



News from the Ohio Turnpike

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For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike dedicates Memorial Sign to fallen workers Cisek and Yoh

The sign will serve as a reminder for motorists to Move Over or Slow Down

BEREA (April 13, 2018) – The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission kicked off its Memorial Sign Program Dedication Ceremonies today as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week.

Participants at the ceremony dedicated an Ohio Turnpike Memorial Sign in memory of Duane E. Cisek and Richard Yoh, both of whom worked at the Kunkle Maintenance Building in Pioneer. Representing the Ohio Turnpike was Randy Cole, Executive Director and Lt. Rick Reeder represented the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Among those attending were family members and friends of Cisek and Yoh, including Janet Cisek and Patsy Yoh, their widows.

The sign is located at MP 13 westbound (in Williams County) in memory of the two men. It will now also serve as a reminder for motorists to Move Over or Slow Down for workers and first responders.

Yoh was only 43 years old and Cisek was 48, when they were struck and killed by the driver of a pickup truck attempting to exit at the Westgate Interchange. Cisek was working as a flagger while Yoh was installing new road reflectors.

“We continue our efforts to prevent this type of tragedy from occurring ever again on the Ohio Turnpike,” said Randy Cole, Executive Director. “In fact, we work closely with our partners at the Ohio State Highway Patrol on education and enforcement.”

The OSHP and Ohio Turnpike teamed up in 2017 to conduct and publicize aerial speed enforcement in and near work zones and will do so again in 2018. As a result of these efforts, together, the Patrol and Commission saw a 21.5 percent decrease in the number of traffic crashes in work zones in 2017 (from 349 to 274).

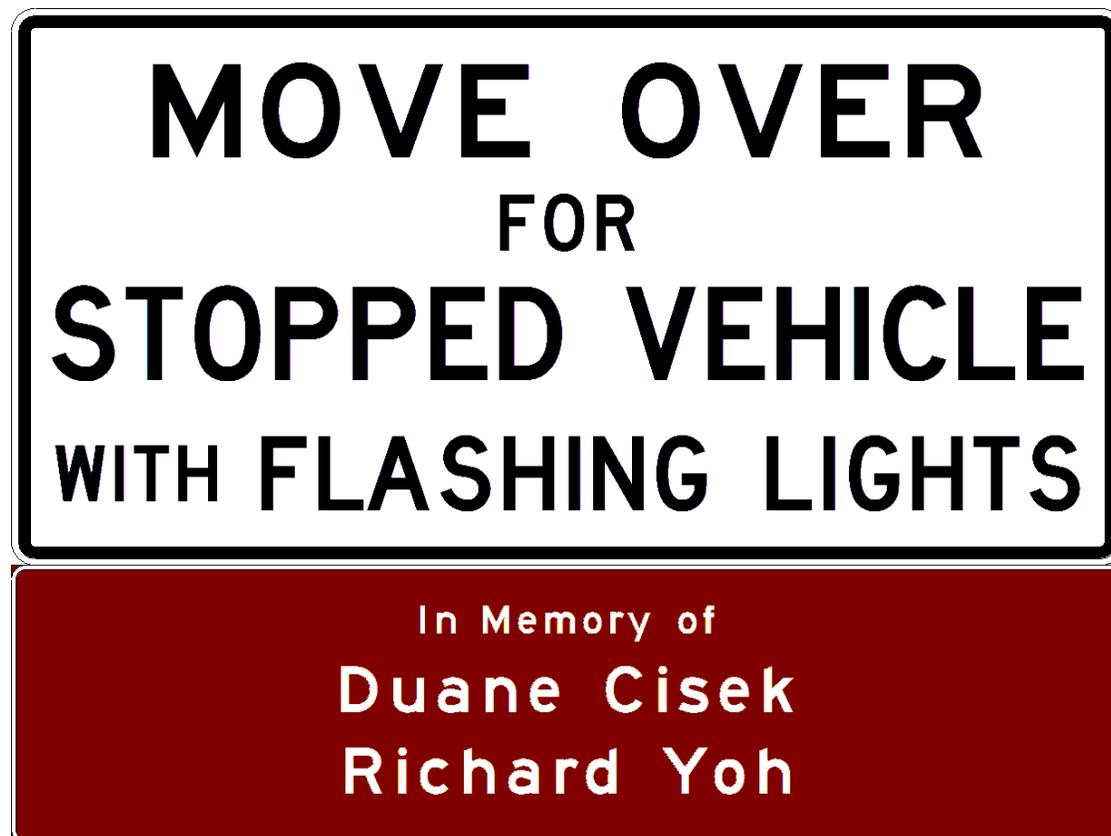
This campaign also led to a 44 percent decrease in the number of injury crashes (from 84 to 51). Most importantly, there were no fatal crashes in work zones in 2017.

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In total, 12 men killed while performing their duties on the Ohio Turnpike will be memorialized with a sign. Earlier today, John Fletcher, who was killed in a work zone in 2012, was honored at the turnpike's Elmore Maintenance Building. Below is a list of remaining workers the Commission is seeking help in finding surviving family members.

Surviving family members are encouraged to contact the Ohio Turnpike's Communications Department (440-971-2066) to help the Commission arrange for them to be properly recognized.

1. **Canfield Township**—1987, John Todd, Canfield Maintenance Section.
2. **Fulton Township**—1983, Kenneth W. Geiger, Swanton Maintenance Section.
3. **Exact Location Unknown**—1977, Mike H. McConnell
4. **Townsend Township**—Sept. 17, 1970, Kenneth C. Bailey, Castalia Maintenance Section.
5. **Townsend Township**—Sept. 17, 1970, Berton C. Stewart, Castalia Maintenance Section.
6. **Rossford**—Feb. 22, 1967, Trooper Jon D. Birchem, OSHP Post 89.



For more information please contact:

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