



# WRAP reporter

WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM (WRAP)

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

## WRAP Champions Tough Teen Drinking & Driving Law in Virginia

WRAP's fight against both drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area takes the nonprofit organization to Annapolis, the District of Columbia and Richmond in championing public policies aiming to create effective deterrents to both impaired driving and teen drinking. What follows is a summary of WRAP's 2008 legislative highlights to-date in both Virginia and Maryland.

### VIRGINIA

"The Washington Regional Alcohol Program worked on HB 719's behalf," reported the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (2-27-08) regarding anti-teen drinking & driving legislation in Virginia's 2008 General Assembly session successfully advancing to Virginia's Governor for his since signing into law.

Hailed by *The Washington Post* as a "significant bill dealing with underage drinking and driving" (3-10-08), the legislation (**House Bill 719**, Janis)—effective July 1, 2008—ensures that teens in Virginia convicted of driving after consuming virtually any amount of alcohol will lose their driver's licenses for a year and be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

This doubling of the current driver's license suspension period for teens convicted of driving with virtually any amount of alcohol in their systems as well as elevating such already unlawful act to a Class 1 misdemeanor is a tremendous strengthening of Virginia's zero-tolerance laws when it comes to drinking and driving by the very population too young to purchase, possess, consume and transport alcohol in the first place, Virginia's teens.

WRAP played a leading role in advancing this legislation in Richmond

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## Area Law Enforcement Lauded for Fight Against Drunk Driving



### Virginia Governor Joins Tenth-Annual Event in Honoring Greater Washington's Police

Fourteen Washington-metropolitan area police officers were cited for their "outstanding commitment in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington" this past December and presented with the area's tenth-annual "Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention."

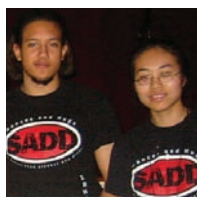
Presented on December 7th at a regional ceremony featuring Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, WRAP presented its 2007 Law Enforcement Awards to:

- **City of Alexandria Police Department's** Officer Mark Morgan
- **Arlington County Police Department's** Sergeant Wayne Vincent

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine addressing the audience at WRAP's tenth-annual Law Enforcement Awards.

- **Fairfax County Police Department's** PFC Patrick M. Nolan
- **Loudoun County Sheriff's Office's** Deputy Anthony Cooper and Deputy First Class Wade Phillips
- **Maryland State Police's** Trooper Justin L. Mallow
- **Metropolitan Police Department's** (D.C.) Officer Jose Rodriguez and Officer Roberto Torres and Officer Andrew Zabavsky
- **Montgomery County Department of Police's** Sergeant Eric Bunting
- **Prince George's County Police Department's** Corporal Steven Allen
- **Prince William County Police Department's** Officer Edward McDermott

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Virginia **Governor Tim Kaine** (l) being welcomed to WRAP's 2007 Law Enforcement Awards by WRAP President **Kurt Erickson**.

- **United States Park Police's** Officer Adam Zielinski
- **Virginia State Police's** 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



Arlington County Police **Sergeant Wayne Vincent** (center) celebrating his 2007 WRAP Law Enforcement Award along with (l to r) Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) **Assistant Chief Patrick Burke**, MPD **Lt. Pamela Simms** (ret.), FOX 5 DC's **Melanie Alnwick** and WUSA-TV's **Jan Fox**.

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 2007 Law Enforcement Awards were presented by Officer Simms' widow, Lieutenant Pamela Simms, also with the Metropolitan Police Department, along with FOX 5 DC's Melanie Alnwick and WUSA-TV's Jan Fox, serving as the event's Master of Ceremonies.

"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."

According to WRAP, local law enforcement officers made 14,846 DUI/DWI arrests throughout the Washington-metropolitan region in 2006.

In addition to receiving the Law Enforcement Awards, each of the 2007 WRAP honorees also received two complementary Washington Wizards tickets (courtesy of the Washington Wizards) and a \$25 prepaid gas card (courtesy of Exxon Mobil Corporation). ■



MC for WRAP's 2007 Law Enforcement Awards **Jan Fox** (center) after being honored for her ten years of hosting service along with (l to r) Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) **Assistant Chief Patrick Burke**, WRAP President **Kurt Erickson**, MPD **Lt. Pamela Simms** (ret.), Fox, FOX 5 DC's **Melanie Alnwick**, WRAP SoberRide Committee Chairman **George Pakidis** and WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir**.



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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 this bill's chief patron; providing resource information; and building public support for this legislation via WRAP's regularly-issued *Legislative Alerts*.

In addition 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), this session, WRAP also played a leading role in directly thwarting an effort to *lessen* the penalties for underage drinking in Virginia contained in **Senate Bill 601** (Norment).

WRAP opposed this legislation (which sought to make the crime of underage drinking in Virginia a Class 2 misdemeanor lessening such from its current Class 1 status) and advocated both its position and reasoning to members of Virginia's Senate's Courts of Justice Committee—a key, 15-member body which also included SB 601's chief patron. Via these interactions and in direct counsel with this same patron at the February 6, 2008 meeting of the Senate's Courts committee, Senator Norment favorably made a motion to have this bill "continued" thereby and effectively killing the same this session.

