



WRAP reporter

WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM (WRAP)

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

WRAP Champions Laws Targeting Repeat Drunk Drivers and Teen Drinkers in Maryland

WRAP's fight against both drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area takes the nonprofit organization to Annapolis, Richmond and Washington, D.C. in championing public policies aiming to create effective deterrents to both impaired driving and teen drinking. What follows is a summary of WRAP's 2009 legislative highlights to-date in both Maryland and Virginia.

MARYLAND

"It's a little like taking your Labrador retriever to the groomer and leaving later with a Corgi," quoted *The Washington Post* (2-28-09) and of WRAP President Kurt Gregory Erickson in describing changes made to anti-drunk driving and underage drinking legislation in Maryland's 2009 General Assembly session.

Succinctly, only two-fifths of this year's DUI bills specifically recommended by Maryland's General Assembly-created Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol (of which WRAP served as a gubernatorial-appointed member) as well as introduced as "Administration bills" by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley (D) (and supported by WRAP) made it to the Governor's desk even *resembling* their original form. The balance was either killed in committee or so compromised by amendments to be rendered much lesser forms than was either introduced or recommended by the very task force legislators asked to *make* such recommendations.

On a positive note and at his final, ceremonial bill signing of 2009 Maryland General Assembly legislation on May 19, 2009, Governor O'Malley signed into law bills cracking-down on both: persons

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WRAP Lauds Local Students in Combating Underage Drinking



Master of Ceremonies **Alison Starling** (ABC 7 News) (l) and sponsor and Immediate Past WRAP Chairman **Janice Minshall** (GEICO) (second from left, back row) joining members of Watkins Mill High School's award-winning Hispanic Heritage Club at WRAP's 2009 GEICO Student Awards.

Calling it a recognition of high school students "doing the right thing," WRAP awarded four Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups this spring with honors for their efforts in fighting underage drinking.

At an April 24, 2009 awards ceremony at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., WRAP presented its 17th-annual GEICO Student Awards to:

- **H.D. Woodson High School's SADD Club**, District of Columbia;
- **James Madison High School's SADD Club**, Fairfax County, Virginia;
- **Watkins Mill High School's Hispanic Heritage Club**, Montgomery Co., Maryland;

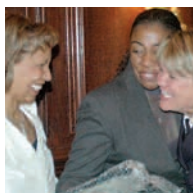
- **Eleanor Roosevelt High School's SADD Club**, Prince George's Co., Maryland.

WRAP's GEICO Student Awards, now in their 17th year, were presented by WRAP to Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers. The popular awards—judged by members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Drug Prevention and Education Committee in tandem with WRAP—were presented to just one student group in each of the Greater Washington counties and or cities served by WRAP. (Entries came from the District of Columbia, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties).

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WRAP Launches Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaigns for 2008 Page 12

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Student groups were judged on their leadership, effectiveness, innovation and involvement of both the student body and community in their efforts to prevent underage drinking. Activities of the winning groups included a variety of creative initiatives including: developing “contracts” between students and parents regarding the refraining from alcohol and drug use; organizing alcohol-free teen social events and forums; establishing mentoring relationships between high school and intermediate and elementary school students; and participating on town governing bodies.

At a packed awards ceremony at the Verizon Center’s Acela Club, nearly 150 high school students gathered and applauded while the four winning student groups received both plaques and \$500 each from GEICO to continue their efforts of keeping their peers on the right track.

ABC 7 anchor Alison Starling served as that day’s Master of Ceremonies while speakers included Virginia State Police Senior Trooper Michael Middleton as well as award sponsor Janice Minshall, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Communications with GEICO.

“In 2007, nearly one-third of all teen drivers killed in this country’s traffic



Local high school students trying on Fatal Vision goggles at WRAP's 2009 GEICO Student Awards.

crashes had been drinking,” said Minshall, also WRAP’s Immediate Past Chairman. “This year’s student group winners represent the front line in the fight against underage drinking in Greater Washington

and we commend their efforts in this far from won battle.”

Founded in 1982, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area’s alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization’s popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, *SoberRide*.

For more information, visit WRAP’s web site at www.wrap.org ■

*SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions.



Area high school students enjoying an Acela Club lunch at WRAP's 2009 GEICO Student Awards.

In 2008, nearly a third (31%) of all teen drivers killed in U.S. traffic crashes had been drinking.

Tough Teen Law continued from page 1

repeatedly convicted of drunk driving; as well as underage drinkers in the state and those unlawfully providing them with alcohol. Specifically, Governor O'Malley signed into law legislation which will:

- mandate one-year driver's license suspensions for persons twice convicted (within five years) of either driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances (**Senate Bill 262**);
- outlaw the "consumption" of alcohol by those under 21 and criminalize the provision of alcohol to those under 21 (**House Bill 299**);
- double the period for a subsequent Probation Before Judgment (PBJ) finding for impaired driving offenses (**House Bill 301 & Senate Bill 259**);
- and provide for fines and incarceration for persons violating a Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) imposed driver's license alcohol restriction (**House Bill 305 & Senate Bill 263**).

Each of the aforementioned bills was originally introduced by O'Malley in January and was borne out of the recommendations made by the Maryland General Assembly-created Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol.

"While it's unfortunate that Maryland lawmakers discounted if not dismissed the legislative recommendations made by the very task force they asked for said recommendations, Governor O'Malley should be commended for his leadership on this public health and public safety issue," said Erickson also a registered Maryland lobbyist and Vice Chairman of the more than 280-member Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition's Legislative Committee.

Erickson refers to Maryland anti-drunk driving advocates' bemoaning of the final outcome of this year's Administration/DUI task force bills as only two of the five bills introduced by O'Malley made it through this year's session of Maryland's General Assembly fairly unscathed (that being the PBJ [HB 301/SB 259] and MVA-imposed restricted license bills [HB 305 & SB 263]) with two others weakened.

