



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

rear facing • forward facing • booster seat • seat belts

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Jennifer Penick Receives Technician of the Year Award

Penick died in a crash; her daughter survived because she was properly restrained in her seat

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Omaha’s Jennifer Penick became the first person to posthumously receive the prestigious Technician of the Year Award from the National Child Passenger Safety Board.

Penick, who helped launch Car Seat for the Littles in 2010, was committed to securing children safely in their seats – most notably and heroically her own 5-year-old daughter, who survived the same car crash that killed Penick and her husband, Adam, in Omaha last June. Their daughter, Unity, survived the head-on collision on Highway 50 near Schramm Rd. because she was properly harnessed in her car seat.

Family members accepted the award on Penick’s behalf during a ceremony March 30 at the Lifesavers Conference in the Kentucky International Convention Center.

“Our hearts go out to the Penick family,” said National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Tammy Franks. “We hope they draw some comfort in the knowledge that, while Jennifer’s time here on this earth was way too short, she touched many lives. One of the greatest compliments you can give a educator, a person like Jennifer, is simply to say, ‘Thank you.’ So, we say, ‘Thank you, Jennifer.’ You made a difference.”

When she helped launch Car Seat for the Littles, Penick was one of just five nationally certified child passenger safety technicians working to educate families online. Now, Car Seats for the Littles has grown to more than 30 technicians serving a global audience dedicated to making every child’s ride in the car safer.

Penick was known as the 'Message Ninja' because of her ability to answer difficult car seat safety questions from parents and caregivers. She was a go-to in the area of special needs transportation and avidly worked to secure grant funding to help put technicians through certification courses and supply them with current copies of the LATCH Manual.

Penick and her husband were raising five children, who all helped Jennifer test car seats and write reviews in an effort to assist families in choosing and using seats for their own children. Penick worked with local Autism support groups, attended regional and national car seat safety conferences, participated in car seat check events and worked to expand child passenger safety laws in Nebraska.

"If the definition of a hero is someone who gives of themselves, then Jennifer needs to be remembered as a hero," Franks said. "She worked for the greater good of others. She did more in 38 years than people who live twice as long."

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, managed by the National Safety Council, seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. The program is used to train and certify child passenger safety technicians and instructors. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS board, please visit the Board's website at www.cpsboard.org