



News from the Ohio Turnpike

682 Prospect Street □ Berea, Ohio 44017-2799

440.971.2066

www.ohioturnpike.org

For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike dedicates Memorial Sign to fallen worker John Fletcher

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 John Fletcher, a former Ohio Turnpike Assistant Foreman at the Elmore Maintenance Building. Representing the Ohio Turnpike was Randy Cole, Executive Director. Lt. Rick Reeder represented the Ohio State Highway Patrol. In attendance were Amy Fletcher, John Fletcher’s widow and their youngest daughter, Katy.

The sign is located at MP 90 westbound (in Sandusky County) in memory of Fletcher. It will now also serve as a reminder for motorists to Move Over or Slow Down for workers and first responders.

Fletcher was only 53 years old when he was struck and killed by a wayward semi tractor-trailer that crashed into a turnpike work zone near Milepost 90 in Sandusky Township on Jan. 24, 2012. With him in the work zone that day repairing a bridge were turnpike employees James Roudebush, of Millbury, and Anthony J. Stout, of Clyde. They were both injured, Mr. Stout, critically. The semi driver that crashed through the zone went through traffic cones marking off the closed lanes and struck the three men, according to the Highway Patrol’s report.

“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).

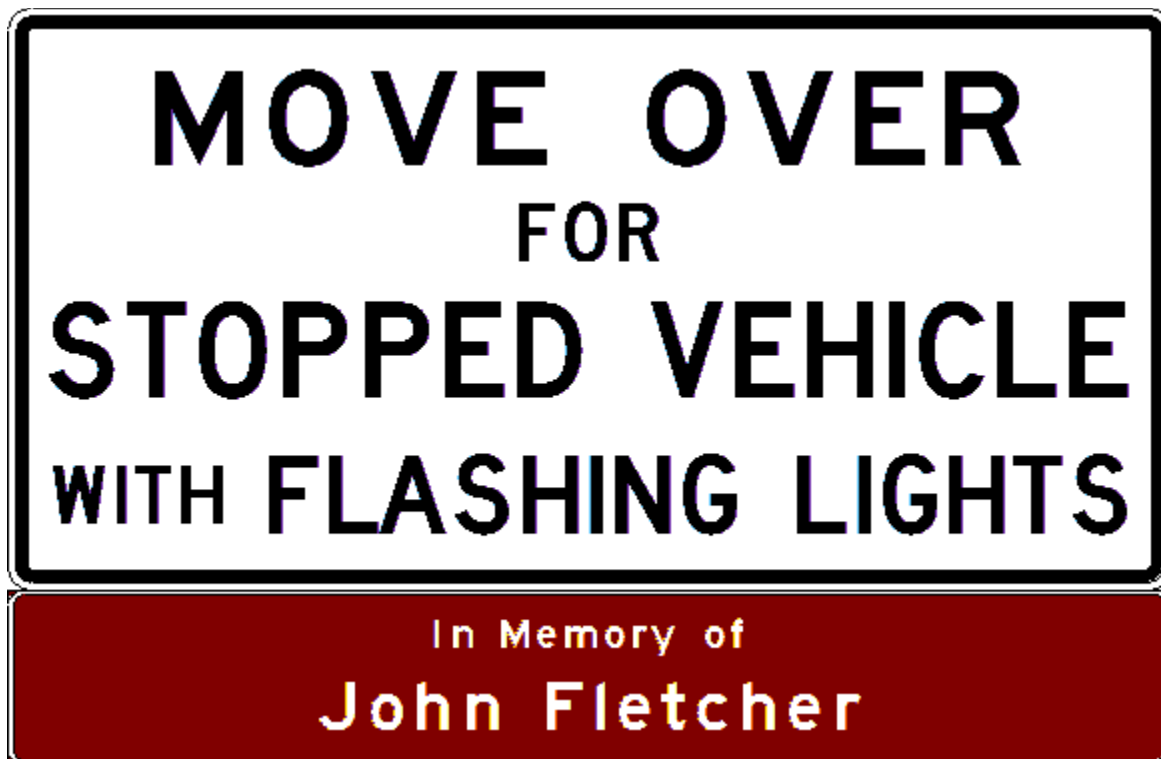
-over-

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.

In total, 12 men killed while performing their duties on the Ohio Turnpike will be memorialized with a sign. 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:

Brian Newbacher, Public Information Officer, Phone: 440-971-2066,
440-821-3399 (mobile), brian.newbacher@ohioturnpike.org.