



Mark McCracken
New Mexico State Police (Ret)

Mark McCracken, a great friend and advocate, unexpectedly passed away on September 9, 2017. His funeral and memorial service was a sad time for many of his family members, friends and coworkers, as well as technicians and instructors from across New Mexico and beyond. Mark was a family man, a friend and an advocate through and through!

Professionally, Mark McCracken served with the New Mexico State Police for 21 years, retired as a lieutenant in 2003, and supported traffic safety programming throughout that time. In 1997, during the pilots for the first technician curriculum, he was trained with officers from around the country and soon became one of the pioneer instructors.

In 2006, Mark was hired to manage the Injury Prevention Resource Center for Safer New Mexico Now. After demonstrating his knowledge, skills and ability to the Safer team, he was promoted to Director of Operations and then to Chief Operating Officer.

Personally, Mark shared his life with an amazing wife and their two young men. Their eldest is following in his dad's law enforcement footsteps, an officer at the Albuquerque Police Department. Their youngest attends the University of New Mexico and received a football scholarship. Mark spoke of his family fondly and often - always thinking about how he could make their life even happier than it already was.

Many people's lives were positively impacted by Mark. From the children he made safer to the families he empowered - from the technicians he trained to the instructors he mentored - from the stakeholders he educated on older driver issues to drivers themselves that he helped - from the family he held so dearly to the coworkers he loved and respected - Mark has made a huge difference.

The closing statement of Mark's 20-year recognition during a March 2017 conference rings true: "Mark's star shines brightly for all of us who have the benefit of his knowledge, dedication, passion, and leadership."

