

Brian Sandoval
Governor



Chris Perry
Director

Troy L. Abney
Chief
Nevada Highway Patrol

August 23, 2012

Trooper Chuck Allen
Nevada Highway Patrol – Northern Command
Public Information Officer
callen@dps.state.nv.us
775-689-4680 or 775-230-4921

Media Release

Two Troopers to be Promoted to Sergeant, Two Additional Troopers to be Recognized; one Presented with Life-Saving Award and the other for Recently Winning Two National Awards. NHP will also Announce the new Public Information Officers for Northern Command West

On Thursday morning, August 23rd, at 11:00 o'clock, the Nevada Highway Patrol will be promoting two troopers, Joe McKay and Dave Cox, to the rank of sergeant. Upon receiving their stripes, Sergeant Cox will be assigned to the Fallon area while Sergeant McKay will remain in the Reno-Sparks area.

The Nevada Highway Patrol senior leadership will also be recognizing and applauding the recent achievements of Trooper Chris Smithen; a trooper in the commercial motor vehicle enforcement section who is based in the Cason City area. Trooper Smithen recently competed in a four-day Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) North American Inspectors Challenge (NAIC) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There were competitors from Canada, Mexico and most of the 50 states, comprising of fifty competitors overall. Trooper Smithen was awarded the prestigious Jimmy K. Ammons Grand Champion Award for his combined performances in six competition elements. He was also awarded the John Youngblood Award of Excellence. This latter accolade is a special award NAIC contestants bestow on a fellow NAIC inspector who exemplifies the high standards and unwavering dedication to the profession. For more information on these two awards and other accolades from the four-day event, please log onto the CVSA website at www.cvsa.org/news.

Additionally tomorrow morning, Trooper Brett Tierney, a trooper based in the Reno area, will be receiving the Life Saving Medal for his quick and decisive actions displayed on August 17, 2011. He and other troopers were eating dinner at a Chili's restaurant in Reno around 7:00 pm that evening. Seated nearby was a family of five that included Juanita Weaver and her two adult daughters and two grandchildren. Shortly thereafter, Andrea Poggione, one of Ms. Weaver's daughters, informed the troopers that her mother was choking.

- Page 1 of 2 -

Trooper Tierney reacted quickly and decisively and performed the Heimlich maneuver thus dislodging the food which immediately opened her airway. Ms. Weaver required no further medical assistance.

Also during Thursday's event, the Nevada Highway Patrol will be introducing three troopers to the communities of northern Nevada who will each be assuming the duties as public information officer (PIO) or spokespersons. Trooper Barb Stapleton will be replacing Trooper Chuck Allen as the primary PIO for most of the NHP-Northern Command West geographical area while Trooper Garrett Bird will be assigned as the back-up PIO for Trooper Stapleton and will fill in for her when she is on leave or in times when she is otherwise unavailable. For the greater Carson City, Minden-Gardnerville and Lake Tahoe areas, Trooper Dan Gordon will be the primary spokesperson and will be assisting the media outlets in these locations with information while Trooper Dan Lopez will continue to serve as an alternate PIO for this area. Their contact information will be sent out this week to the media outlets.

Trooper Allen will soon be starting his new role at NHP Headquarters in Carson City and will oversee media relations for the Office of the Chief as well as providing leadership, mentorship and training to the other Department of Public Safety-NHP spokespersons statewide.

Also during the event, NHP will also be recognizing Diana Marsteller with a certificate honoring her with 20 years of service to the organization. Diana began her career as a dispatcher in the NHP communications center and now serves in the Courts-Warrants section at the Northern Command West Headquarters.

Lastly, Trooper Chris Brandt will be thanked for his service as a highway patrolman as he is transferring over to the Nevada Parole and Probation Division where he will be promoted to the rank of sergeant.

What: Promotion/Recognition/PIO Announcement event

Where: NHP-Northern Command West Headquarters

Address: 357 Hammill Lane, Reno

When: Thursday, August 23rd

Time: 11:00 am

XXXX