The weakened bills included both the underage drinking (HB 299) and repeat DUI offender bills (SB 262). The underage drinking bill originally proposed driver's license sanctions for teens convicted of either possession or consumption of alcohol. Such penalties were stripped from the bill early in the session. In addition, an amendment made to the bill by Senator Robert Zirkin (D-Baltimore County) narrowed the ability to enforce the



Photo courtesy of the Maryland Governor's Office

WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (standing fourth from left) joining legislators, legislative staff and advocates at Maryland Governor **Martin O'Malley's** (seated second from right) signing into law 2009 Maryland General Assembly bills cracking-down on both repeat drunk drivers and underage drinkers. Also seated (l to r) are: Maryland **Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown**, Senate **President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.**, O'Malley and House of Delegates **Speaker Michael E. Busch**.

consumption provisions of the bill by limiting its charge to only those also specifically "observed in possession of an alcoholic beverage." The repeat offender bill, which and in its current form only applies to those twice convicted of Maryland's driving under the influence of alcohol (.08 + blood alcohol concentration [BAC]) or "controlled dangerous substances" statutes, originally sought to also apply enhanced penalties to persons repeatedly convicted of driving while impaired by either alcohol (.07 BAC) or drugs.

A pair of bills [HB 307 & SB 260] also introduced by O'Malley and stemming from Maryland's DUI task force and which requested BAC tests for drivers involved in fatal or life-threatening motor vehicle crashes was killed in committee earlier this year.

Repeat drunk drivers are over-represented in fatal traffic crashes where alcohol was deemed a factor. In fact, one-third of all U.S. DUI/DWI arrests each year involve drivers convicted previously of drunk driving. Worse yet, and according to U.S. Department of Transportation figures, drunk drivers killed in traffic crashes are five times as likely to have a prior DUI than fatally injured sober drivers.

Regarding underage drinking, the Maryland State Department of Education's 2005 "Maryland Adolescent Survey" found that "many Maryland young people report fairly heavy alcohol consumption, especially high school seniors and tenth graders." Specifically—and in addition to the Department of Education's statewide finding that alcohol is one of the most abused substances used by Maryland school children—the report found that nearly two-thirds of Maryland's 12th graders reported drinking alcohol in the last year while nearly half reported drinking in the last month. In addition, this statewide adolescent survey also found that more than one-out-of-four of Maryland's driving 12th graders have "driven at least once after consuming one to four drinks."

For this year's Task Force/Administration bills, WRAP played a leading role in Annapolis this year by: providing numerous legislative committees with both testimony and substitute bill language; routinely meeting with Executive and Legislative branch leadership; routinely meeting also with both Senate and House members; providing resource information; and building public support for these initiatives via WRAP's regularly-issued *Legislative Alerts*.

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Over 400 SoberRides® Provided on St. Patrick's Day



Metropolitan Police Department **Assistant Chief Patrick Burke** joining U.S. Park Police **Captain Jackie Burks** at the launch of WRAP's 2009 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign.

"One Less Drunk Driver Every Two Minutes," read the WUSA-TV headline (3-18-09) regarding WRAP's *SoberRide* program providing 403 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers this St. Patrick's Day.

WRAP's 2009 St. Patrick's Day *SoberRide* program began on St. Patrick's Day (March 17, 2009) at 4:00 pm and continued until 4:00 am the following day as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

"For *SoberRide*'s hours of operation this St. Patrick's Day, this translates into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every two minutes," said George Pakidis, WRAP's *SoberRide* Committee Chairman and Vice President of Red Top Cab.

This year's St. Patrick's Day ridership figure represents a nearly 85-percent (84.86%, 218 > 403 rides) increase in *SoberRide* ridership from last year's (2008) St. Patrick's Day offering.

During *SoberRide*'s 12-hour period this St. Patrick's Day, area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free *SoberRide* phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$50 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless users

could call #-TAXI for the same service. Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provided this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

SoberRide was offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of this year's St. Patrick's Day *SoberRide* offering included Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Baileys & Bushmills, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Red Top Cab and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

In addition, eight of the Washington-metropolitan area's better-known Irish restaurants have also united to ensure a safe St. Patrick's Day celebration this year by sponsoring *SoberRide*. These dining establishments include: Daniel O'Connell's Restaurant (VA); The Dubliner Restaurant & Pub (D.C.); Fado (D.C.); Irish Channel Restaurant (D.C.); Irish Inn at Glen Echo (MD); Kelly's Irish Times (D.C.); Martin's Tavern est. 1933 (D.C.); and Murphy's Grand Irish Pubs (D.C. & VA).

Participating taxicab companies include: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Since 1993, WRAP's *SoberRide* program has provided 43,789 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

For more information, visit www.soberride.com. ■



WRAP *SoberRide* Committee Chairman **George Pakidis** (Red Top Cab) (at podium) announcing the kick-off of WRAP's 2009 St. Patrick's Day *SoberRide* campaign.

Area Law Enforcement Lauded for Fight Against Drunk Driving



Fairfax County Police Department **Captain Deborah Burnett** (center) celebrating her 2008 WRAP Law Enforcement Award along with (l to r): WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir**, **Lieutenant Pamela Simms**, awards host Montgomery County Department of Police **Chief J. Thomas Manger** and Master of Ceremonies **Lindsay Czarniak** (NBC4).

Twelve Washington-metropolitan area police officers were cited for their "outstanding commitment in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington" on December 12, 2008 and presented with the area's eleventh-annual "Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention."

