

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 includes 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.

Since his initial involvement with the Los Angeles Safety Council in 1936, Mr. 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.

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 crash. 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. Any Post Office may submit drivers who they feel exemplify outstanding driving safety. The top drivers among all of the nominees will be recognized with the highest honor as the **Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year**. In addition, each Joseph M. Kaplan Award Area winner will be honored at the **National Awards Celebration**. All Award of Honor winners will receive a free personalized certificate from the National Safety Council recognizing their accomplishment.

Award Criteria

- This contest is only open to US 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 a collision during the award period will be disqualified, unless it is ruled as a non-preventable incident.
- Nominees must meet the minimum requirement of **15 years or 100,000 miles** driven without a preventable incident to be considered.
- Nominees must have been employed by the US Postal Service for at least one 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.
- Candidates for the Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year Award are judged based upon their total driving record throughout their career including the following criteria: total number of year’s driven, total number of miles driven, total number of collisions, type(s) of vehicle authorized to operate, and the nominator’s statement.
- Previous winners of the Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year will not be considered for the award.
- The nomination period runs from January 1 through March 31 each year.

Award Recognition

- Nominees who meet the minimum requirement will receive the **Award of Honor** and automatically be considered for the **Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year Award**.
- All qualifying Award of Honor nominees will receive a congratulatory letter and personalized certificate from the National Safety Council.
- All drivers who qualify will be categorized by the seven Postal Areas.
- The top driver from each Area will be designated as one of the **Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year Award winners**. Award winners will be notified by e-mail (via the nominator) and honored at the annual National Awards Celebration held during the National Safety Council Congress & Expo.