

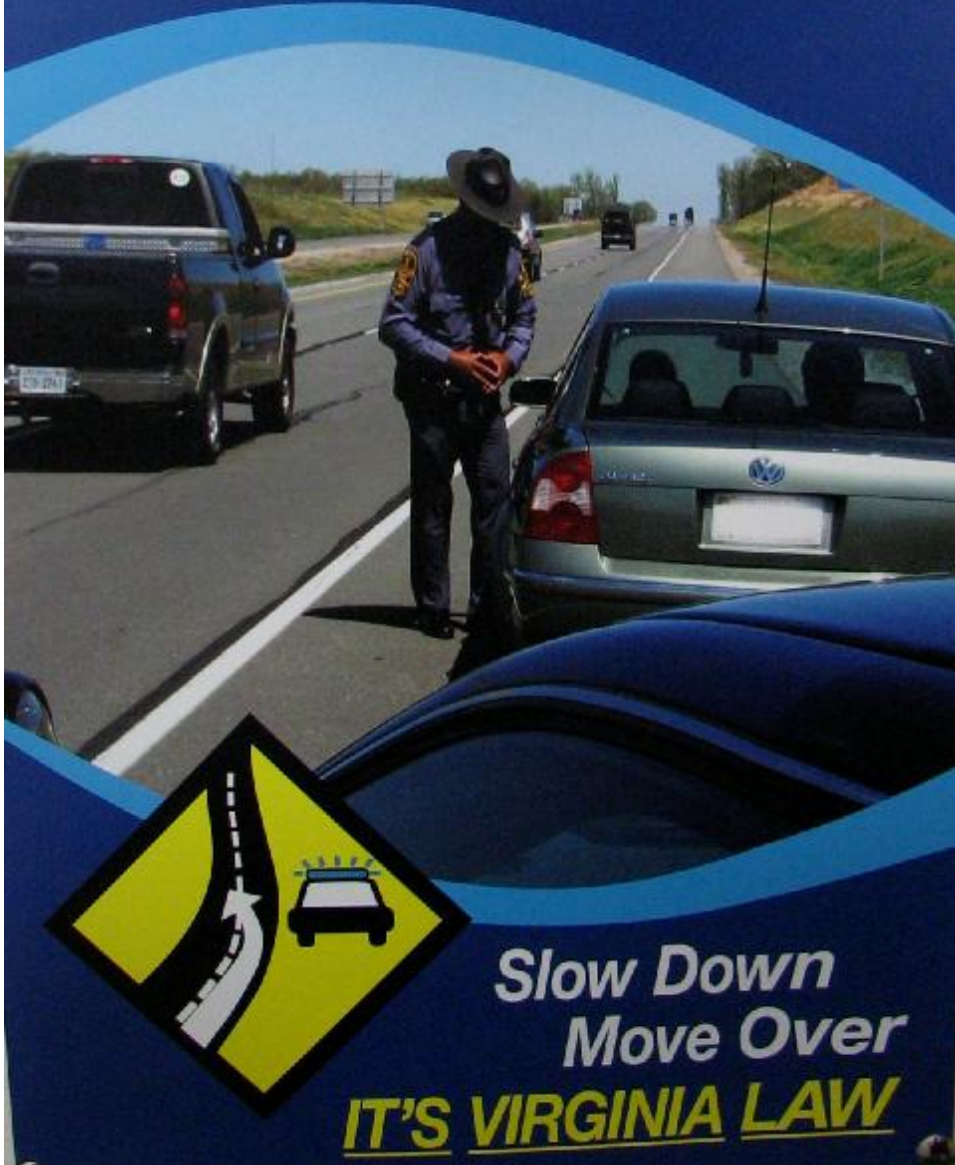
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# HELP PROTECT

THOSE WHO PROTECT YOU



Slow Down  
Move Over

**IT'S VIRGINIA LAW**

According to FBI statistics, traffic crashes claim the lives of more police personnel than any other cause of death in the line of duty.

