



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS MARYLAND POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE WITH MISSING CHILDREN'S CITIZEN AWARD

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today honored Keith Rollins, a United States Postal Service employee from Columbia, Maryland, during the 38th annual commemoration of National Missing Children's Day. Mr. Rollins helped locate a 2-year-old boy who had been reported missing after he followed an adult out of the house and wandered away. Mr. Rollins is awarded the Missing Children's Citizen Award, which recognizes the extraordinary efforts of private citizens for their unselfish acts to safely recover missing or abducted children.

“The safety of our children depends as much on the alertness and concern of ordinary citizens as it does on the expertise of seasoned law enforcement professionals,” said Amy Solomon, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs. “We shudder to think what might have happened to this young boy were it not for Mr. Rollins' quick reaction and compassionate response. We are grateful to this good Samaritan for his extraordinary act of kindness.”

On February 6, 2020, as Mr. Rollins drove along Interstate 95, he glimpsed a toddler on the side of the highway. Mr. Rollins pulled over immediately and found 2-year-old Ethan Adeyemi, shoeless and soaking wet, hiding behind a piece of metal debris. Ethan was found approximately half a mile away from his home after 10 hours of searching by law enforcement officers. First responders took Ethan to the hospital for evaluation and reunited him with his family.

“Keith Rollins' vigilance and quick thinking turned what could have been an unfortunate tragedy into an amazing triumph,” said Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Acting Administrator Chyrl Jones. “We are so happy that Ethan was returned safely to his family.”

The Department also recognized one sergeant and four detectives from Fresno, California, a sergeant from Addison, Illinois, and two coordinators of the Department of the Attorney General's Missing Child Center-Hawaii for their efforts to bring missing children home. The Department declared Heidi Jimena Perez Veleta from Sunnyside Elementary School in Dodge City, Kansas, winner of the 2021 National Missing Children's Day poster contest.

Every year on May 25, the Office of Justice Programs and its Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention lead the nation in observing National Missing Children's Day, first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983. This day shines a spotlight on child safety and honors the professionals dedicated to protecting children around the country.

In lieu of an in-person ceremony, OJJDP is launching a [website](#) today featuring information about the awardees and statements from Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Solomon, OJJDP Acting Administrator Jones and President and CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children John F. Clark.

The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, advance racial equity in the administration of justice, assist victims and enhance the rule of law. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

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