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

**More than one-quarter (27.8%) of Virginia's 12th graders reported consuming five or more drinks in a row**



WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (l) meeting with both Virginia **Delegate David Albo** (center) and Virginia's **Speaker of the House William Howell**.

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 (the latest figures available)—nearly tripling the rate of increase in such fatalities amongst all age drivers in Virginia. (Also advancing to Virginia Governor Tim Kaine's desk this session was a modified form of this year's "ignition interlock bill," House Bill 1442 [Iaquinto]. Championed by the Virginia chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, this bill originally proposed the requiring of even first-time DUI offenders in the

Commonwealth to outfit any vehicle they operate with devices [ignition interlocks] preventing them from operating the same if the device senses alcohol of the driver's

breath. The version of HB 1442 which has since been signed into law by Governor Kaine, however, was, not surprisingly, greatly watered-down to simply add a new category of offenders mandated to have ignition interlock systems in Virginia that being convicted DUI offenders in violation of the conditions of their restricted driver's license.)

Conversely, alcohol-related bills killed or dying in the 2008 Virginia General Assembly session included those seeking to:

- make it unlawful to have open containers of alcohol in the passenger areas of motor vehicles (**HB 27**, Purkey);
- require persons repeatedly convicted of DUI to outfit their vehicle with special, identifying license plates (**HB 1281**, Spruill);
- study the effectiveness of Virginia's anti-underage drinking programs (**HB 107**, Armstrong)
- expand the state's DUI courts (**HB 876**, Loupassi & **SB 391**, Martin);
- increase penalties for the unlawful provision of alcohol to underage persons (**HB 127**, Purkey);



## WRAP Lauds Local Students in Combating Underage Drinking

Calling it 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.

Winners of WRAP's 16th-annual GEICO Student Awards this year include:

- **H.D. Woodson Sr. High School's SADD\* Club,** District of Columbia
- **James Madison High School's SADD Club,** Fairfax, County, Virginia
- **Phoenix @ Emory Grove,** Montgomery County, Maryland
- **Eleanor Roosevelt High School's SADD Club,** Prince George's Co., MD

WRAP's GEICO Student Awards, now in their 16th year, are annually 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—are presented to just one student group in each of the Greater Washington counties and or cities served by WRAP. (Entries this year came from the District of Columbia, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties).

Student groups are 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 have 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.

The four winning student groups each received both a plaque as well as \$500 from GEICO to continue their efforts of keeping their peers on the right track. In addition, the four Washington-metropolitan area schools receiving Honorable Mention honors as part of this year's GEICO Student Awards (Anacostia Senior High School's SADD Club, Washington, DC; South Lakes High School's Army JROTC, Fairfax County, Virginia; Watkins Mill High School's Best Buddies, Montgomery County, Maryland; and High Point High School's SADD Club, Prince George's County, Maryland) also each received both award certificates as well as \$100 as a means of sustaining

**In 2006, nearly a third (31%) of all teen drivers killed in U.S. traffic crashes had been drinking.**

individual student clubs' future activities in combating both drunk driving and underage drinking.

"In 2006, nearly a third (31%) of all teen drivers killed in U.S. traffic crashes had been drinking," said Janice Minshall, Immediate Past Chairman of WRAP and Assistant Vice President with GEICO. "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." ■

\*SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions.



WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (l) and GEICO's **Rachel Veness** (second from left) joining Phoenix at Emory Grove school winners and faculty in celebrating their winning of a 2008 GEICO Student Award at the Montgomery County, Maryland school.



SADD Club members from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Prince George's County, Maryland celebrate their 2008 GEICO Student Award.



Members of Fairfax County, Virginia's James Madison High School's SADD Club posing with their 2008 GEICO student award and flanked by both WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (l) and GEICO's **Elizabeth Rouse**.



## Over 200 SoberRides® Provided on St. Patrick's Day



Virginia **Delegate Brian Moran** addressing the crowd at the launch of WRAP's 2008 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign at Murphy's Grand Irish Pub in Alexandria, Virginia.

WRAP's *SoberRide* program provided 218 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers this St. Patrick's Day.

Provided by WRAP, the 2008 St. Patty's Day *SoberRide* program began on St. Patrick's Day (Monday, March 17th) 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 better than every three minutes," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

During *SoberRide*'s 12-hour period this St. Patty'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, over a dozen of the Washington-metropolitan area's better-known Irish restaurants also united to ensure a safe St. Patrick's Day celebration this year by sponsoring *SoberRide*. These dining establishments included: Biddy Mulligan's (DC); Daniel O'Connell's Restaurant (VA); The Dubliner Restaurant & Pub (DC); Fado (DC); Ireland Four Courts (VA); Ireland's Four Provinces (VA); Irish Channel Restaurant (DC); Kelly's Irish Times (DC); Martin's Tavern est. 1933 (DC); Murphy's Grand Irish Pubs (DC & VA); Old Brogue Irish Pub (VA); O'Sullivan's Irish Pub (VA); and Sine Irish Pub (VA).