**Nationwide statistics show that 151 officers throughout the country have been struck and killed since 1997 along America's highways...**

**The Virginia State Police have lost numerous troopers throughout the years and their deaths possibly could have been avoided had motorist "Moved Over or Slowed Down," these include:**

**Trooper Robert Hill (2006)**

**Trooper Jessica Cheney (1998)**

**Trooper Jackie Vernon (1988)**

**Trooper Robert Lohr (1978)**

**Trooper James Hughes (1974)**

**Trooper Donald Lovelace (1970)**

**Trooper Henry Brooks (1956)**



**In Virginia nine troopers have been struck on the side of the road in the first six months of 2008 alone.**



**71 percent of Americans have not heard of the “Move Over” law even though they are currently in 43 states;\***

**86 percent of Americans support enacting “Move Over” laws in all 50 states;\* and**

**90 percent of Americans believe traffic stops and roadside emergencies are dangerous for law enforcement and first responders;\***

**\*Source: National Safety Commission, Mason Dixon Polling and Research**



# IT'S THE LAW

The law (46.2-921.1) which was enacted in 2002 states, *“The driver of any motor vehicle, upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle that is displaying a flashing, blinking or alternating emergency lights shall (i) on a highway having at least four lanes, at least two of which are intended for traffic proceeding as the approaching vehicle, proceed with caution and, if reasonable, with due regard for safety and traffic conditions, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the stationary emergency vehicle or (ii) if changing lanes would be unreasonable or unsafe, proceed with due caution and maintain a safe speed for highway conditions.”* Class 1 misdemeanor (12 months in jail and/or \$2,500 fine).

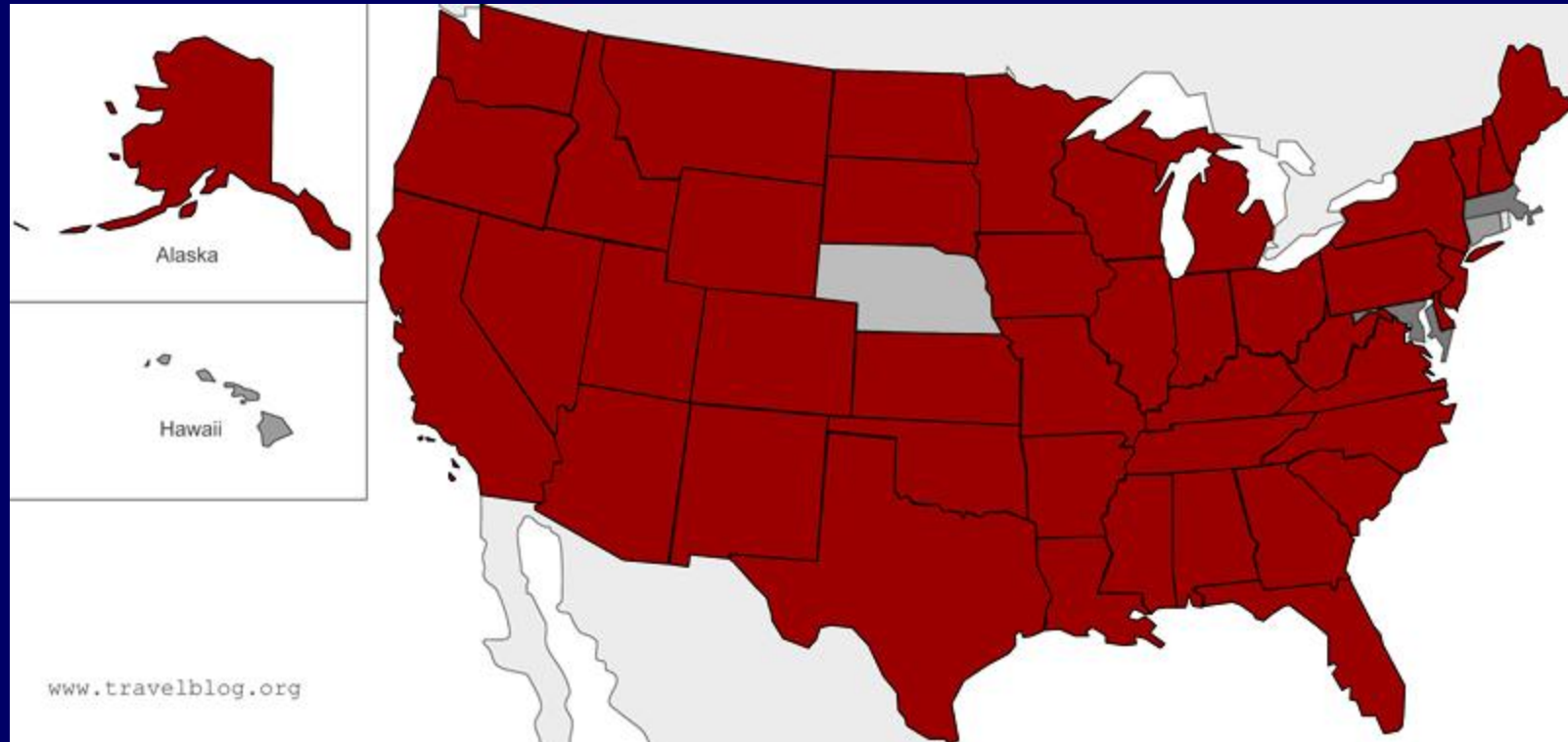
What can you do to help?