Presented at a regional ceremony held in McLean, Virginia, WRAP presented its 2008 Law Enforcement Awards to:

- **City of Alexandria Police Department's** Sergeant Matthew Weinert
- **Arlington County Police Department's** Officer Ronald Grannis
- **Fairfax County Police Department's** Captain Deborah Burnett
- **Loudoun County Sheriff's Office's** Deputy Ryan Woellner
- **Maryland State Police's** Trooper First Class Justin L. Mallow
- **Metropolitan Police Department's** (D.C.) Officer Andrew Zabavsky
- **Montgomery County Department of Police's** Officer III John Romack
- **Prince George's County Police Department's** Corporal Steven Allen
- **Prince William County Police Department's** Officer David A. Ehrhardt
- **United States Park Police's** Master Patrol Officer Anthony Giannino AND Officer Pentti W. Gillespie
- **Virginia State Police's** Senior Trooper Michael S. Middleton

The annual awards, presented at a ceremony at Maggiano's Little Italy in the Tysons Galleria, were bestowed by WRAP in memory of Metropolitan Police Department's Motor Patrol Officer Anthony W. Simms. Officer Simms, as a result of injuries sustained while on duty, lost his life to an impaired driver during Memorial Day weekend in 1996. WRAP's 2008 Law Enforcement Awards were presented by Officer Simms' widow, Lieutenant Pamela Simms, also formerly with the Metropolitan Police Department, along with NBC4's Sports Anchor Lindsay Czarniak. The popular event's speakers included Maryland Delegate Bill Bronrott (D-Montgomery County), Virginia Delegate Brian Moran (D-Alexandria) and Montgomery County Department of Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, amongst others.



WRAP co-founder and current Maryland **Delegate William Bronrott** addressing the crowd at WRAP's 2008 Law Enforcement Awards.



Recipients of WRAP's 2008 Law Enforcement Awards posing after the winter ceremony.

"Today's awardees represent the front lines in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington," said Leisa Weir, WRAP's Chairman. "It is only through their commitment in stopping the threat that impaired driving presents to all our friends and families that the Washington-metropolitan area continues to have a rate of alcohol-related traffic deaths lower than the national average."

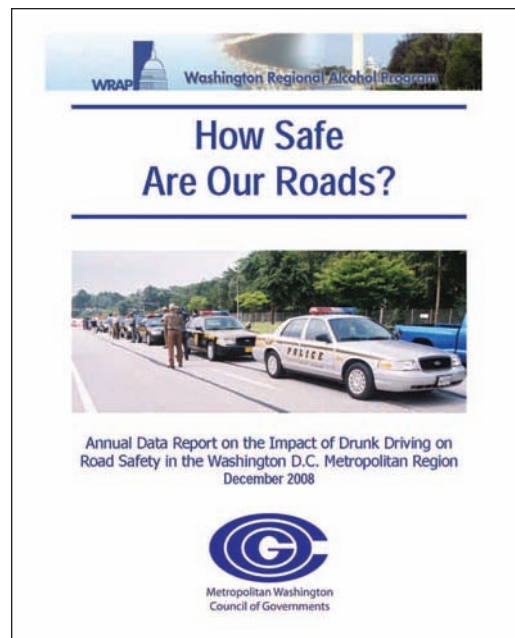


Prince George's County Police **Corporal Steven Allen** (center) posing with his 2008 WRAP Law Enforcement Award along with (l to r): WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir**, **Lieutenant Pamela Simms**, awards host Montgomery County Department of Police **Chief J. Thomas Manger** and Master of Ceremonies **Lindsay Czarniak** (NBC4).

According to WRAP and contained in the organization's 2008 "How Safe are Our Roads" report (see online at: <http://www.wrap.org/highwaysafety08.pdf>), alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes all decreased in the Washington-metropolitan area last year.

In addition to receiving the Law Enforcement Awards, each of the 2008 WRAP honorees also received four complementary Washington Wizards tickets (courtesy of the Washington Wizards), a \$25 prepaid gas card (courtesy of Exxon Mobil) and two high-tech and illuminated ticket boards (courtesy of the region's *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign). ■

Drunk Driving Incidents Decline in Greater Washington



Crashes

Area traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and or drugs decreased by more than five-percent (5.8%) between 2006 and 2007 (and from 5,321 to 5,015 such crashes). This counters the previous year's (2006) spike in such deaths in Greater Washington.

Injuries

Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic injuries also decreased by over five-percent (5.4%) between 2006 and 2007 (and from 2,988 to 2,827 such injuries).

Arrests

Local arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) increased by nearly one-percent (0.9%) between 2006 and 2007 (and from 14,846 to 14,976 such arrests.)

Of the Washington-metropolitan area's 351 total traffic fatalities in 2007, 33% (116) of these roadway deaths were alcohol and or drug-related. 2007 national statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or NHTSA) show that 45-percent of total U.S. vehicular fatalities were reported as alcohol/drug-related.

While WRAP and COG officials pointed to high-profile law enforcement deployments like local sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols—and the voluntary compliance gained from the same—as a principal catalyst in Greater Washington's recent downward DUI numbers, they also stressed the need to resist complacency.

"When someone is still arrested for drunk driving every 45-minutes in the Washington-metropolitan area, vigilance in combating this completely preventable killer is needed now more than ever," said David Robertson, COG's Executive Director.

WRAP's timing in releasing its preliminary report was in tandem with this country's most deadly time of year when it comes to drunk driving. According to NHTSA, historically, more people are killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes between Thanksgiving and New Years than during any other period of the year. ■

Tough Teen Law continued from page 3

In news of other anti-drunk driving and or underage drinking bills in the 426th session of Maryland's General Assembly, Maryland lawmakers also witnessed the death of those bills seeking to:

- increase penalties for a second BAC test refusal (**HB 875**—its cross-filed SB 732 was withdrawn);
- increase penalties for using a fake I.D. (**HB 251 & SB 323**);
- require repeat DUI offenders to outfit their vehicle with special identifying license plates (**HB 853**);
- require all DUI offenders to equip their vehicle with an ignition interlock device (**HB 1217 & SB 735**);
- equate drunk driving with drugged driving (**SB 783**);
- make Maryland's existing primary seatbelt law a secondary enforcement law (**HB 1079 & HB 1028**);
- and clarify preliminary breath test results as probable cause in a DUI arrest (**HB 212**).

(The full report of Maryland's Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs & Alcohol can be found online at <http://wrap.org/pdfs/FinalTFReportsSubmitted102908.pdf>.)