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; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Since 1993, WRAP's *SoberRide* program has provided 40,844 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. ■



Alexandria **Deputy Police Chief Cleveland Spruill** joining his Greater Washington law enforcement colleagues in helping to launch WRAP's 2008 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign.

## WRAP Calls for Safety During “Super Bowl Sunday”



“WRAP encourages those holding Super Bowl parties to be responsible hosts, those attending parties or watching the game at bars or restaurants to designate a sober driver and for those on the roads to report drunken drivers,” reported *The Washington Times* (2-3-08) 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.”

NHTSA figures show that nearly four-out-of-ten of all traffic deaths occurring during the 2006 Super Bowl weekend were alcohol-related.

“Because Super Bowl Sunday has been thrown in to the annals of deadly drunk driving periods, it’s equally important to have a game-plan off the field as well as on to combat this too often deadly opposition,” said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President. “Whether it be a football opponent or a drunk driver, one’s best offense is a good defense.”

In late January, WRAP issued a number of “safe celebrating” tips to prevent drunk driving during this year’s Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2008.

These tips included:

- **Plan 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.” ■

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- allow a deferred disposition for persons rendering aid to an underage drinker (**HB 740**, Caputo);
- create a “Substance Abuse Treatment Fund” in the state (**HBs 696**, Armstrong and **1416**, Ware);
- and crackdown on impaired commercial vehicle operators including the imposition of licensee-paid, random chemical tests (**HB 1221** & **HB 1224**, Bowling).

### MARYLAND

“Maryland General Assembly Wraps Up Session,” read the *Washington Business Journal* headline (4-11-08) regarding the adjournment of the 424th session of Maryland’s General Assembly earlier this year.

And on the foot heels of Maryland lawmakers *last year* passing the singular, priority, legislative item of both WRAP and the Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition (IDC) of which WRAP is a member—that being the creation a currently engaged and statewide task force to address the issue of impaired driving in Maryland—what was most remarkable about the 2008 Maryland General Assembly session was WRAP and other anti-drunk driving advocates’ purposeful absence in the same.

Specifically and to honor the commitment made that this task force (of which WRAP is also a gubernatorial-appointed member and is formally titled the “Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol”) would be that venue by which anti-DUI legislation in Maryland’s immediate future is vetted, WRAP (along with its fellow IDC members) consciously and strategically refrained from championing specific DUI-related legislation in Annapolis this year.

However and wanting to be conspicuous in our absence, WRAP along with its fellow IDC members advisedly met with the Chairmen of both Maryland’s Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and House of Delegate’s Judiciary Committee to pledge our continued services as a resource during the 2008 session.

Said absence, however, didn’t stop individual Maryland legislators from not only introducing a spectrum of alcohol-related bills but also shepherding a number of the same all the way to Maryland’s Governor’s office. Specifically and amongst the hundreds of pieces of legislation passed this session—and with the disclaimer that the following listing contains known alcohol-related legislation

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## Over 2,500 Use SoberRide® In December

This past New Year's Eve alone, 787 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used the 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 37-seconds this New Year's Eve," said George Pakidis, WRAP's *SoberRide* Committee Chairman and Vice President of Red Top Cab.

WRAP's holiday *SoberRide* offering—which ran each evening from December 7th through 31st, 2007—provided 2,510 total, free cabs rides to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

This most recent winter holiday *SoberRide* program operated between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am each evening over this more than three-week period as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk,



Metropolitan Police Assistant Chief Patrick Burke greeting WUSA-TV's Jan Fox at the launch of WRAP's 2007 Holiday *SoberRide* campaign.

holiday period. During that time, 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.)

This most recent New Year's Eve ridership represented the second-highest for *SoberRide*'s history of New Year's Eve offerings (following 2002's record 808 rides provided on that year's New Year's Eve evening).

Sponsors of WRAP's 2007 Holiday *SoberRide* campaign included Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, GEICO, Giant Food Inc., Red Top Cab and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

WRAP's *SoberRide* program is a past recipient of Virginia's prestigious Governor's Transportation Safety Award. ■



WRAP President Kurt Erickson being interviewed by WUSA-TV at the launch of WRAP's 2007 Holiday *SoberRide* campaign.

**1-800-200-TAXI**

## Drunk Driving on the Rise in Washington-Metro Area

### After a Consecutive Two-Year Decline, New Report Cites Increases in Local DUI Deaths, Injuries & Crashes in 2006

Alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes are all back on the rise in the Washington-metropolitan area following a recent, consecutive two-year decline in the same according to a report released in December 2007 by WRAP.

Equally alarming was the report's findings that local DUI deaths, injuries and crashes each increased by double-digit percentages between 2005 and last year.