The emergency responder community asked that you help spread the word by **SHOULDERING** the **RESPONSIBILITY** and telling your family and friends to **MOVE OVER** or **SLOW DOWN** the next time they approach a stopped emergency vehicle on the shoulder of the roadway.

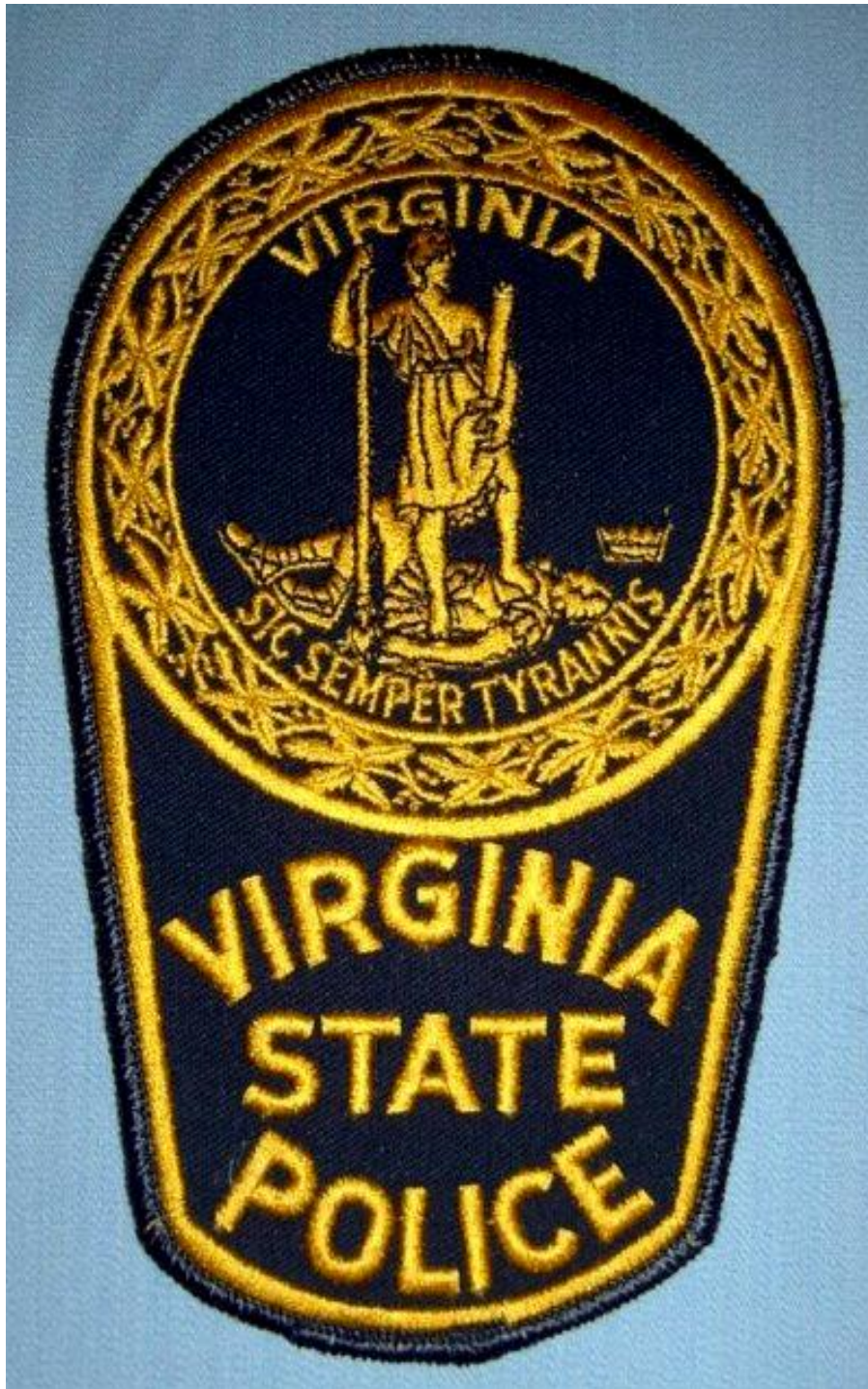


# How many states have the Move Over law?



**\*STATES IN RED HAVE A MOVE OVER LAW**

**Currently 43 states have the law with the exception of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Nebraska and DC.**



**What has the State Police been doing about this serious situation?**

**The Move Over Committee was formed in March 2007 to address this problem and seek out ways to better educate the public.**

**The committee created a brochure that is available throughout the Commonwealth to inform the public about the “Move Over” Law.**

# Virginia's "Move Over" Law

- Requires motorist to change into another travel lane or slow down when passing emergency personnel
- Law established in 2002
- Violation of law is a Class one misdemeanor
- Carries a penalty of up to a \$2,500 fine and/or a year in jail



# Virginia's "Move Over Law"

## Quick Facts

- Va. Move Over signs erected in 2008
- Trooper K.S. Chapman helped unveil the signs in SWVA after he was hit/injured during a traffic stop



## Quick Fact:

Nationwide, 151 officers were struck and killed by a vehicle between 1997-2006

\*Source: National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund



**SLOW DOWN  
MOVE OVER  
IT'S THE LAW!**

### MOVE OVER PUBLICITY

- Red and yellow bumper stickers placed on back of law enforcement vehicles
- Brochures distributed at safety talks
- Video and Radio Public Service Announcements (PSA) created



# Virginia's "Move Over Law"

Remember !  
Before it was common  
courtesy to Move  
Over or slow down  
