1961 Henry B. Lewis* Central Freight Lines	1973 Pete Collinsworth Bendix Tire Service	1985 C.H. Cheshire C & H Transportation	1997 Dr. Jerry Riley Specialized Transport Services	2009 Darrell Woody Sunwell Corp., Redifuel
1962 Perry Dawson Brown Express	1974 T.W. (Tommy) Neill Western Foundries	1986 Ted Chappell Western Commercial	1998 Alex Ayala H.E.B. Grocery Co.	2010 Dick Cunningham CMC Steel
1963 E.C. (Johnny) Johnson Red Ball Motor Freight	1975 Murray Chapman Chemical Express	1987 Glen Honeycutt Aggregate Haulers	1999 Mike McConnell FFE Transportation Services	2011 Lonnie Bennett Con-way Freight
1964 W.B. (Belton) Duckett Tyler Pipe Industries	1976 Joe Jenkins J. Weingarten	1988 Kirby Pugh Merchants Fast Motor Lines	2000 Richard Miyauchi Walmart	2012 Tom Hartman Sun Coast Resources Inc.
1965 Kenneth C. Cole Strickland Transportation	1977 Gilbert Ray* Enterprise Transportation	1989 James Turner Associated Milk Producers	2001 Don Alexander Plains Marketing L.P.	2013 Judy D'Agostino FedEx Express
1966 John Barr Southern Pacific Truck Line	1978 Charles Norton Merchants Fast Motor Lines	1990 Rob Lehnerr Mission Petroleum Carriers	2002 Dwight Jennings Empire Truck Lines	2014 Steve Blake R. Wyatt Companies
1967 Dennis Henley Floyd West and Company	1979 Ralph Henderson Ryder Truck Rental	1991 Royce McIver Scurlock Permian	2003 Wade Geurin Plains Marketing L.P.	2015 Mike Vix Southeastern Freightlines
1968 Jack Lowry Consolidated Freightways	1980 J.R. (Bob) Quattlebaum Enterprise Products	1992 B.L. Manry Palletized Trucking	2004 Elaine Briles DART Transit Co.	2016 Steve Davis Texas TransEastern
1969 R. Allen Hume Roadway Express	1981 Jack Corb T, Inc.	1993 David Hedgpeth Frozen Food Express	2005 Mike Meredith Texas Disposal Systems	2017 Ed Brady ENR Consulting LLC
1970 T.W. (Tommy) Smith Pacific Motor Transport	1982 Gary D. Thomas* Central Freight Lines	1994 George Gaston Grocers Supply	2006 David Powel Brookshire Grocery Co.	2018 Chad Hall 1845 Oil Field Services
1971 Bobby Krause Hunsaker Truck Lease	1983 Grady Purtle DSI	1995 Joyce Coologhan Denison Transportation	2007 Dennis Bonner Adams Resources and Energy/ Gulfmark Energy	2019 Allen (Gene) Davis Alamo Transit-Alamo Concrete Products
1972 Harold B. Dudley Chemical Express	1984 Will Cox Ryder Truck Rental	1996 Ronnie Gillaspie Ray Bellew and Sons	2008 Joe Atkinson Posthumously	2020 Ken Sellers Dialog Wireline Services

*Indicates recipient also selected as ATA National Safety Director of the Year



C.H. Cheshire Award

The C.H. Cheshire Award is presented annually to recognize a member of an enforcement agency who has devoted their career to the furtherance of public safety with particular emphasis on transportation.

The award is named in honor of Clayton H. Cheshire who faithfully served the transportation safety industry for 44 years. Mr. Cheshire was employed by TxDPS where much of his service was spent as an instructor at the TxDPS Academy. He specialized in educational topics such as supervisory techniques, traffic supervision for commercial personnel, advanced accident investigation, police photography and professional defensive driving.

After his retirement from TxDPS, Mr. Cheshire served as the director of safety education for C&H Transportation-Nationwide. He also served as the 1984-85 Chairman of the Dallas Safety Council and was the recipient of the 1985 TTXA Distinguished Safety Award.



