

news release



COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON (December 14, 2007) — The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) has launched its "Saved by the Belt" Award Program to recognize those commercial motor vehicle drivers who have buckled up and whose lives were saved or injuries significantly reduced as a result of wearing a safety belt.

The message is simple – wearing safety belts saves lives.

“CVSA created this new program to emphasize safety belt use by commercial motor vehicle drivers and to use these drivers as role models for safety belt use for their peers and their families,” said Jim McFarlin, ABF Freight System, Inc.’s Director of Safety and Security and Chairman of CVSA’s *Saved by the Belt* Award Committee. “It benefits everyone traveling our highways when we increase public awareness on the benefits of safety belt use and having more people buckling up.”

Did you know that...

- In 2006, 703 drivers of large trucks died in truck crashes and 314 of those drivers were not wearing safety belts.
- Of the 188 large truck drivers killed who were ejected from their vehicles, almost 80% were not wearing safety belts.

Anyone interested in nominating a person must submit a completed nomination form and a brief narrative of the crash, along with the accident or incident report and other supporting documents and indicate why the nominee should be considered for the award. For more information on the program, please visit CVSA’s Web site: www.cvsa.org. The *Saved by the Belt* Award Program is sponsored in part by YRC Worldwide Inc. CVSA supports and is an active participant in the *Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Belt Partnership*, which was established by DOT Secretary Norman Y. Mineta to combat low safety belt use among the nation's commercial vehicle drivers.

CVSA is an international not-for-profit organization comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial and federal motor carrier safety officials and industry representatives from the United States, Canada and Mexico. Our mission is to promote commercial motor vehicle safety and security by providing leadership to enforcement, industry and policy makers. In addition, CVSA has several hundred associate members who are committed to helping the Alliance achieve its goals; uniformity, compatibility and reciprocity of commercial vehicle inspections, and enforcement activities throughout North America by individuals dedicated to highway safety and security. For more on CVSA visit www.cvsa.org.

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