VIRGINIA

"General Assembly Session Meets (Low) Expectations," read the *Virginian-Pilot* headline (3-3-09) and following Virginia's 46-day, budget-focused 2009 General Assembly session—and one also labeled as both "lackluster" and "somber" (by *The Washington Post* and *Daily Press*, respectively).

In short and at best—and following recent years' public policy advancements in the Commonwealth's continuing fight against impaired driving and teen drinking—Virginia's 2009 legislative session was largely one of both modest or technical amendments and of "holding ground."

That said, however, and in the positive column, Virginia lawmakers *did* send to Virginia Governor Tim Kaine (D) since signed into law measures which will:

- increase the penalties for DUI offenders sentenced to ignition interlock systems but convicted of driving without such (**HB 1805 & SB 889**);
- mandate drivers safety training for parents of teen drivers in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William as well as the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park (**HB 1782**);
- double the current five-year "look-back window" for repeat DUI offenders to be sentenced to ignition interlock systems (**SB 1463**);
- and expand the settings for BAC tests to include hospitals, for example (**HB 1614**).

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For the first time in two years, the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes all declined in the Washington-metropolitan area in 2007 according to a preliminary report released by WRAP on December 5, 2008.

"The report's findings appear to show the dividends of both highly-visible law enforcement deterrent efforts like the region's *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign as well as increased public attention to the threat of drunk driving," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

WRAP's 16th-annual report, "How Safe are Our Roads?, a Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Highway Safety in the Washington Metropolitan Region," was prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) for the McLean, Virginia-based alcohol-education group.

Findings in the 2008 report include:

Fatalities

Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic deaths decreased by two-and-a-half-percent (2.5%) between 2006 and 2007 (and from 119 to 116 such fatalities). This counters both the previous year's (2006) spike in such deaths in Greater Washington as well as the three consecutive year (2005, 2006 & 2007) increase in such deaths at the national level.

WRAP Calls for Safety During “Super Bowl Sunday”



“Super Bowl Sunday Deadly for Drunk Drivers,” read the *WAMU-FM* headline (2-1-09) and regarding WRAP’s call for safety during one of the this country’s “most dangerous days” when it comes to drunk driving” according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), “Super Bowl Sunday.”

During Super Bowl Sunday, 48% of all U.S. traffic fatalities are alcohol-related according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“With nearly half of all U.S. traffic deaths being caused by drunk drivers during Super Bowl Sunday, it’s important to have a game-plan both on and off the field to combat this too often deadly opposition,” said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President.

In advance of this year’s “Super Bowl Sunday” scheduled for February 1, 2009, WRAP issued a number of “safe celebrating” tips to prevent drunk driving and which included:

- **Planning ahead and designate a driver if you’re celebrating with alcohol.**
- **Use alternative transportation like taxi cabs.**
- **Be a responsible host by:**
 - **Not serving anyone who appears to be impaired.**

- **Serving food with alcohol (high protein foods like meats and cheeses stay in the stomach longer thereby slowing the body’s alcohol absorption rate).**
- **Using a non-carbonated base in alcoholic punches (the body absorbs alcohol faster when mixed with carbonization).**
- **Serving non-alcoholic beverages as an option.**
- **Never serving minors.**
- **Closing the bar at least an hour before the event’s end.**
- **Designate a bartender/don’t let guests mix their own drinks.**
- **And never allowing impaired guest to get behind the wheel.**
- **Report drunk drivers. (Maryland and Virginia law enforcement professionals both encourage the use of the “#77 feature” on wireless telephones for motorists to report suspected drunk drivers. In D.C., dialing “311” is encouraged for the same.)**
- **Wear your seatbelt.**

“Wearing a seatbelt may not be widely viewed as a tool in this effort but the wearing of a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver,” said Erickson. “The bottom-line is that the routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries.” ■

Tough Teen Law continued from page 6

On the “holding ground” front and as proof of the adage voiced by Virginia’s House of Delegates’ Majority Leader H. Morgan Griffith commenting on the benefit of killing certain bills that being, “it’s not always the passage of bills that is important” (*The Washington Post*, 2-4-08), WRAP played a leading role this session in helping to thwart efforts to lessen the penalties for underage drinking in Virginia. In addition to the “carry over” version of last year’s **Senate Bill 601** and which sought to make the crime of underage drinking in Virginia a Class 2 misdemeanor lessening such from its current Class 1 status, WRAP also opposed two other bills this session which sought to, at best, lessen the offense for persons “permitting” underage drinking (HB 2087 & SB 1341). WRAP advocated both its position and reasoning to members of the Virginia General Assembly’s two Courts of Justice Committees helping to result in all three of these “lessening measures” being stricken or dying.

According to Virginia’s Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services’ 2005 Virginia Community Youth Survey, alcohol is the “most commonly used substance” by Virginia teens citing that 76-percent of Virginia’s high school seniors and 64-percent of the Commonwealth’s 10th graders reported using alcohol. In addition, more than one-quarter (27.8%) of Virginia’s 12th graders reported consuming five or more drinks in a row within the reporting period’s past two weeks. Perhaps most insightful, this most recent, state indicator of substance abuse amongst Virginia’s teens found that levels of alcohol use amongst the Commonwealth’s youth has remained unchanged for the last half-decade (2000–2005).

In addition and according to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, alcohol-related traffic fatalities involving teens in the state went up 43-percent in 2006 nearly tripling the rate of increase in such fatalities amongst all age drivers in Virginia.

And on the technical amendment front, clarifying amendments were made in the following bills each also sent to Governor Kaine:

- allowing restricted driver’s licenses in Virginia to provide for college travel (**HB 1653**);
- clarifying the availability of Virginia’s refusal/consent form (**HB 2303**);

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WRAP Hosts 5th Annual “Maryland Remembers” Ceremony

In an emotional ceremony in Annapolis on December 10, 2008, Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley (D) memorialized the state’s victims of drunk driving while simultaneously calling for safety during what he labeled as one of the deadliest times of year when it comes to drunk driving.