2016 C.H. Cheshire Award Recipient Major Chris Nordloh and 2015 Recipient Captain Omar Villarreal



2017 C.H. Cheshire Recipient Sergeant Dana C. Moore (third from left) receives his award from Randal LeBlanc, Oscar Garay and Tom Hartman (left to right) representing sponsor Commercial Fleet Data Systems



2020 C.H. Cheshire Recipient Joanne Cisneros

1986 Joe Milner / TxDPS	2004 Ronnie Smallwood / TxDPS
1987 Leo Gossett / TxDPS	2005 Tom Cummings / TxDPS
1988 Virgil Walsmith / TxDPS	2006 David Doyle / TxDPS
1989 Ronald Barrett / TxDPS	2007 Gary Albus / TxDPS
1990 Wesley Johnson / TxDPS	2008 Billy Ladd / TxDPS
1991 Roger Leathers / TxDPS	2009 David Palmer / TxDPS
1992 T.C. Perrin / Houston Police Department	2010 Kennis Miles / TxDPS
1993 Ray Ward / TxDPS	2011 Rodney Baumgartner / USDOT/FMCSA
1994 Wendell Miller / TxDPS	2012 Chuck Longfellow / TxDPS
1995 David Kemp / TxDPS	2013 Daniel Danek / Baytown Police Department
1996 Chuck Wheeler / USDOT	2014 Bruce James / TxDPS
1997 Leon Fezell / USDOT	2015 Omar Villarreal / TxDPS
1998 Bob McDilda / USDOT	2016 Chris Nordloh / TxDPS
1999 Larry Marshall / TxDPS	2017 Dana C. Moore / TxDPS
2000 David Mireles / Houston Police Department	2018 Ron Coleman / TxDPS
2001 Larry Henry / TxDPS	2019 Jeff Langloss / USDOT
2003 Tom Mattern / TxDPS	2020 Joanne Cisneros / FMCSA

No Recipient Selected in 2002



Professional Certification Program

Gilbert Ray, the certification committee's first chairman, fostered the idea for a professional certification process during various discussions at the Safety Council executive committee meetings in 1986 and 1987. With the endorsement of the Safety Council in 1988, various council members were selected by Mr. Ray to cooperatively create a Safety Professional Certification Program. The official kickoff of the TMTA-Transportation Certification Program occurred at the Texas Council of Safety Professionals spring meeting on March 30, 1989 in Austin.

Obtaining a certification is a formal means for establishing a professional reputation, improving work performance and career advancement. The certification process is designed to measure a level of competence and improve performance.

Certification measures professionalism against long-standing and respected industry standards. Obtaining certification indicates that the individual has been tested against accepted professional standards and has satisfactorily met the demands and expectations required by the certification process.

While enhanced professional standing in the industry is important, the real value of certification is performance improvement. Not only does certification set a safety professional apart within the industry, but it also helps improve performance credibility.



Gilbert Ray
Founder and First Chairman
of the Certification Committee



Steve Williams
2021 Safety Certification
Committee Chairman

Inaugural Joint Certification Committee

Gilbert Ray, Chairman
Allied Systems

Jack Burkert, Consultant
Lancer Insurance Company

Sue Bock and John Danks
TMTA Advisors

Glen Honeycutt
NCI Transportation

Dr. Roger Koppa
Texas A&M University

Roger Leathers
TxDPS

Dub Long
TMTA-TCSP Chairman

Sam Stone
Texas Safety Association

Gary D. Thomas
Central Freight Lines

Bobby Williams
TXI



Safety Awards

Distinguished Safety Award

The Distinguished Safety Award is a recognition award presented annually by TXTA and sponsors to honor a distinguished safety professional. Each year at the TXTA Annual Conference, the recipient receives a plaque, green blazer and ring to recognize their outstanding contribution to the field of motor transportation safety.