"These numbers are proof positive that Greater Washington's fight against drunk driving is far from won," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

The data released this winter was contained in WRAP's 15th-annual report, "How Safe are Our Roads? A Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Highway Safety in the Washington Metropolitan Region." The report was prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Findings in the 2007 report included:

#### Fatals

Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic deaths **increased** by more than 31-percent (31.5%) between 2005 and 2006 (and from 89 to 117 such fatalities). Such follows a recent (2004 and 2005), consecutive two-year decline in such Greater Washington traffic fatalities. In addition, the number of persons killed in local alcohol and or drug-related traffic incidents in 2006 was the highest since 2003.

#### Crashes

Area traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and or drugs **increased** by more than 18-percent (18.4%) between 2005 and 2006 (and from 4,495 to 5,321 such crashes). Such follows a recent (2004 and 2005), consecutive two-year decline in such Greater Washington traffic crashes. In addition, the number of local alcohol

and or drug-related traffic crashes in 2006 was the highest since 2003.

#### Injuries

Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic injuries **increased** by over 49-percent (49.7%) between 2005 and 2006 (and from 2,022 to 3,027 such injuries). Such follows a recent (2004 and 2005), consecutive two-year decline in such Greater Washington

Greater Washington drunk driving arrests. In addition, the number of persons arrested for DUI in the Washington-metropolitan area in 2006 (14,846) was the lowest since 2003.

Of the Washington-metropolitan area's 362 total traffic fatalities in 2006, 32.3-percent (117) were alcohol and or drug-related. 2006 national statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or NHTSA) cite that 41.3-percent of total U.S. vehicular fatalities were reported as alcohol/drug-related.

While WRAP and COG officials found some mixed solace in the fact that the

Washington-metropolitan area continues to remain below the national average in terms of the percentage of traffic crashes involving alcohol, the same officials said that such solace is offset by the facts that the number of lives lost locally to drunk driving in 2006 was the highest in three years.

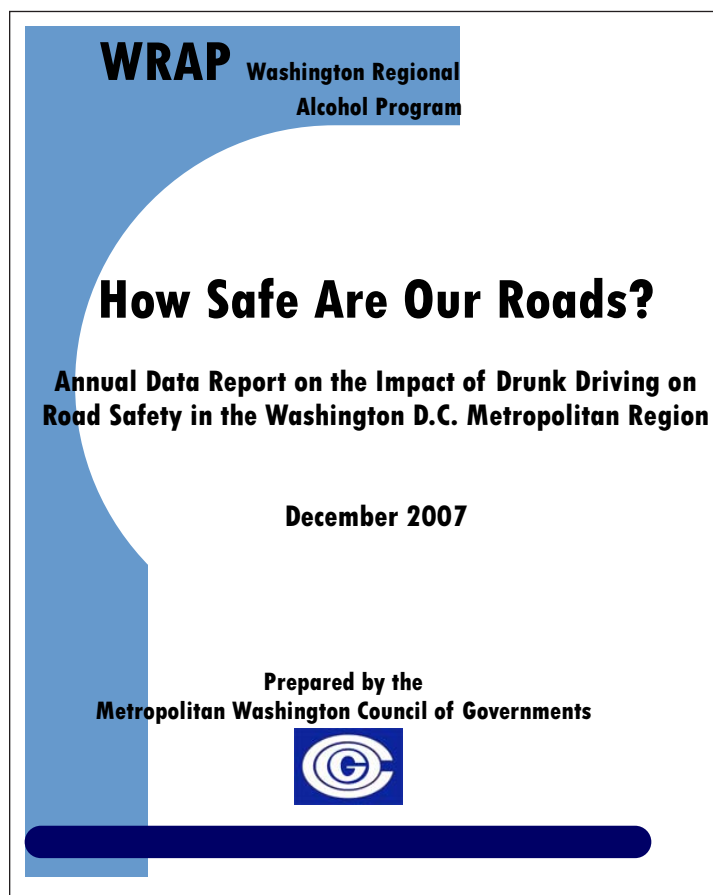
"Ten people die each month in the Washington metropolitan region as a result of impaired driving incidents that were completely preventable," said David Robertson, COG's executive director. "The fact that the monthly count also includes more than 440 alcohol-related traffic crashes and over 250 alcohol-related traffic injuries underscores the gravity of this public safety crisis."

"Last year's nearly 15,000 local DUI arrests averages to someone being busted for drunk driving every 35 minutes in the Greater Washington area," said Erickson.

WRAP's timing in releasing its 2007 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.

WRAP's most recent "How Safe are Our Roads?" report can be found online at <http://www.wrap.org/highwaysafety07.pdf>. ■



traffic injuries. In addition, the number of persons injured in local alcohol and or drug-related traffic incidents in 2006 was the highest since 2003.

#### Arrests

Local arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) **decreased** by more than two-percent (2.5%) between 2005 and 2006 (and from 15,232 to 14,846 such arrests). Such follows a recent (2004 and 2005), consecutive two-year increase in such



## WRAP Hosts 4th Annual “Maryland Remembers” Ceremony

In an emotional ceremony in Annapolis on December 5, 2008, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown 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, Brown urged Maryland drivers this holiday season to “think ahead” and not drink and drive.