Now,  
it's the law!





**The Virginia State Police has partnered with VDOT in posting the Move Over permanent highway signs on the interstates throughout the state. The signs are currently located on I-81, I-77 and I-64. The VSP looks forward to working with VDOT to expand the coverage of the signs.**

# **WHAT ELSE IS BEING DONE TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT VIRGINIA'S MOVE OVER LAW?**

- The Virginia State Police partnered with Virginia Tech to produce a 30-second television PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT and a radio PSA explaining the law and its importance to law enforcement, fire and EMS.**
- The Virginia State Police website features the PSA, brochure and bumper sticker ([www.vsp.state.va.us](http://www.vsp.state.va.us)).**
- Virginia State Police personnel have participated in numerous press conference, media interviews, safety presentation and training conferences focusing on the Move Over law.**

# REMINDERS & EDUCATION



**VDOT utilizes the variable message boards across the state to display the Move Over or Slow Down message periodically**

**The driver education programs in Virginia currently include the Move Over law in classroom instruction and on-line programs available for practice tests and examinations. This law was also included in the Standards of Learning (SOLs) beginning with the 2007-2008 school years.**

The background of the entire slide is a stylized, wavy American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars.

# **MOVE OVER AMERICA**

**To lower this deadly toll a new coalition of traffic safety and law enforcement groups launched a nationwide public awareness campaign to protect emergency personnel along our nation's roadsides. This campaign is called "Move Over, America" and can be reached on the web at**

