



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065

Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions Announce 24th D.A.R.E. Officer Training Class Graduation

Friday, October 23 at 1 p.m. in Sykesville

TOWSON, MD (October 21, 2009)---The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions will host the 24th graduating class of law enforcement officers in the D.A.R.E. program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) on Friday, October 23 at 1.p.m. The ceremony will be held at the Public Safety Education and Training Center, 6852 4th St. off Maryland Route 32 in Sykesville.

D.A.R.E., founded in Los Angeles in 1983 and adopted here three years later, is Maryland's oldest and largest drug, violence, and gang prevention education program, having taken its message into the classrooms of tens of thousands of elementary, middle, and high school aged children.

D.A.R.E.'s Maryland director, Claude Nelson, was recently honored with a lifetime achievement award from former L.A. Police Chief Daryl Gates, who founded D.A.R.E. 26 years ago. 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.

The 27 graduates being honored on the 23rd represent 11 local, county, and state law enforcement agencies in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Their successful completion of 80 hours of training now entitles them to join the more than 35,000 officers nationwide who are certified D.A.R.E. instructors.

###

www.dpscs.state.md.us