Noting the fact that the period between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day is historically that holiday period when the largest number of U.S. alcohol-related traffic fatalities occurs, O’Malley urged Maryland drivers this holiday season that “if you choose to drink, don’t drive. If others do, stop them.”

Emphasizing his plea, a procession of Maryland families each baring photographs of loved ones killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes began what was billed as the state’s fifth-annual “Maryland Remembers”

ceremony. Family members each went to the front of the room in the Maryland General Assembly’s Miller Senate Building and solemnly said the name of their victim of drunk driving.

“There is perhaps no greater human tragedy than that of a preventable death; to lose a life we could have saved,” said O’Malley. “During this holiday season, we urge every citizen of Maryland to honor those victims who’ve lost their lives and those survivors whose lives are forever changed by impaired driving.”

Other speakers at this annual ceremony hosted by WRAP included former Maryland Secretary of Transportation John Porcari, Maryland Chiefs of Police Association President Chief Bernadette DiPino and MADD-Chesapeake Region Victim Advocate Donna Hathaway-Beck. ■

Tough Teen Law continued from page 7

- and clarifying the sanctions of Virginia’s teen drinking & driving statutes (**HB 1868**).

Lastly and in providing proof that “half of the bills before the General Assembly fail to survive” (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 2-24-09), Virginia lawmakers this year killed or bore witness to the demise of measures seeking to:

- allow for primary enforcement of Virginia’s seatbelt laws (**HBs: 2253; 2339; & 2384; and SBs 970; 1161; & 1408**);
- disallow open containers of alcohol in the passenger areas of motor vehicles (**HB 1614**);
- allow for a deferred disposition (probation) for persons summoning aid to an underage drinker (**HB 2297**);
- mandate ignition interlock devices for all DUI offenders in Virginia (**HB 2041**);
- allow for vehicle impoundment for a second conviction of driving without a driver’s license (**HBs: 1695; 1860; & 2021**);
- allow law enforcement officers the discretion of either arrest or issuing a summons for Class 1 or 2 misdemeanor offenses (**HB 2136**);
- allow “transfer custody” of DUI offenders from one law enforcement officer to another (**HBs 1954 & 2245**);
- ensure uniformity as well as conformity of other state’s DUI laws so as to address repeat DUI offenders in Virginia (**SB 1424**);
- require persons repeatedly convicted of DUI to outfit their vehicle with special, identifying license plates (**HB 1281**);
- allow for court-ordered restricted driver’s licenses for persons whose licenses have been suspended (**SB 310**);
- and study as well as make recommendations regarding teen driving in Virginia (**SJ 356**).

WRAP played a leading role in both advancing and strategically thwarting legislation in Richmond this year by: providing numerous legislative committees with both testimony and substitute bill language; routinely meeting with Legislative branch leadership; routinely meeting also with both Senate and House members including bills’ chief patrons; providing resource information; and building public support for legislation via WRAP’s regularly-issued *Legislative Alerts*. ■



Photo courtesy of the Maryland Governor’s Office

WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (left) and Chairman **Leisa Weir** joining Maryland Governor **Martin O’Malley** at WRAP’s 2008 “Maryland Remembers” ceremony.

www.wrap.org

Over 2,000 Use SoberRide® In December

This past News Year's Eve alone, 468 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's free cab ride service, *SoberRide*, as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

"For its hours of operation, this level of ridership translates into *SoberRide* removing a would-be drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every 62-seconds this New Year's Eve," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

WRAP's winter holiday offering—which concluded on the morning of January 1, 2009 and after kicking-off and running nightly since December 12, 2008—provided 2,002 total, free cabs rides to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

WRAP's 2008 Holiday *SoberRide* program operated between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am each evening over this nearly three-week period as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during



Montgomery County Department of Police **Chief J. Thomas Manger** (at podium) joining his fellow Greater Washington law enforcement colleagues in kicking-off WRAP's 2008 Holiday *SoberRide* campaign.

this traditionally high-risk, holiday time. During that period, Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol

could call the toll-free *SoberRide* phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$ 50 fare), safe way home. (AT&T wireless customers could call #-TAXI for the same service.)

Since 1993 alone, WRAP's *SoberRide* program—a past recipient of Virginia's Governor's Award for Transportation Safety—has provided 43,789 free cab rides home to would-be impaired drivers in the Greater Washington area.

SoberRide was offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of the 2008 Holiday *SoberRide* campaign include Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, GEICO, Giant Food Inc., Red Top Cab and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating taxicab companies included: Alexandria Yellow Cab, Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Taxi Transportation Services; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County. ■



Retired Metropolitan Police Department **Lieutenant Pamela Simms** (l) joining both **Lindsay Czarniak** (NBC4) and Montgomery County Department of Police **Chief J. Thomas Manger** in launching WRAP's 2008 Holiday *SoberRide* campaign.

WRAP Commemorates 26th Year at Annual Meeting



Washington Post columnist **Robert Thomson** ("Dr. Gridlock") addressing the crowd at WRAP's 2008 Annual Luncheon Meeting.

Held in Washington, D.C.'s brand new Nationals Park, WRAP commemorated its 26th year fighting drunk driving and underage drinking with *The Washington Post's* "Dr. Gridlock" and by honoring 19 area individuals and businesses going above and beyond the call of duty in Greater Washington's fight against drunk driving and teen drinking.