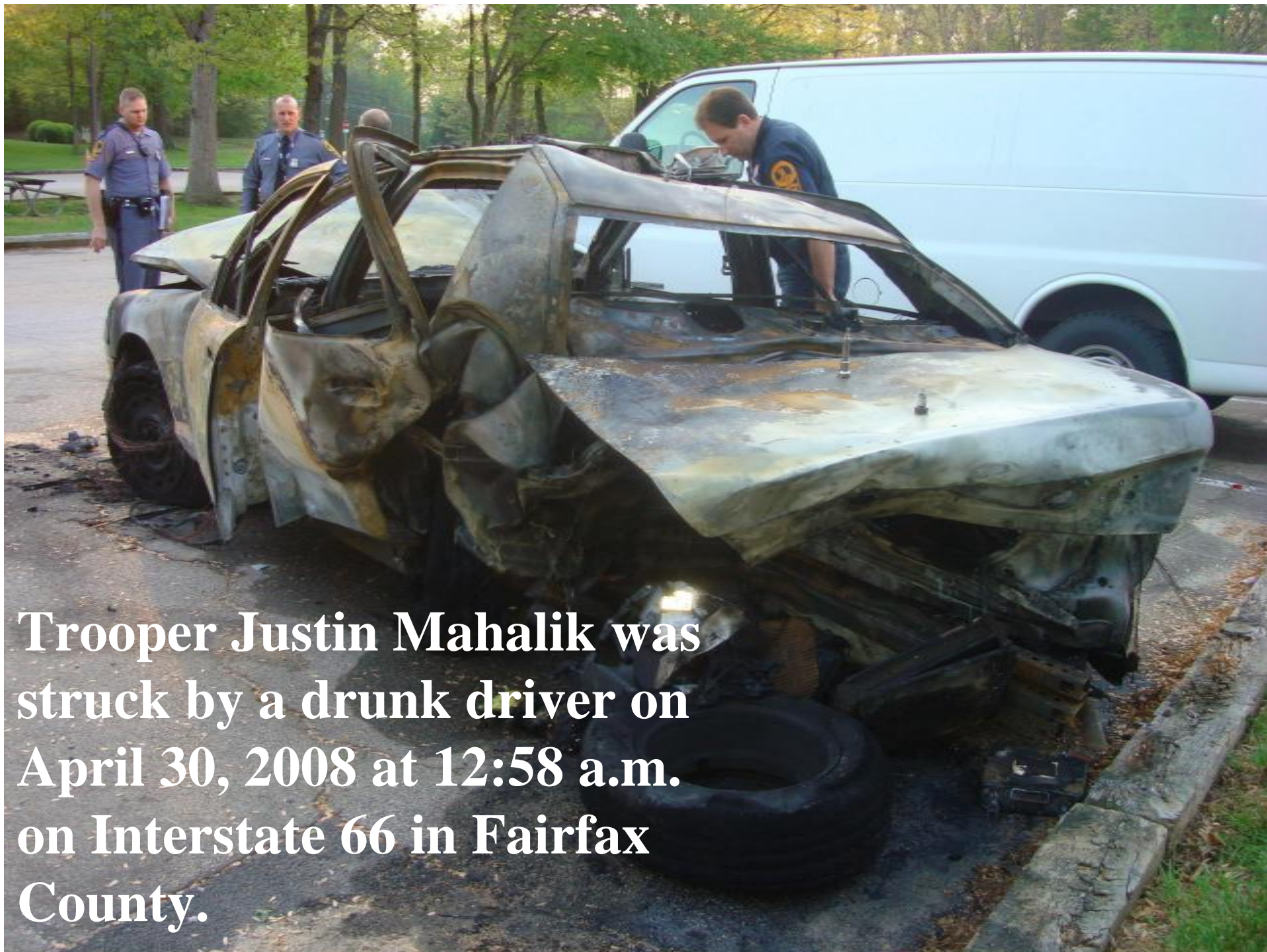
**[www.moveoveramerica.com](http://www.moveoveramerica.com)**



