



## **Joel A. Bolton – NHTSA**

1954 – 2012

During his 25-year career with the Lake Charles, Louisiana Police Department, Lieutenant Joel Bolton served in its Patrol and Detective Divisions; Director of the Safe City Project - which promoted regional training in standardized field sobriety testing (SFST), encouraged overtime assignments to alcohol enforcement details, fostered positive relationships between members of the criminal justice community; and from 1994, was the Administrative Assistant to the Chief. In 1990, the Safe City Project won the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Prevention of Impaired Driving Award.

Lieutenant Bolton led his agency's efforts to achieve national accreditation (accomplished in November 2000), when the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) awarded accreditation to the Lake Charles Police Department. The safety belt usage rate in the U.S. in 1983 was 14 percent, and it rose to 82 percent in 2005 - Joel Bolton's personal and professional commitment to all aspects of occupant safety undoubtedly contributed to that significant increase and thus saved many lives over those years.

Joel was selected as the 2006 recipient of the J. Stannard Baker Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), for his extraordinary initiative and creativity in developing and promoting local, state and national traffic safety programs.

Lieutenant Bolton's achievements include:

- ✓ Served 13 months in 1991-92 in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's law enforcement leadership program where he worked to enhance the level and standardization of occupant protection training and encouraged the continued participation of law enforcement organizations to increase safety belt usage
- ✓ Assisted in the development and marketing/delivery of the following programs: IACP's National Law Enforcement Challenge (in which he was a long-time judge), National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Course, Occupant Protection Risk Management, and Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies (TOPS)
- ✓ Among the 16 initial American Automobile Association (AAA) instructors for the train-the-trainer Child Passenger Safety Technician program, and formed the Lake Charles Child Passenger Safety Team (composed of police officers, firefighters, SAFE KIDS members, Safety Council of Southwest Louisiana, and other volunteers) that provided child safety seat inspections and education to area families

- ✓ Authored the monthly “Highway Safety Initiatives” column in the *Police Chief*; developed *Buckle Up America! Dispatch*; and co-authored “Operation Kids LE,” the national training course for law enforcement child passenger safety technicians
- ✓ Designed and coordinated a local youth alcohol enforcement program that included media involvement, contact with all alcohol outlets in the city, and strict enforcement of underage drinking and other alcohol laws. This program received national recognition as a “Best Practice” by the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association
- ✓ Served as on-air talent and technical consultant for training videos and television scripts covering many traffic safety topics: child restraints, air bag and seat belt safety
- ✓ Off-duty employment as a contract consultant to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) with responsibilities for tasks related to the Association’s traffic safety programs

Among the organizations in which Lieutenant Bolton was active are: Lake Charles SAFE KIDS Coalition, Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, and National Association of Governor’s Highway Safety Representatives (NAGHSR) Occupant Protection Committee.

Joel continued his final highway safety journey as a Highway Safety Specialist for The Department of Transportation, NHTSA, and was the NHTSA Law Enforcement representative working with Law Enforcement Liaisons nationwide.

