



## MACPS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY 2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE KATHY KRUGER

35 YEARS IN CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Kathy is a CPS pioneer, which is a term that should not be used lightly. A pioneer in Child Passenger Safety, she began her CPS work in the early 1980s. In the safety and prevention arena, a pioneer is someone who identifies a problem few others have recognized, and perseveres in efforts to solve it, despite facing many challenges. Back when CPS laws were weak, car seat products were few, and public policy provided few resources, Kathy was there to support families and advocate for improvements. Kathy contributed mightily to the first groups of certified technicians in 1998. She was steadfast and consistent in bringing diverse, future advocates and partners to the field in her state for decades. Kathy openly shared her ideas and teaching tools at conferences, and then in newsletters every year after that. Her collaboration and team spirit, coupled with her friendly demeanor, enabled her to coordinate and teach in classes that brought new moms, law enforcement, tribal members and many others together. Her greatest contribution, apart from her amazing teaching style and welcoming demeanor, was the creation of a highly respected and enduring child restraint recall list that was easy to read and useful to techs and instructors.



Before a standardized curriculum or CPSTs existed, Kathy was developing curricula, providing training, and mentoring community members (many who would eventually be CPSTs). When funding was available, Kathy used it to assist the building of programs across the state of Washington; when it was scarce, Kathy made lemonade out of lemons. As the CPS movement advanced through the following decades, Kathy was always on the front line. All the while, she selflessly supported the inclusion and advancement of anyone who wanted to join her in taking on child passenger safety

issues. She could be considered the “Mother of CPS” in Washington, a title she richly deserves and should earn her a place in the CPS Hall of Fame.

Below are some of the notable accomplishments Kathy has made in the child passenger safety arena.

- Founder of the first child passenger safety-dedicated agency in WA, and among the first of all states.
- State CPS Coordinator for Washington for more than 20 years.
- One of the first CPST Instructors in the country (1997), and one of the longest serving.
- Mentor of numerous CPSTs and CPST-Is in Washington and in Pacific NW.
- Founding member of PICRAC (Pacific Infant Child Restraint Advisory Committee), comprised of US and Canadian CPS leadership on the West Coast.
- Instrumental in the passage of all Washington Child Occupant Protection laws, including updates in 1993, 1994, 2000, 2003, 2005, and 2007.
- In general, a largely unsung hero whose impact on the CPS field and the safety of children in Washington and elsewhere is impossible to quantify.