Excellence in Service Award

The Excellence in Service Award is presented to an individual who best exemplifies the willing dedication of service to the SMC, the industry, their company and the motoring public. Nominees are judged on their professional qualifications, success in advancing the cause of TXTA, SMC, highway and industry safety, as well as their work and leadership in TXTA, SMC and/or other safety professional organizations in which the nominee holds active membership.

TXTA Driver of the Year

The recipient of this award is selected from TXTA carrier members. Companies nominate their best driver, who is judged on many factors, including the number of accident-free miles traveled. The nominee selected as TXTA Driver of the Year is formally recognized and presented with a commemorative plaque, ring and jacket at the TXTA Annual Conference. The TXTA Driver of the Year is then submitted to ATA for National Driver of the Year Award consideration.

Truck Driving Championships

These projects are aimed at promoting safety and professionalism among commercial drivers through stringent professional competitions. Regional championships are held across Texas to qualify drivers for the state finals. Drivers are tested on their ability to maneuver and control their vehicles under several difficult test situations on a designed driving course. Drivers must complete a thorough and accurate vehicle inspection within a designated amount of time. They must also satisfactorily complete a written examination which addresses topics including regulatory compliance, vehicle maintenance and highway safety.

Truck Safety Award

TXTA member fleets with the lowest overall accident frequency experience rate for the year are presented awards in recognition for their contribution to developing dignified, professional performance in the trucking industry. Trophies and plaques are presented to the winners of the state safety contest.

Excellence In Service

- 2020
Ben Johnson
DISA Global Solutions
- 2018
Steve Wilhelms
InfoStream, an EBE Technology Company
- 2017
Bo Duval
Great West Casualty Co.
- 2012
Larry Miller
Great West Casualty Co.
- 2010
Mike Honeycutt
Transafe Inc.
- 2009
Scott Sullins
Great West Casualty Co.
- 2008
Ray Martin
Utility Trailer Sales

TXTA Driver of the Year

- 2020
Jorge Chavez
Jetco Delivery
- 2019
David Hrachovy
TransChem USA, LLC
- 2018
Dennis Renfrow
Central Freight Lines
- 2017
Gary Hinze
Central Freight Lines
- 2016
Rick Pledger
Walmart Transportation
- 2015
Daniel C. Phillips
GenOx Transportation, Inc.
- 2014
Elbert Lavoy Grider
Central Freight Lines
- 2013
Gary Babbitt
Central Freight Lines
- 2012
Ronald C. Fuller
Central Freight Lines
- 2011
Randy Peterson
DART
- 2010
Tony Jones
Central Freight Lines
- 2009
William Ash
Central Freight Lines
- 2008
David Bolden
H.E.B.
- 2007
Wayne Lowe
FFE
- 2006
Donald Hyatt
Central Freight Lines
- 2005
Larry Springer
Central Freight Lines
- 2004
Fread Cienlencki, Jr.
FedEx Freight East
- 2003
Artermio Trevino
Plains Marketing
- 2002
Donald Capps
Central Freight Lines
- 2001
C.W. Lyons
Roadway Express



SMC Chair Bubba Fiveash presents 2017-18 SMC Chair Barry Detlefsen his Past Chairman's Award



2015-16 SMC Chair Tom Hartman presents Kenny Ray his Director Level Certification



2020 Excellence in Service Award Recipient Ben Johnson



2019 Team Texas
(bottom row left to right) Thomas Wilson, HEB; Christopher Flippin, FedEx Freight; Brent Dotts, FedEx Express; Robert Svoboda, Walmart; Jaun Martinez, H.E.B.; (top row left to right) Rick Salazar, ABF Freight; Bobby Tinsley, XPO Logistics; Todd Trahan, FedEx Express; Phil Beck, YRC



2020 TXTA Driver of the Year Jorge Chavez and his wife Elda Celis



2018 Distinguished Safety Award Recipient Chad Hall receives his green jacket from SMC Chairman Barry Detlefsen

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