



## **Do You Have a Nominee for the Illinois “SAVED BY THE SAFETY BELT/CHILD RESTRAINT CLUB”?**

Traffic safety advocates throughout the state are working to increase awareness of the lifesaving value of safety belts by publicly recognizing individuals who survived traffic crashes because they were buckled up. The qualifications for membership in this unique club are primarily for safety belt survivors, however, children in properly secured child restraint systems will also be considered. Applications (see attached form) will be reviewed by a committee made up of members of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Traffic Committee, the Illinois State Police (ISP) and various local law enforcement agencies. Eligibility will be determined after review of the standard Illinois Traffic Crash Report, a copy of which must be included with the application or the application will not be considered. Photographs of the crashes are recommended but not required. The decisions of the committee are final. Unfortunately, nominating information cannot be returned to the submitting agency.

We are asking for your help locating incidents that would qualify for recognition. Let us know if you are aware of a vehicular crash that has occurred since January 1, 2003 and you believe that the driver and/or passengers were spared serious injury or death because of the use of safety belts or child restraints. Nominating agencies are encouraged to recognize nominees in their jurisdiction in addition to forwarding the information to the committee for consideration. In the case of fatal crashes in which one or more restrained vehicle occupants survived, local recognition may be given but not publicized, out of respect for the families of those who died.

Regardless of the circumstances surrounding a crash, a person is more likely to survive when belted. Please remember when you are deciding whether a crash qualifies for consideration; many property damage crashes would have been personal injury crashes if not for the use of restraints. Those incidents absolutely prove our point and should be submitted when appropriate. Local discretion can be used to determine whether those persons responsible for the crash are eligible. Candidates will not be considered if they have committed a serious offense listed in the 2400 series of the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting offense codes.

New members will receive "Saved by the Safety Belt/Child Restraint Club" certificates and/or other forms of recognition as deemed appropriate by the committee. These items will be forwarded to the nominating agency for presentation. All certificates and awards are obtained with federal highway safety funds provided to the Illinois Department of Transportation – Division of Traffic Safety by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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Illinois Department of Transportation

