



Department of Justice

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DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL RECOGNIZES MISSOURI BUS DRIVER FOR ACTIONS THAT LED TO RECOVERY OF MISSING GIRL

WASHINGTON – Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein today honored Tommy “T.J.” Davis, a Springfield, Missouri, City Utilities bus driver, for his actions that led to the recovery of a missing 13-year-old girl and the apprehension of her suspected abductor.

Rosenstein presented Davis with the Missing Children’s Citizen Award during the Department’s National Missing Children’s Day ceremony at the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building. This award recognizes private citizens for extraordinary acts that lead to the safe recovery of missing or abducted children.

While driving his bus route in December 2016, Davis noticed a man in a wheelchair with a teenage girl sitting on his lap. Realizing the girl fit the description of a local 13-year-old with autism who had recently been reported missing, Davis reported the incident to authorities. The suspect left the girl with Davis, telling him that she needed help; he then proceeded down a sidewalk. When authorities arrived, Davis described the man, who police found and arrested. The man was charged with first-degree child kidnapping and enticement of a child.

In addition to Davis, the deputy attorney general honored the efforts of two law enforcement officers and two Internet Crimes Against Children task forces for their efforts to protect children. Rosenstein also recognized Audrey Link, a fifth grader at Resurrection Catholic School in Lakeland, Florida, as the 18th winner of the Annual National Missing Children’s Day poster contest.

In 2016, there were more than 465,600 missing children entries to the FBI’s National Crime Information Center.

Additional information is available online about [National Missing Children’s Day](#).

The Office of Justice Programs, headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Alan R. Hanson, provides federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART). More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

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