Ably serving as a speaker that day was *The Washington Post's* Robert Thomson who both pens that newspaper's popular "Dr. Gridlock" column as well as serves as the region's "traffic safety ombudsman." In addition, the following 2008 awardees were bestowed honors from WRAP:

2008 WRAP Community Partnership Awards:

- AT&T
- GEICO
- Red Top Cab

2008 WRAP Public Partnership Awards:

- District of Columbia Department of Transportation
- Maryland Highway Safety Office
- Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

2008 WRAP Corporate Sponsor Awards:

- AT&T
- Beer Institute
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- ExxonMobil

- GEICO
- Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association
- Wine and Spirits Who'salers of America

2008 WRAP Corporate Partner Award:

- Anheuser-Busch and their local distributors

2008 WRAP Law Enforcement Award:

- Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel W. Steven Flaherty

2008 WRAP Public Service Award:

- Virginia Delegate William Janis (R-Glen Allen)

2008 WRAP Youth Leadership Award:

- Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control

2008 WRAP Media Partnership Award:

- Times Community Newspapers

2008 WRAP Chairman's Award:

- Carole Lewis, Chief, Transportation Safety Division, District of Columbia Department of Transportation

In addition, the following officers were unanimously re-elected to serve another one-year term and through September 30, 2009:

Leisa Weir, *Chairman*
 Alexa Kaufman, AT&T, *Vice Chairman*
 John O'Donnell, WANADA, *Secretary*
 Fred Valentine, *Treasurer*
 Janice Minshall, GEICO, *Immediate Past Chairman*

The following persons were unanimously, newly-elected to WRAP's Board serving one-year terms through September 30, 2009:

Caroline Cash, MADD Chesapeake Region

Nadine Parker, National Capital Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking

Jill Pepper, Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM)

Kevin Quinlan, National Transportation Safety Board

Deputy Chief Cleveland Spruill, City of Alexandria Police Department



GEICO Communications staffers (l to r) **Elizabeth Rouse**, **Robin Addison**, **Shannon Wilson** and **Rachel Veness** joining the Washington Nationals' "Racing President" **Teddy Roosevelt** at WRAP's 2008 Annual Luncheon Meeting.

And the following persons were unanimously elected to serve on WRAP's "Advisory Committee":

Vernon Betkey, Jr., Maryland Highway Safety Office
 David Mosley, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
 Carole Lewis, District of Columbia Department of Transportation

In addition, current WRAP Board members eligible were reelected for another one-year term through September 30, 2009. ■



WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir** (third from left) joining WRAP's 2008 Public Partner Awardees (l to r): **Butch Letteer** and **David Mosley** (Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles/Virginia Highway Safety Office), **Carole Lewis** (District of Columbia Department of Transportation) and **Liza Lemaster** and **Vernon Betkey, Jr.** (Maryland Highway Safety Office) at WRAP's 2008 Annual Luncheon Meeting.

WRAP Helps Recognize Maryland Law Enforcement for Fight Against Drunk Driving

On October 5, 2008 and at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland, WRAP helped honor 146 Maryland law enforcement professionals in the nonprofit organization's capacity of project director of Maryland's 7th-annual Impaired Driving Enforcement Awards.

Recognized for their outstanding commitment to Maryland's fight against drunk driving, these nearly 150 honorees were each presented with a Law Enforcement Medal and a uniform bar for exceptional service.

"The awardees represent the front lines in the fight against drunk driving in our state," remarked Maryland State Highway Administrator and Governor's Highway Safety Representative Neil J. Pedersen. "We owe so much to these men and women as we stand committed to winning Maryland's fight against impaired driving."

Three officers were specifically recognized for having made more than 100 individual DUI arrests in 2007. Officer II Jonathan Bennet of the Gaithersburg Police Department, Private First Class Mark Heron of the Howard County Police Department

and Officer John P. Romack of the Montgomery County Police Department were each honored with a special plaque known as the "Ace Award."

In addition to these awards, four other officers were recognized for their role in spearheading, and/or maintaining innovative DUI enforcement, education, and training programs within their respective departments including: Sergeant Richard Carter, Bel Air Police Department; Trooper First Class William Abey, Maryland State Police Easton Barrack; Master Police Officer Scott Kaiser, Greenbelt Police Department; and Sergeant Rhonda Thomas, Easton Police Department.

WJZ-TV (CBS) Weathercaster Bob Turk served as the event's Master of Ceremonies and retired Louisiana State Trooper Colonel James Champagne served as the day's Featured Speaker.

According to Maryland's State Highway Administration, law enforcement officers in Maryland made more than 24,000 arrests for DUI or DWI-related offenses in 2008.

The annual awards program was supported via a grant to WRAP from the Maryland Highway Safety Office. ■



Local Halloween SoberRide® Success

This past fall's Halloween *SoberRide* program provided 374 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Provided by WRAP, the 2008 Halloween *SoberRide* program began at 10:00 pm on October 31, 2008 and continued until 6:00 am the following day as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

Sponsors of this year's Halloween *SoberRide* offering included: Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Red Top Cab of Arlington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating taxicab companies included: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Taxi Transportation Services; Yellow Cab Company of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County. ■



WJZ-TV Weathercaster **Bob Turk** serving as the Master of Ceremonies at Maryland's 2008 Impaired Driving Enforcement Awards.

WRAP Launches Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaigns for 2008



Maryland Attorney General **Douglas Gansler** (at podium) along with **Chief Jeffrey Spaulding**, President, Maryland Chiefs of Police and Chief of Police, Westminster Police Department helping launch Maryland's 2008 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign.

Serving as the project director of the public education component for the region's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaigns—a seventh-year effort to combat drunk driving via the increased deployment of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols in the region—WRAP kicked-off its 2008 Greater Washington, Maryland and Virginia versions of this annual traffic safety campaign last year. The following serves as a summary of last year's efforts.

MARYLAND

"Drunk Drivers Targeted by Police," read the *Southern Maryland News* headline (8-29-08) regarding the August 18, 2008 launch of Maryland's 2008 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign and via a news conference featuring Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler held at the Maryland Public Safety Education and Training Center in Sykesville, Maryland.

The 2008 traffic safety campaign was launched in concert with law enforcement agencies in three-quarters of Maryland's jurisdictions taking part in a regional initiative to stop drunk driving on rural roads. Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that more than half (55 percent) of the nation's

2006 traffic fatalities occurred on rural roads. In Maryland, the proportion of impaired drivers involved in crashes is more than 50 percent higher in the rural areas.

"There is no excuse for driving under the influence and drunk drivers won't be able to hide on the back roads of Maryland," stated Chief Jeffrey Spaulding, President, Maryland Chiefs of Police and Chief of Police, Westminster Police Department. "We know the danger posed by drunk drivers and we will continue to do all we can to identify and apprehend them."

