



Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year Award

About Joseph M. Kaplan

For over 60 years, Joseph M. Kaplan was the president of the Southern California Chapter of the National Safety Council. His legacy of building awareness for safety belt use through the "Buckle Up for Life Challenge"- a program that combined a unique coalition of media, local government, employers and community groups - still remains today.

Since his initial involvement with the Los Angeles Safety Council in 1936, Joseph M. Kaplan had been a pioneer for making safety education films widely available to the public and industry. In the 1950's, he served on the White House Commission for Traffic Safety under President Eisenhower and was also on the team that led NSC to be granted a U.S. Congressional Charter in 1953. Sadly, Mr. Kaplan passed away on May 6, 2010 at the age of 95. He will be greatly missed and his legacy will live on.

About the Award

Established in 2004, the Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year Award was created to recognize outstanding drivers throughout the country who have driven a significant number of miles/years behind

the wheel without incurring

a preventable accident. Any member organization may submit drivers who they feel exemplify outstanding driving safety. Winners are judged based upon their total driving record throughout their career including the following criteria: total number of years driven, total number of miles driven, and total number of accidents.

Due to an overwhelming number of submissions throughout the years, the Safe Driver of the Year Award has been expanded to recognize multiple safe drivers throughout the country by Postal Area. All qualifying nominees will receive a FREE personalized certificate from the National Safety Council recognizing their accomplishment. In addition, each Area winner will be honored at the **2013 National Awards Celebration** being held in Orlando, FL. The top driver among all of the nominees will be recognized with the highest honor as the **2013 USPS Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year**, which will be announced at the celebration.

Award Criteria

- This contest is only open to U.S. Postal Service employees.
- All data is self reported and is subject to verification.
- Nominees must be full-time drivers whose primary responsibility is to operate buses, trucks, passenger cars, or other motor vehicles on a regular basis in the performance of their normal duties.
- Drivers who have been involved in an accident during the award period will be declared ineligible, unless it is ruled as a non-preventable accident.
- Nominees **MUST** meet the minimum requirement of **15 years or 100,000 miles** driven without a preventable accident to be considered.
- Nominees must have been employed by the U.S. Postal Service for at least 1 year (12 consecutive months).
- Nominations must be made by someone familiar with the nominee's work history, such as a supervisor, coworker, or professional peer.
- Nominees **CANNOT** nominate themselves.

Award Recognition

- Nominees who meet the minimum requirement will receive the **Award of Honor** and will be automatically considered for the **2013 USPS Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year Award**.
- All qualifying nominees will receive a congratulatory letter and personalized certificate from the National Safety Council.
- All drivers who qualify will be divided into 7 Postal Areas.
- The top driver (with the most miles and years driven without a preventable accident) from each Area will be designated as one of the 7 **Area Best Safe Driver of the Year** winners.
- The 7 Area Best winners will then compete for the **2013 USPS Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year Award**, which will be announced at the National Awards Celebration to be held in Orlando, Florida.