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 fourth-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 drunk driving victim.

“Marylanders are seeking an end to the needless tragedies caused by drunk drivers. Today’s ceremony honors the memory of those lost to drunk driving with a renewed commitment to prevent impaired drivers from destroying more lives,” said Brown who also serves as the Honorary Chairman of Maryland’s Impaired Driving Coalition. “Together, we remember. Together, we can make a difference by exercising personal responsibility and making the right choice—to drive sober.”

Other speakers at this annual ceremony hosted by WRAP included both Maryland Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari as well as Maryland State Police Lt. Colonel Matthew Lawrence. ■



WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (l) meeting with Maryland **Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown** following the 2007 “Maryland Remembers” ceremony.

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advancing to Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley’s desk *without* WRAP’s stated support or opposition—lawmakers in Annapolis this year sent to the Governor bills seeking to:

- more than double the fines for unlawfully providing alcohol to those underage (**HB 76**, Shewell & **SB 166**, Haines);
- enhance the penalties for commercial vehicle operators whom drink & drive [including for those commercial driver’s license holders previously convicted of a DUI and refusing a BAC test as well as for refusing a BAC test while driving their own, personal vehicle] (**HB 478**, Chairs, Environmental Matters and Judiciary Committees);
- increase the fees for Maryland’s Drinking Driver Monitor Program (**SB 536**, Chair, Budget & Taxation Committee);
- extend the legal definition of “beer” in Maryland to also include malt beverages and “hard cider” [for the surmised purposes of place of sale and tax rate] (**SB 745**, Colburn);
- and enhance the keg registration procedures for beer kegs sold in Prince George’s County (**SB 9**, Rosapepe).

In addition, DUI and or underage drinking-related bills killed or dying this session included those seeking to:

- increase penalties for second BAC test refusals (**HB 1475**, Sophocleus & **SB 638**, Jacobs);
- require alcohol or drug testing of persons under 21 applying for their driver’s licenses (**HB 191**, Holmes);
- mandate courts to order Maryland’s Motor Vehicle Administration to suspend the driver’s license of youth guilty of various offenses [including alcohol-related offenses] (**SB 610**, Frosh);
- mandate alcohol and drug testing policies in Maryland’s public and private high schools (**SB 824**, Conway);
- require persons repeatedly convicted of DUI to outfit their vehicle with special, identifying license plates (**HB 504**, Holmes);
- mandate BAC and drug-testing for persons involved in crashes where a life-threatening injury occurred (**HB 1362**, Conway);
- allow health care providers to provide medical records to law enforcement (**HB 1364**, Sossi);
- mandate that law enforcement detail the option of participating in Maryland’s ignition interlock program (versus administrative hearing) for suspected drunk drivers testing less than .08 BAC (**SB 378**, Zirkin);
- and a myriad of bills seeking to increase taxes on alcohol sold in Maryland (inc. **SB 232**, Forehand; **SB 562**, Mandaleno; and **HB 1310**, Bronrott). ■

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## Silver Anniversary

### WRAP Commemorates "Silver Anniversary" at Annual Meeting



NBC 4's **Keith Garvin** and his wife **Lisa** (l) along with outgoing WRAP Chairman **Janice Minshall** (r) honoring WRAP's 2007 Public Partnership Awardees (l to r) **Liza Lemaster** (Maryland Highway Safety Office), **Carole Lewis** (District of Columbia Department of Transportation) and **David Mosley** (Virginia Highway Safety Office).



Outgoing WRAP Chairman **Janice Minshall** (r) meeting with NHTSA Administrator **Nicole Nason** at WRAP's "Silver Anniversary" Annual Meeting

Held in the packed Acela Club located in Washington, D.C.'s Verizon Center, WRAP commemorated its 25th year fighting drunk driving and underage drinking on October 19, 2007.

The "silver anniversary" event featured National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator Nicole Nason as the event's featured speaker as well as WRAP honoring 18 area individuals and businesses going above and beyond the call of duty in Greater Washington's fight against drunk driving and teen drinking.

Also featuring NBC 4's Keith Garvin as the event's featured presenter, the following 2007 awardees were bestowed honors from WRAP:

#### 2007 WRAP Community Partnership Awards:

- AT&T
- GEICO
- Red Top Cab

#### 2007 WRAP Public Partnership Awards:

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

#### 2007 WRAP Corporate Sponsor Awards:

- AT&T
- Beer Institute
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- ExxonMobil
- GEICO
- Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association

#### 2007 WRAP Corporate Partner Award:

- Anheuser-Busch and their local distributors

#### 2007 WRAP Law Enforcement Award:

- Montgomery County Department of Police Officer William Morrison

#### 2007 WRAP Public Service Award:

- Maryland Delegate Kathleen Dumais and Maryland Senator Jennie Forehand

#### 2007 WRAP Youth Leadership Award:

- District of Columbia Councilmember Jim Graham

#### 2007 WRAP Chairman's Award:

- Darrel Longest, Chairman, WRAP's Public Policy Committee

In addition, the following persons were unanimously elected as WRAP's officers through September 30, 2008:

Leisa Weir, *Chairman*

Alexa Kaufman, AT&T, *Vice Chairman*

John O'Donnell, WANADA, *Secretary*

Fred Valentine, *Treasurer*

Janice Minshall, GEICO, *Immediate Past Chairman*

On a special note, WRAP also took the opportunity of its silver anniversary Annual Meeting to salute its founders bestowing special "Founders Plaques" to: Maryland Delegate Bill Bronrott, Sue Morris, John Moulden, Gerry Murphy, Jerry Sachs and Gary Smith all of whom were in attendance in October. Four other WRAP co-founders (Terry Baxter, Pete Larkin, Andy Ockershausen and Barry Scher) were unable to make last fall's fete but WRAP presented each of their honors at a later date.

Delegate Bronrott reciprocated such an honoring with the presentation of official commendations from both Maryland's House of Delegates and Senate commending WRAP on its 25th anniversary. ■



## Silver Anniversary



At its 25th Annual Meeting, WRAP co-founders (l to r) **Gary Smith**, **Jerry Sachs**, Maryland **Delegate William Bronrott**, **Susan Morris**, **Gerry Murphy** and **John Moulden** (not pictured: **Terry Baxter**, **Pete Larkin**, **Andy Ockershausen** and **Barry Scher**) posing with their "Founders Awards."



District of Columbia **Councilmember Jim Graham** (center) posing with his 2007 WRAP Youth Leadership Award along with (l to r) NBC4's **Keith Garvin** and his wife **Lisa** along with outgoing WRAP Chairman **Janice Minshall**.



WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir** (r) along with her husband **Kevin** meeting with NHTSA Administrator **Nicole Nason** prior to WRAP's 2007 Annual Meeting.

## WRAP Appointed to Maryland's "DUI Task Force"



WRAP's Public Policy Committee Chairman **Darrel Longest**.

WRAP was recently announced as one of just six gubernatorial appointees to the state of Maryland's newly-created Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol.

Signed into law by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley on May 17, 2007, the creation of this statewide task force was the singular, priority, legislative item of both WRAP and the Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition (of which WRAP is a member) during Maryland's 2007 General Assembly session and passed both Maryland's House of Delegates and Senate on unanimous votes prior to being signed by Maryland's Governor.

The 2007 Maryland General Assembly bills creating this task force to address the issue of impaired driving in Maryland (and sponsored by last year's recipients of WRAP's Public Service Award) created the "Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol" and are positioned to both: create both a momentum and set of recommendations overcoming what has been Maryland's piecemeal

approach to passing drunk driving laws in the state; as well as address Maryland's recent inability to lower the number of traffic fatalities attributable to alcohol. (According to the University of Maryland's National Study Center for Trauma, Maryland's number of drunk driving deaths on the state's roadways has remained largely unchanged in the last half-decade averaging 245 such fatalities annually).

In this effort to perform a top-to-bottom review of Maryland's efforts to combat impaired driving (something which hasn't been undertaken in the state in nearly two decades), WRAP is represented by the Chairman of its Public Policy Committee, WRAP Board member Darrel Longest.

Longest is a Maryland lawyer whose 38-year career includes over five years as the Chief Deputy State's Attorney in Montgomery County, Maryland as well as 23 years in active trial practice. More importantly, his entire trial practice both as a prosecutor and defense attorney was strongly associated with alcohol-related crimes. He was a founder of Ignition Interlock Group and presented nationally and internationally in support of interlock programs and the study of drinking and driving programs both in Maryland as well as nationally, from 1992 through 2001, when he left the industry and no longer maintains any association with it. He served for five years on the Board of the National Commission Against Drunk Driving (NCADD) in Washington, DC, from 1996 through 2001, and has served on WRAP's Board of Directors since 1999 (including serving as Public Policy Committee Chair since 2001).

Longest also has an extensive background in the drafting of statewide legislation and has been published widely on the topic of drinking and driving for both the NCADD and other independent presentations in the US, Canada and Australia. He is a lifelong Maryland resident, raised and educated in the public schools in Maryland and took his undergraduate degree in Government from Georgetown University and his JD from the National Law Center at George Washington University in 1969. He is also a 1973 graduate of the National College of District Attorneys. ■

## New Program Manager Named



WRAP's new Program Manager **Marcela Martinez**.

This past January, WRAP welcomed Marcela Martinez as its new Program Manager.

An Oakton, Virginia resident, Marcela is a graduate of George Mason University with a B.A. Degree in Communications including a Minor in Spanish. More recently, Marcela served as Community Education Specialist for the Washington Regional Transplant Community (formerly the Washington Regional Transplant Consortium)—a 22-year-old nonprofit organization both Federally designated as the organ procurement organization in Greater Washington as well as a community and professional education resource on the same throughout the Washington-metropolitan area.

