



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPSCS' CLAUDE NELSON HONORED WITH D.A.R.E.'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

TOWSON, MD (August 18, 2009)--- Claude Nelson, Maryland's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) coordinator for the State, has been honored with a lifetime achievement award from D.A.R.E.'s founder, former Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates. Mr. Nelson, a retired Baltimore County police officer, was hired by DPSCS as the Statewide D.A.R.E. Coordinator in 2002.

D.A.R.E. is delivered by uniformed law enforcement officers, and teaches children accurate information about the dangers of drugs, helping them choose to stay away from drug use. It began in 1989---introduced by L.A. Police Chief Gates---- and has since educated millions of children worldwide.

Mr. Nelson alone has taught D.A.R.E. to more than twelve thousand students and parents, and trained more than one thousand police officers for their D.A.R.E. certification. He is one of the original five D.A.R.E. officers in the State of Maryland, and continues to run the statewide program and teach students today. D.A.R.E. is based, along with the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute, at the Police and Correctional Training Commissions, at the Maryland Public Safety Education and Training Center in Sykesville.

Mr. Nelson received his award directly from retired Chief Gates at the D.A.R.E. International Training Conference in Orlando. DPSCS is very proud of the work of Claude Nelson and the impact his D.A.R.E. efforts have had on children across Maryland and the nation.

Says Mr. Nelson: "I have a passion for D.A.R.E., for kids, and for helping fellow officers do the right thing for the right reasons. After 23 years I still love teaching kids. After 20 years I still love training officers and helping them be successful. I thank God for providing me with the opportunity to make a difference."

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Above: Claude Nelson (center) accepts the lifetime D.A.R.E. achievement award from former Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates (left) and D.A.R.E. America President and CEO Charlie Parsons (right).

Below: the “official Maryland D.A.R.E. Mobile”

