



News from the Ohio Turnpike

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For Immediate Release:

Turnpike dedicates Memorial Sign in memory of Kenneth W. Geiger

The sign will serve as a reminder for motorists to Move Over for emergency vehicles

BEREA (June 1, 2018) – The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission today dedicated an Ohio Turnpike Memorial Sign in honor of Kenneth W. Geiger of Delta, Ohio. The program is part of the turnpike’s Work Zone Awareness Campaign and its efforts to remind motorists to move over for vehicles with flashing lights.

Participants at the ceremony dedicated the sign in memory of Geiger. Representing the Ohio Turnpike was Randy Cole, Executive Director. Staff Lt. Travis Hughes represented the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Among the family members in attendance were Geiger’s brothers Jerry Geiger and Robert Geiger and Kenneth’s son Larry. They each received a replica sign.

Geiger was only 53 years old when he was struck and killed (by a semi-tractor trailer) while at work for the Commission. He was as a Maintenance Roadway Worker at the Swanton Maintenance Building for 17 years. The sign is located at MP 47.3 westbound (in Fulton County) in his memory. The signage will now also serve as a stark reminder for motorists to Move Over (or Slow Down) for workers and first responders.

“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, by working closely with our partners at the Ohio State Highway Patrol on education and enforcement, there were no fatalities in turnpike work zones in 2017.”

The OSHP and Ohio Turnpike teamed up in 2017 to conduct and publicize aerial speed enforcement in and near work zones and is doing so again in 2018. Because 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).

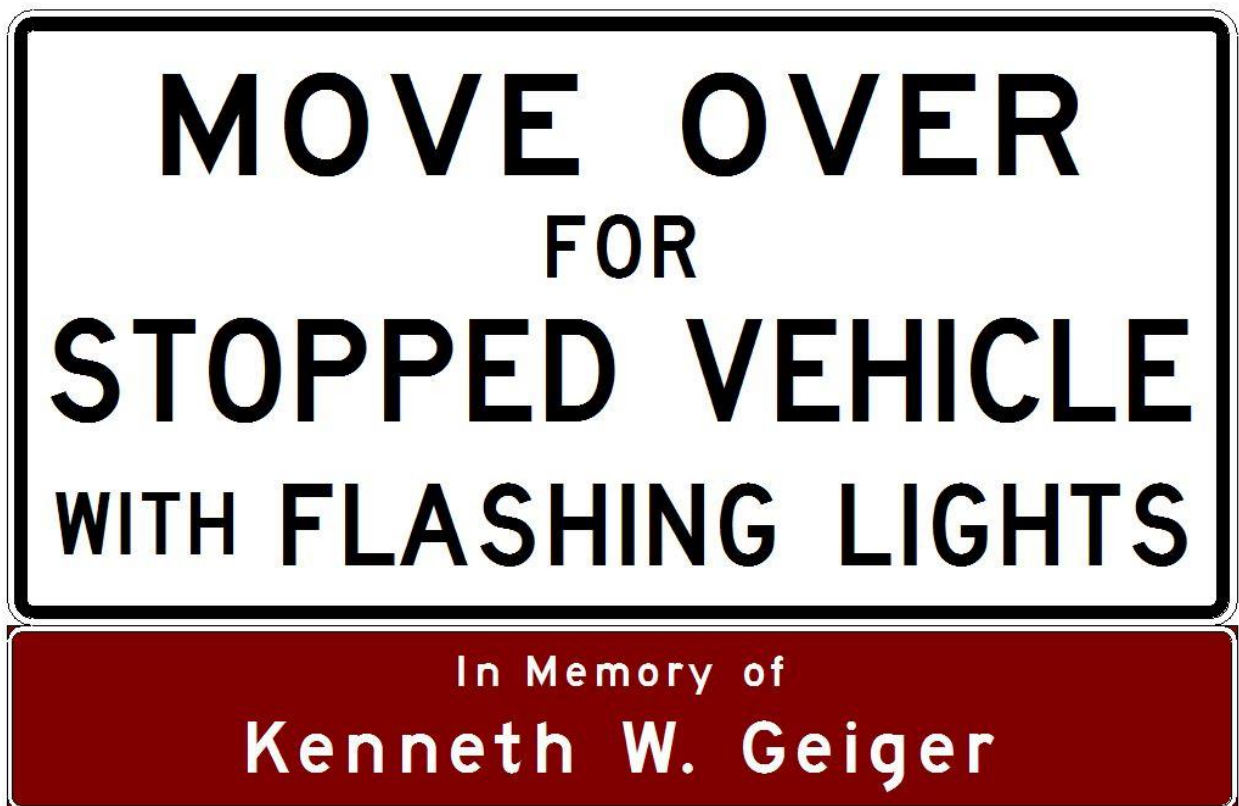
This campaign also led to a 44 percent decrease in the number of injury crashes (from 84 to 51). Most importantly, there were no fatal crashes in work zones in 2017.

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In total, 13 men killed while performing their duties on the Ohio Turnpike will be memorialized with a sign (as of May 24). 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. **Exact Location Unknown**—1977, Mike H. McConnell
3. **Townsend Township**—Sept. 17, 1970, Kenneth C. Bailey, Castalia Maintenance Section.
4. **Townsend Township**—Sept. 17, 1970, Berton C. Stewart, Castalia Maintenance Section.
5. **Rossford**—Feb. 22, 1967, Trooper Jon D. Birchem, OSHP Post 89.



For more information please contact:

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