

Dept. of Transportation: Honors 34 award recipients for outstanding public service

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The annual Wisconsin State Patrol awards ceremony was held Wednesday to recognize the exemplary public service of individuals who have gone above and beyond in their job duties. This year's event in Wisconsin Dells honored 33 state employees and one civilian responder for their lifesaving efforts and exceptional public service.

Governor Tony Evers joined Wisconsin Department of Transportation leaders and spoke at the ceremony.

"Responding to life-or-death situations, enforcing traffic laws that make our highways safer, and building the foundations of our state's traffic safety programs – the Wisconsin State Patrol plays a vital role in the safety and security of not only our transportation system but our state," Gov. Evers said. "We are glad to recognize their service and sacrifices – and the service and sacrifices of their loved ones and families – with these awards today."

Lifesaving and Meritorious Service awards recognize those who saved lives or put themselves in physical danger to keep someone else safe. The Commendable Service, Superintendent's Commendation, and employee of the year categories acknowledge accomplishments that contributed to WisDOT's key mission to build a safe and efficient transportation system.

"The outstanding actions we recognize today raise the bar and demonstrate exceptional commitment to WisDOT's core values," Secretary Craig Thompson said. "Protecting our communities is one of the toughest jobs in state government, but

every award recipient we're honoring has stepped up to the challenge and worked through the stresses of the job to continue to keep us safe."

Employees were nominated by their peers and selected to receive recognition for their actions by the State Patrol Awards Committee.

"Our daily mission, to serve the people of Wisconsin, is a familiar and constant theme in each of the award recipient's stories. They're stories of survival, innovation, and excellence, and each one reveals the true character of our Wisconsin State Patrol family," Superintendent Tim Carnahan said.

More information about the awards recipients and their work is in the [ceremony program](#) and below.

Photos of the recipients are [available here](#).

Lifesaving Effort Award

Award recipient	Post
Trooper Cody Digre	Tomah
Trooper Nicholas Erickson	Fond du Lac
Inspector Thomas Fleming	Spooner
Trooper Jake Fricke (2)	Spooner
Inspector Joshua Lintula	Spooner
Trooper Ryan Roth	Eau Claire
Trooper Jacob Sampson	Wausau
Trooper Caleb Truax	Fond du Lac
Inspector Paul Voigt	Spooner

Lifesaving Award

Award recipient	Post
Trooper Gary Cowan	Retired
Inspector Jonathan Fenrick	DeForest
Trooper Nathaniel Hausman	Tomah
Jacob Hiither (civilian)	Freeway Service Team member
Trooper Brandon Jensen	Eau Claire

Trooper Michael Knowlton	Waukesha
Trooper Timothy Knutson	Eau Claire
Trooper Michael Lawson	Waukesha
Trooper Alexander Lintner	Waukesha
Trooper Justin Luangaram	DeForest
Trooper Chris Senkbeil	Waukesha
Sergeant Joseph Stephens	Waukesha
Inspector Dylan Strasburg	DeForest

Special Recognition

Award	Award recipient	Post
Commendable Service	Inspector Tye Howver	Retired
Commendable Service	Sgt. Mathew Strickland	Wausau
Meritorious Service	Trooper Jesus Aguilar	Waukesha
Meritorious Service	Trooper Christopher Bridges	DeForest
Meritorious Service	Trooper Megan LaFave	Wausau
Meritorious Service	Trooper Alex Medina	Waukesha
Superintendent's Commendation	Trooper Brett Boley	Eau Claire
Superintendent's Commendation	Trooper Christina Holtz (3)	Tomah

Employees of the Year

Award	Award recipient	Post
Inspector of the Year	Inspector Richard Kastner	Spooner
Trooper of the Year	Trooper Nicholas Lorenzen	Waukesha
Civilian Employee of the Year	David Malisch	Headquarters
Dispatcher of the Year	Erin McKay	Traffic Management Center