

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- **Ohio State Highway Patrol**



December 31, 2015

Nicholas Breul
National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund
901 E Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Breul,

When you take an in-depth and comprehensive look at law enforcement and the variety of agencies within a state, they all have the same goal to protect life and property and to serve their citizens with the utmost integrity and respect possible. Another common goal is to make sure their personnel go home safely after every shift. In some instances, law enforcement agencies don't always collaborate well with each other towards those same common goals. Ohio faced those same hurdles; however, the leaders of our respective agencies came together with one goal in mind. This goal is to bring our officers home safely after each shift and assist them with making better educated decisions while working the road. The Ohio State Highway Patrol, The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, The Ohio Attorney General's Office, and Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association along with Nationwide Insurance joined forces and decided to use the Below 100 national program as a way to bring officers together on a united front to fight against line-of-duty deaths and injuries in the law enforcement profession.

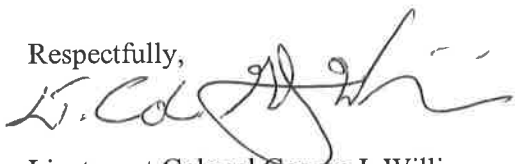
The Ohio Below 100 team has taken the Below 100 program and delivered it to every law enforcement agency in the state of Ohio. Our program has utilized statistics from Ohio including both positive and tragic incidents from around our state to educate our officers. This monumental task was completed by utilizing a city police officer, deputy sheriff and a state trooper to instruct collaboratively together to more than 2,500 law enforcement officers across the State of Ohio in 2015. We were able to accomplish this by sending out information to all law enforcement agencies in the state to inform them of the program and by addressing the senior leaders of those agencies at the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association annual conferences. However, we did not stop there, we set in place mutual aid agreements to assist agencies with calls for service within their respective areas of jurisdiction. The agreement afforded agencies the means to send their officers to the training while not missing any calls for service. All training was offered free of charge to the agency, and no request for training was turned down. In partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office federal grant money was utilized for those agencies to allow their officers to travel outside of their jurisdiction to instruct other agencies and allow them to be compensated for the overtime and travel expenses associated with the training.

Also in Ohio, it is evident that not all agencies can afford to purchase new body armor due to budgetary constraints. However, with help from Nationwide Insurance our program was able to offer body armor free of cost to any officer who qualified. Since the inception of this program in 2014, we have been able to provide 250 vests to officers across the State of Ohio.

Working together with our law enforcement partners, the private sector and one another has led to great success and a safer Ohio for both the citizens and our officers. Through this program we have encouraged our officers to have crucial conversations with other officers to promote officer safety and accountability. By speaking with the agencies' leaders, we have provided them with invaluable training and encouraged them to bring Ohio one step closer to reducing our line-of-duty deaths and injuries to officers. We have empowered our men and women to learn from the experiences of others so they can in turn make sound decisions.

This training is important no matter what color uniform you wear, or what your badge or patch says. It's about making sure every law enforcement officer can go home safely after their shifts. Below 100 isn't just about wearing your vest and seat belt, it's about making sound decisions and realizing your choices affect not only you, but also those around you. What our officers do on a daily basis is important to keeping Ohio safe. It is important for them to take an opportunity to evaluate their daily actions and think about protecting themselves in addition to the citizens of Ohio.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Lieutenant Colonel George J. Williams

Assistant Superintendent,

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Below 100 Ohio Team