**Kris Chapman was struck by a drunk driver on February 1, 2008 at 11:00 p.m. on Interstate 81 in Smyth County.**

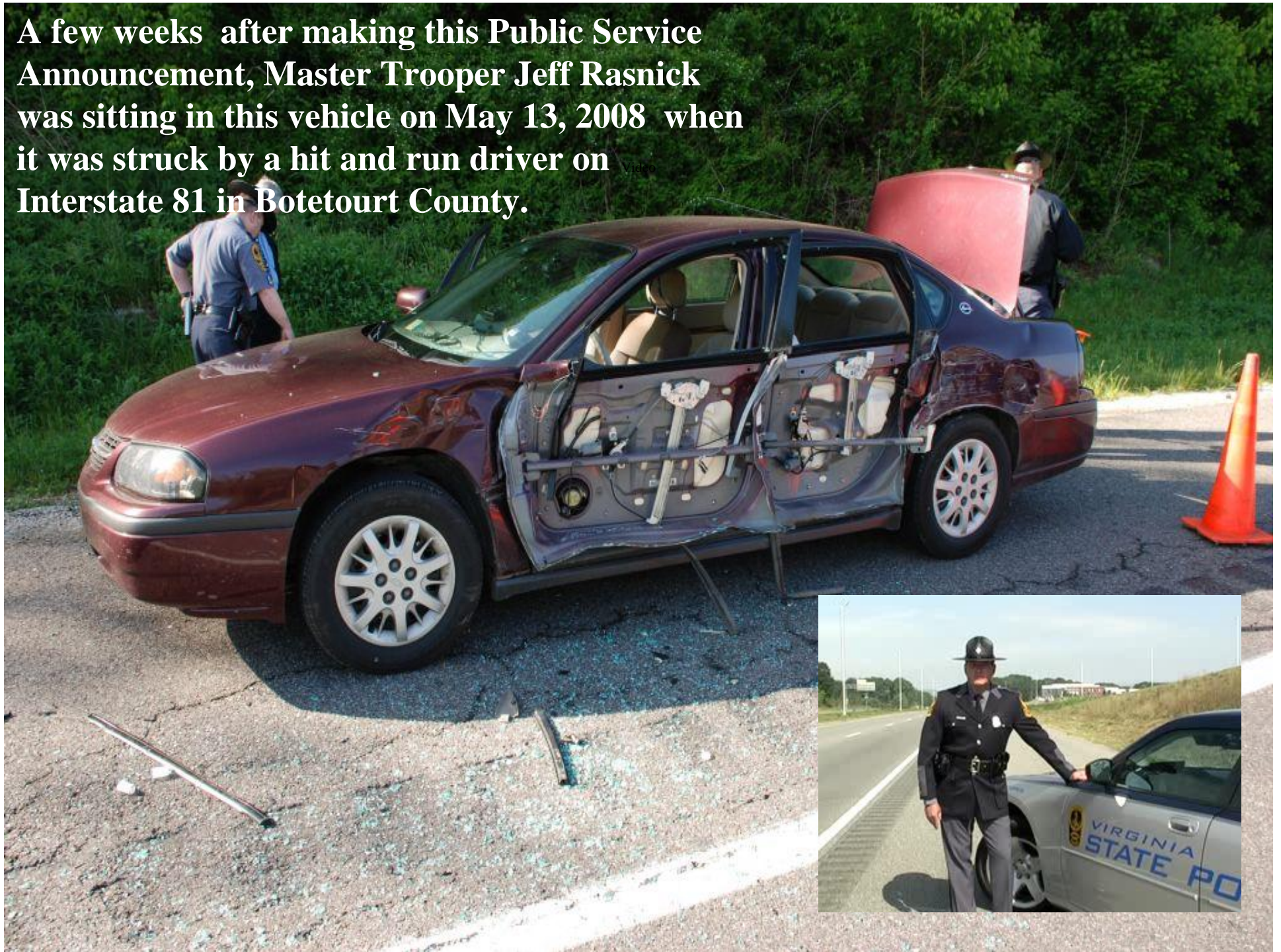
**Trooper Chapman joined Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall and State Police Superintendent W. Steven Flaherty for the placement of the MOVE OVER Signs along Virginia's highways.**



