



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION

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825 Georges Avenue ■ Second Floor ■ North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Phone | 732.745.0211 ■ Fax | 732.745.0200 ■ Email | communications@bianj.org ■ Website | www.bianj.org

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CONTACT

Bill Kolbenschlager

Communications Associate

732.738.1002 x237

communications@bianj.org

Manchester Police Officer to be Honored for Exemplary Public Safety Efforts

Manchester, NJ— The Brain Injury Association of New Jersey will present Manchester Township Police Officer Douglas Higgins with its 2009 Trooper Christopher Scales Memorial Award for his exemplary efforts in promoting public safety and brain injury prevention. The award will be presented during the Brain Injury Association's Annual Seminar at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel and Conference Center on Thursday, May 21.

Officer Higgins is a patrolman and a highly regarded member of the Manchester Township Police Department and its Department of Traffic Safety. Throughout his career he has witnessed the devastating impact that a brain injury can have on the lives of individuals and their families. He has made a personal commitment to use these powerful experiences to promote brain injury awareness and prevention so that people will think and act more responsibly when it comes to public safety.

Officer Higgins stresses the message that one bad decision can result in a lifetime of consequences. He teaches defensive driving and delivers "Alive at 25," a driving safety program for high school students that is aimed at reducing automobile crashes involving young drivers and passengers. He is also a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and has taken the lead in implementing the "Think Positive: A Helmet Safety Reward Program" in Manchester. This initiative helps to increase helmet use in an effort to raise awareness of brain injury prevention and helmet safety with wheeled sports.

The Trooper Scales Memorial Award was established in 2003 in honor of the late Trooper Christopher S. Scales, who was a front-line partner in the Association's brain injury prevention efforts. Trooper Scales was killed on December 3, 2002, while conducting a seatbelt enforcement check on the New Jersey Turnpike. The award is presented each year by the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey to a member of the law enforcement community who has demonstrated exemplary efforts in promoting public safety and brain injury prevention.

The Brain Injury Association of New Jersey has a mission to support and advocate for individuals affected by brain injury and raise public awareness through education and prevention. The Association is our state's chartered affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America. For more information visit www.bianj.org. The Association also offers a toll-free

helpline in New Jersey, **1-800-669-4323**, for people who have sustained brain injuries, their families, and professionals seeking information and resources.

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