"When Maryland law enforcement agencies make arrests, prosecutors will come down hard on those who choose to drink and drive. When they come to court, violators will learn that the drunk driving penalties can cost them much more than a ticket or fine," said State Attorney General Gansler.

The kick-off of Maryland's 2008 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign commenced a five-month, statewide campaign to reduce the incidence of drunken driving. This statewide campaign combined proactive public education and enforcement efforts in order to raise public awareness of drunk driving.

Along with the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign, Maryland held at least one sobriety checkpoint or saturation patrol each week for the rest of that year. In addition, local law enforcement around the State deployed additional forces in the rural areas in support of a regional crackdown on 'country roads'. Studies have shown that aggressively deployed sobriety checkpoints can result in a 20 percent reduction in alcohol-related fatal crashes. In 2007, Maryland law enforcement conducted more than 500 sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols, resulting in more than 600 DWI arrests, nearly 300 criminal arrests and in excess of 3,000 traffic violations.

In addition to sobriety checkpoints and patrols, Maryland *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign used ads in combination with other statewide outreach efforts in a robust \$400,000 effort to remind citizens of the many dangers and consequences of impaired driving. Throughout the latter half of 2008, nearly 9,000 radio and television spots ran throughout Maryland targeting the most feared result of impaired driving: killing or injuring someone else.

Maryland's 2008 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign was supported by a grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration's Highway Safety Office.

VIRGINIA

"Kaine Announces Newest Attack on Drunken Driving," read the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* headline (8-22-08) regarding the August 21, 2008 launch of Virginia's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign and via a news conference featuring Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine (D) held at Hanover Wayside Park in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

The statewide initiative combining enforcement and education efforts to raise public awareness of drunk driving was launched in concert with a regional initiative targeting impaired driving on Virginia's rural roadways. Virginia was represented in the effort with more than 92 state and local law enforcement agencies participating across the state. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over half (55-percent) of the nation's 2006 traffic fatalities occurred on rural roads. Last year in Virginia, 51-percent of the alcohol-related fatalities occurred on rural roads, according to Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles data.

"Virginia will continue its tough stance against drunk drivers and we will not allow back road escapes for people driving under the influence," Governor Kaine said.



Metropolitan Police Department **Commander James Crane** being interviewed as part of the launching of Greater Washington's 2008 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign.

"We must remain vigilant to decrease these preventable traffic fatalities throughout the state."

The kick-off of Virginia's 2008 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign commenced a five-month, statewide campaign to reduce the incidence of drunken driving. This statewide campaign combined proactive public education and enforcement efforts in order to raise public awareness of drunk driving.

For the remainder of 2008, law enforcement agencies in Virginia held at

least one sobriety checkpoint or saturation patrol each week throughout the region. Through the use of these law enforcement efforts, the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign worked to keep impaired drivers off the road. Deploying sobriety checkpoints and patrols when and where drunk driving is most likely to occur deters motorists from driving under the influence and arrests those who do.

"The message from law enforcement is as simple as it is clear, if you choose to drink and drive, we will catch you no matter what roadway you take," said Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Superintendent, Virginia State Police.

In addition to sobriety checkpoints and patrols, Virginia's *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign employed earned media and ads in combination with other statewide outreach efforts in a robust \$1,000,000 effort to remind citizens of the many dangers and consequences of impaired driving. Throughout the latter part of 2008, nearly 25,000 radio and television spots ran throughout the Commonwealth targeting the most feared result of impaired driving amongst the targeted 21-to-35-year old male audience: the killing or injuring of someone else.

Virginia's 2008 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign was supported by a grant from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

GREATER WASHINGTON

In partnership with the Metropolitan Police Department and on October 30, 2008 along the Georgetown waterfront in Washington, D.C., WRAP helped launch Greater Washington's 2008 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign and in strategic concert with the 2008 Halloween "holiday."

With alcohol playing a part in nearly half of Halloween highway fatalities, ensuring the party doesn't hit Washington area roadways was the goal of Greater Washington's already ongoing *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign. And, with Halloween falling on a Friday last fall, last year's holiday period appeared particularly dangerous as costumed parties celebrated from dusk till dawn throughout the holiday weekend. Targeted checkpoints and saturation patrols took place in the Halloween haunts of D.C.

as well as throughout Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland.

After a 15-percent rise in alcohol-related fatalities in Washington, D.C. last year, area police increased their efforts to curb drunk driving. Between July and October 2008, Washington, D.C.'s Metropolitan Police Department conducted 27 checkpoints and made nearly 1,000 DUI and DWI arrests.

"Drunk driving is never a way home, it is a dead end," said Assistant Chief Patrick Burke, Special Operations Division, Metropolitan Police Department. "That's why the entire region's law enforcement community is mobilizing this Halloween to deter motorists from driving under the influence and to arrest those who do."

To sustain attention on both Greater Washington's 2008 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign and the region's continuing fight against drunk driving, WRAP later hosted a well-attended *Checkpoint Strikeforce* media demonstration on December 5, 2008 and at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy's Emergency Vehicle Operations Center in Chantilly, Virginia. "I did get a feel for driving drunk December 5th at a Washington Regional Alcohol Program Checkpoint Strikeforce media demonstration," reported Loudoun Times-Mirror reporter Jana Wagoner and about the event which provided for area media Fatal Vision goggles, real vehicles and a police operated driving course to simulate the perils of impaired driving on area roadways.

Greater Washington's 2008 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign was supported by grants from the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, the Maryland Highway Safety Office and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

For more information, visit www.checkpointstrikeforce.net. ■



Virginia Governor **Timothy Kaine** launching Virginia's 2008 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign. The Virginia flags in the forefront represented the 378 alcohol-related fatalities Virginia recorded in 2007.



Members of the Hanover County Sheriff's Department performing a mock sobriety checkpoint at the launch of Virginia's 2008 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign.