At the Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC), Marcela both developed and implemented educational programs on organ and tissue donation for a spectrum of Greater Washington audiences including youth. Specifically, Marcela coordinated WRTC's health education presentations and outreach efforts. Such includes her coordination of more than 180 volunteers, serving as a representative on various task forces and committees and developing the nonprofit's Hispanic Outreach program.

Marcela is also a fluent Spanish speaker and writer and completed a Community Interpreter Certificate just last year.

As WRAP's Program Manager, Marcela is responsible for managing the nonprofit organization's programs and services including its school and workplace health education initiatives as well as WRAP's popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, *SoberRide*. ■



## WRAP CEO Receives Chief of Police Honor

On March 5, 2008 and at the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department's (MPDC) Eighth-Annual Awards Ceremony, WRAP President Kurt Erickson was presented with that law enforcement agency's prestigious "Chief of Police Special Award." The honor is bestowed upon community members who have excelled in supporting crime prevention and community policing and is presented to persons whom, according to MPDC, have "built strong partnerships with the MPDC to reduce crime, strengthen neighborhoods or improve the operations of the Department."

The event, which featured both District of Columbia Mayor Adrian Fenty and Police Chief Cathy Lanier, was held at the Town Hall Education, Arts & Recreation Campus otherwise known as THEARC located in the Anacostia section of Washington, D.C.



Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Chief Cathy Lanier along with District of Columbia Mayor Adrian Fenty flank WRAP President Kurt Erickson at this year's MPD's 8th-Annual Awards Ceremony.

The program hailed Erickson's "advocacy for tougher penalties for repeat offenders and education with local schoolchildren against the dangers of drinking and driving is one of

the many steps he has taken towards making the District of Columbia a safer place."

Erickson has served as WRAP's President & CEO since 1999. ■

## Local Halloween SoberRide® Success



WRAP President Kurt Erickson (along with Metropolitan Police Assistant Chief Patrick Burke) helping launch WRAP's 2007 Halloween SoberRide campaign in the Adams Morgan section of Washington, D.C.

### Greater Washington Anti-DUI Initiative Succeeds Despite D.C. Cabbie Strike

Despite a cab strike in the District of Columbia, the Washington-metropolitan area's SoberRide program provided 281 free cab rides home to would be drunk drivers this past Halloween—with over 50-percent

(143) of those free Halloween cab rides taking place in the District.

Provided by WRAP, the Halloween SoberRide program began on Halloween (Wednesday, October 31st) at 8:00 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 period.

Last October's ridership level represented a nearly three-percent increase from that of WRAP's 2006 Halloween SoberRide offering (then totaling 273 riders).

Even in the face of the District of Columbia's taxi strike, WRAP prided itself in having what it said were enough contingencies in place to provide sufficient SoberRide coverage this past Halloween evening. According to WRAP, such contingencies included increased staffing of its taxicab operations, dispatching rides amongst the nine separate cab companies it contracts to provide the anti-drunk driving service and even having some of these same companies' sedan service subsidiaries on stand-by in case they were needed due to yesterday's cabbie strike.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2007 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. ■



## Corporate Support of WRAP



WRAP Chairman **Leisa Weir** (second from left) and WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (center, holding check) accept a \$40,000 check from Anheuser-Busch executives (l to r) **Bruce Legge**, **Mike Guiffre**, **Kim Stettes**, **Ken Higgins**, **Karen King**, **Ed Fitzmaurice** and **Carol Huebner** (also holding check) presented to WRAP at the organization's 2007 Law Enforcement Awards and Holiday Campaign Kick-Off on December 7, 2007.



WRAP's (above, l to r) SoberRide Committee Chairman **George Pakidis**, Chairman **Leisa Weir** and President **Kurt Erickson** accept a \$15,000 check from AT&T's **Alexa Kaufman** and **Colin Martin** presented at the organization's 2008 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign launch on March 17, 2008.

WRAP's President **Kurt Erickson** (l) accepts a \$7,500 check from **Kevin Reilly** representing the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association presented at the organization's 2008 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign launch on March 17, 2008.

Not pictured: In January 2008, Patrick Farace with Enterprise Rent-A-Car also presented to WRAP a check for \$15,000 from the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation.



## Corporate Contributions

(August 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008)

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

Anheuser-Busch  
AT&T Wireless  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
GEICO

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

Beer Institute  
ExxonMobil

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

American Plastics Council  
America's Charities  
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield  
Century Council  
Coors  
Diageo  
Eastern's Automotive  
GEICO  
Giant Food  
MedStar/Washington Hospital Center  
PAS Systems  
Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington  
Safeway  
SAIC  
SE Children's Fund  
Washington Sports and Entertainment  
**Corporate Silver (\$500-\$999)**  
Pascal & Weiss  
**Corporate Bronze (\$100-\$499)**  
Biddy Mulligan's  
Billy Martin's Tavern  
Fado  
Ireland's Four Provinces  
Old Brogue Irish Pub  
O'Sullivan's Restaurant



## WRAP Notes



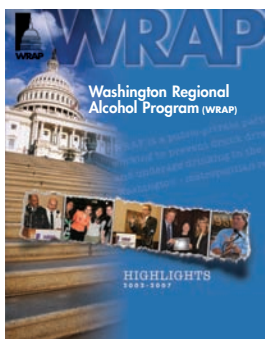
WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** celebrating his "MADD Community Champion" Award presented to him by MADD Chesapeake Region Executive Director **Caroline Cash**.