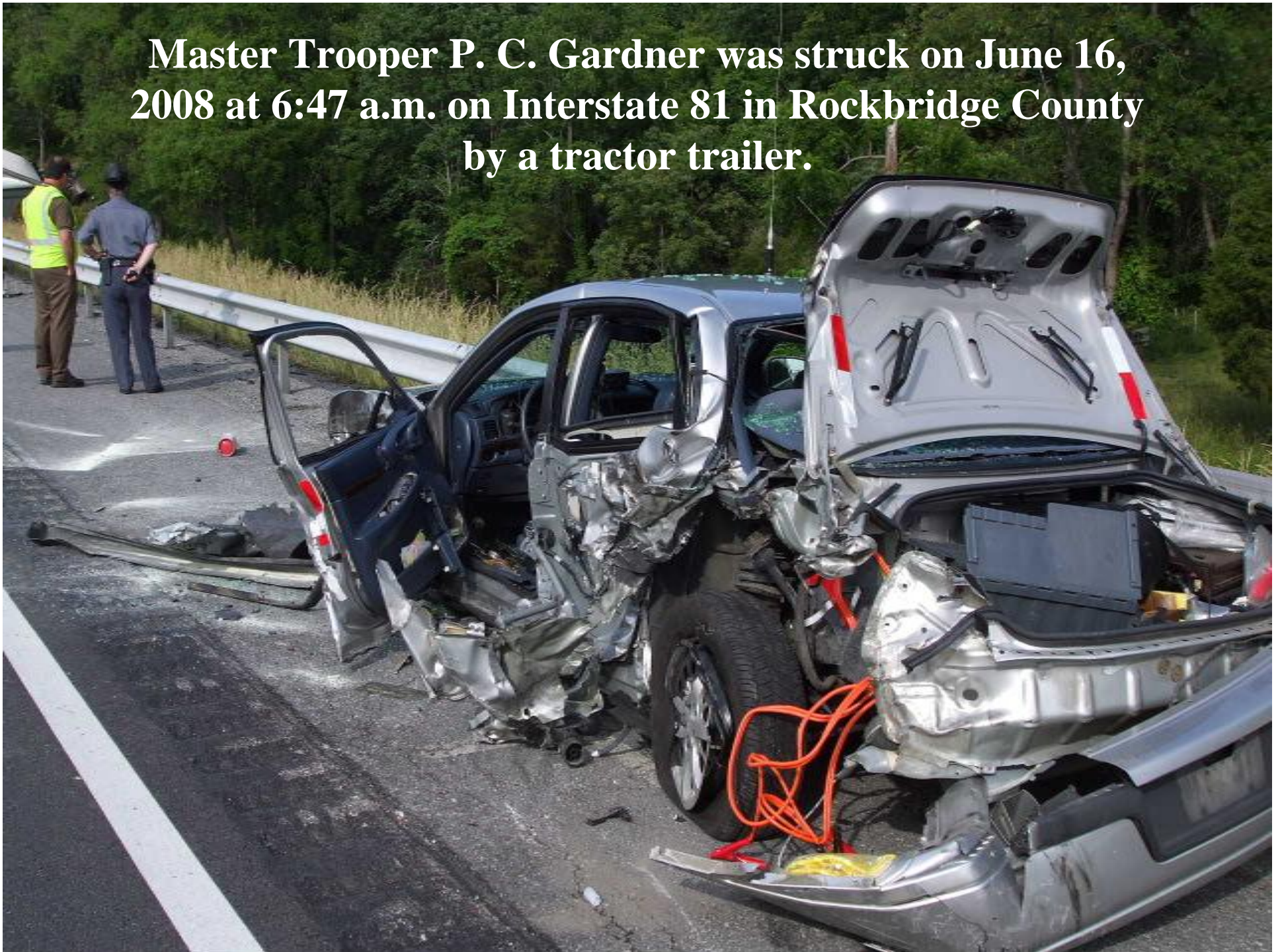


**Trooper Justin Mahalik was struck by a drunk driver on April 30, 2008 at 12:58 a.m. on Interstate 66 in Fairfax County.**

**A few weeks after making this Public Service Announcement, Master Trooper Jeff Rasnick was sitting in this vehicle on May 13, 2008 when it was struck by a hit and run driver on Interstate 81 in Botetourt County.**



**Master Trooper P. C. Gardner was struck on June 16, 2008 at 6:47 a.m. on Interstate 81 in Rockbridge County by a tractor trailer.**





Senior Trooper Robert A. Hill, Sr. was stuck and killed on November 26, 2006 on Route 58 in Southampton County. A bridge on Route 58 at Route 687 was dedication in his honor on June 17, 2008.



**Finally a few remarks from Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Superintendent, Virginia State Police. “Every trooper while out on the road has experienced more than one ‘near miss’ with a passing motorist. We are asking drivers to be alert and comply with the Move Over law when passing police, rescue and fire personnel stopped on the side of the road. Their lives depend on it.”**