Corporate Support of WRAP



Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) Chairman **Leisa Weir** (fourth from left) and WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (center, holding check) accept a \$20,000 check from Anheuser-Busch executives (l to r) **Pam Cole**, **Richard Hall**, **NBC4 Sports Anchor** and that day's Master of Ceremonies **Lindsay Czarniak**, **Norah Fick Pence**, **Bruce Legge**, **Carol Huebner**, **Linda Johnson**, **Jenny Forbes** and **Ken Higgins** at WRAP's 2008 Law Enforcement Awards and Holiday Campaign Kick-Off on December 12, 2008 in McLean, Virginia.



Enterprise Rent-A-Car's **Patrick Farace** and **Haley Pike** (l to r) present a \$15,000 check to WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir** and WRAP SoberRide Committee Chairman **George Pakidis** at the launch of WRAP's 2009 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign on March 17, 2009 in Washington, D.C..

Kevin Reilly (right), representing the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association, presents a \$5,000 check to WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir** and WRAP SoberRide Committee Chairman **George Pakidis** at the launch of WRAP's 2009 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign on March 17, 2009 in Washington, D.C..



Corporate Contributions

(August 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009)

Chairman's Club (\$10,000 and over)

Anheuser-Busch and Local Distributors
AT&T Wireless
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
GEICO
Taylor Global, Inc.

Corporate Platinum (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Beer Institute
ExxonMobil
Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association
Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America Inc.

Corporate Gold (\$1,000-\$4,999)

AAA Mid-Atlantic
America's Charities
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Century Council
GEICO
Giant Food
McAndrew Company, Inc.
PAS Systems
Safeway
SAIC
Strat@comm
Sunbelt Beverage
Chris Tavlarides

Corporate Bronze (\$100-\$499)

Biddy Mulligan's
Billy Martin's Tavern
Fado
Ireland's Four Provinces
O'Sullivan's Irish Pub
Mental Health Association
Murphy's Grand Irish Pub
Old Brogue Irish Pub
Siné



AT&T's **Colin Martin** (right) presents a \$2,500 check to WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir** and WRAP SoberRide Committee Chairman **George Pakidis** at the launch of WRAP's 2009 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign on March 17, 2009 in Washington, D.C..

WRAP Notes



Metropolitan Police Department **Chief Cathy Lanier** attending WRAP's 2008 "Ask the Chief" roundtable event.

"Ask the Chief"

WRAP hosted an "Ask the Chief" roundtable discussion and luncheon for members of WRAP's Board of Directors on August 28, 2008 and at Washington, D.C.'s Rosa Mexicano restaurant and featuring Metropolitan Police (D.C.) Chief Cathy Lanier.

2009 "Corporate" & "Youth" Guides

The 2009 versions of WRAP's popular and annual *Corporate Guide to Safe Celebrating and Safe Driving* and *School Resource Guide to Preventing Underage Drinking* are each available at no-cost and by either: contacting WRAP at 703/893-0461 or wrap@wrap.org; or viewable online at <http://www.wrap.org/files/Resources.htm>.

2009 Presidential Inauguration

"If you plan on getting tipsy to celebrate the inauguration, don't expect to get a free taxi home," reported *NBC4* (1-9-09) and regarding WRAP's standing intent to not expand its *SoberRide* program beyond its set and initial holiday times and focus



WRAP's decorated parade vehicle (courtesy of the Easterns Automotive Group and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association) positioned to take part in the 2009 D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade and as a means of promoting WRAP's St. Patty's Day *SoberRide* campaign.

including during the U.S. Presidential inauguration in January 2009.

2008 EagleBank Bowl

With funding provided by Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM Coalition), WRAP produced 10,000 special Holiday *SoberRide* cards distributed at the inaugural EagleBank Bowl football game held at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C. on December 20, 2008.

Congressional Stop DUI Caucus

WRAP's President served as the featured speaker at December 3, 2008 Congressional Stop DUI Caucus held on Capitol Hill.

2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade

With a vehicle provided by the Easterns Automotive Group and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association—and as a means of promoting WRAP's 2009 St. Patty's Day *SoberRide* program—WRAP participated in the 2009 D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15, 2009.

Legislative Editorial Nods

While WRAP is fortunate enough to kindly receive nods in the editorial columns of the region's newspapers (including about *SoberRide* in the 12-31-08 *Washington Post* and about new underage drinking laws in Maryland in the 10-1-08 *Carroll County Times*, amongst others), the editorial kudos it received in the July 5, 2008 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* were particularly generous when it read, "one of the welcome laws that went into effect this

week targets underage drinking...

Credit for the change goes to Kurt Erickson, whose Washington Regional Alcohol Program labors tirelessly to deter abuse and to ameliorate the pain irresponsible drinking inflicts." ■

WRAP REPORTER

The **WRAP Reporter** is the biannual newsletter of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), an award-winning, public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Spring/Summer 2009 Issue

Leisa Weir, *Chairman*
Alexa Kaufman, *Vice Chairman*
Kurt Gregory Erickson, *President*
Robin Black, *Director of Operations*
Marcela Martinez, *Program Manager*

Publication Design:

Austin Design, Inc. www.austinandaustin.com

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Calendar of Events

2009 Independence Day SoberRide®

July 4–5, 2009

2009 Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaign

July 4, 2009–January 4, 2010

27th Annual WRAP Meeting & WRAPPY Awards

October 23, 2009
Washington, D.C.

2009 Maryland Impaired Driving Enforcement Awards

September 27, 2009
Timonium, MD

2009 Halloween SoberRide®

October 31–November 1, 2009

2009 Maryland Remembers Ceremony

December 9, 2009
Annapolis, MD

2009 WRAP Law Enforcement Awards and Holiday SoberRide® Campaign Kick-Off

December 11, 2009
McLean, VA

2009 Holiday SoberRide® Campaign

December 11, 2009 through January 1, 2010

Dates and places subject to change. Check www.wrap.org for more information.



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