### MADD Honor for WRAP President

At a packed ballroom on November 15, 2007 in Clarksville, Maryland, MADD-Chesapeake Region (Maryland & Delaware) bestowed its 2007 "MADD Community Champion" Award to WRAP President Kurt Erickson. Touted as a "dedicated and most supportive partner of MADD and his years of work to make the Washington area roads safer for all of us is to be commended," Erickson received his honor as part of the MADD-Chesapeake Region's Recognition Ceremony which also featured WBAL Sports Director Steve Davis and former Baltimore Raven Qadry Ismail.

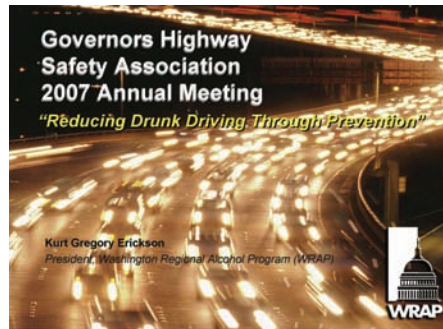
### New WRAP Publication

Unveiled at WRAP's 25th Annual Luncheon Meeting & WRAPPY Awards in October 2007, WRAP's "Highlights, 2002-2007" is a full-color, 24-page publication capturing



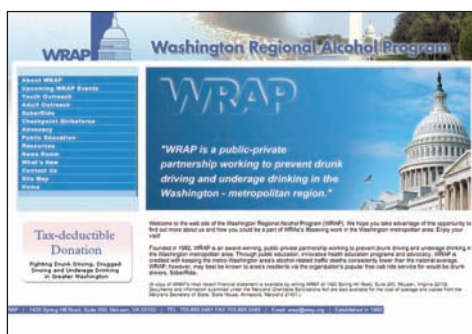
the "highlights" of WRAP's programs, services and efforts in the last half-decade. Also included are independent audited financial information for each of these years.

This photo-centric, WRAP publication can also be viewed online at [http://www.wrap.org/2002-2007\\_highlights\\_annualreport.pdf](http://www.wrap.org/2002-2007_highlights_annualreport.pdf).



### WRAP Success Featured Nationally

WRAP's success was given a national if not international stage last fall as the nonprofit organization was prominently featured as part of the Governors Highway Safety Association's Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon last September. Specifically, WRAP was one of three presenters on the subject of preventing drunk driving via successful community coalitions. In as much, WRAP presented a detailed multi-media presentation on its 25 years of progress in combating drunk driving in the Washington-metropolitan area not the least of which is its ability to succeed as a "big tent," public private partnership in this effort.



### New WRAP Web Site

Also launched at WRAP's 25th Annual Luncheon Meeting & WRAPPY Awards last October—and courtesy of WRAP partner GEICO whom provided in-kind services in designing the same—there's a brand new web site in town and its name is "www.wrap.org." This new site's ease of navigation and updated information and graphics will unquestionably aid in better and more effectively having WRAP reach a broader audience.

### Tie One on for Safety

WRAP again served as a featured speaker at MADD-Loudoun's annual "Tie One on for Safety" campaign launch last fall held on November 14, 2007 at Loudoun County, Virginia's School Administration Building in Ashburn. Other speakers included both Virginia Senator Mark Herring as well as Loudoun Sheriff Steve Simpson, amongst others.

### Maryland DUI Laws Assessment

WRAP was recently awarded a significant grant to serve as project director of an initiative assessing and analyzing Maryland's impaired laws. The grant funding was recently received from the Maryland Highway Safety Office and will provide for a comprehensive assessment which—in addition to assessing Maryland's current DUI laws—will also include separate evaluations of Maryland's law enforcement, judicial and general public communities relative to the enforcement, adjudication and awareness of the state's impaired driving laws.

## 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 2008 Issue

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

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## Calendar of Events

### 2008 Independence Day SoberRide®

July 4–5, 2008

### 2008 Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaign

July 4, 2008–January 4, 2009

### 26th Annual WRAP Meeting & WRAPPY Awards

October 17, 2008

Washington, D.C.

### 2008 Maryland Impaired Driving Enforcement Awards

October 5, 2008

### 2008 Halloween SoberRide®

October 31–November 1, 2008

### 2008 WRAP Law Enforcement Awards and Holiday SoberRide® Campaign Kick-Off

December 12, 2008

TBD

### 2008 Maryland Remembers Ceremony

December TBD, 2008

### 2008 Holiday SoberRide® Campaign

December 12, 2008 through January 1, 2009

10:00 pm to 6:00 am

*Dates and places subject to change. Check [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org) for more information.*



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