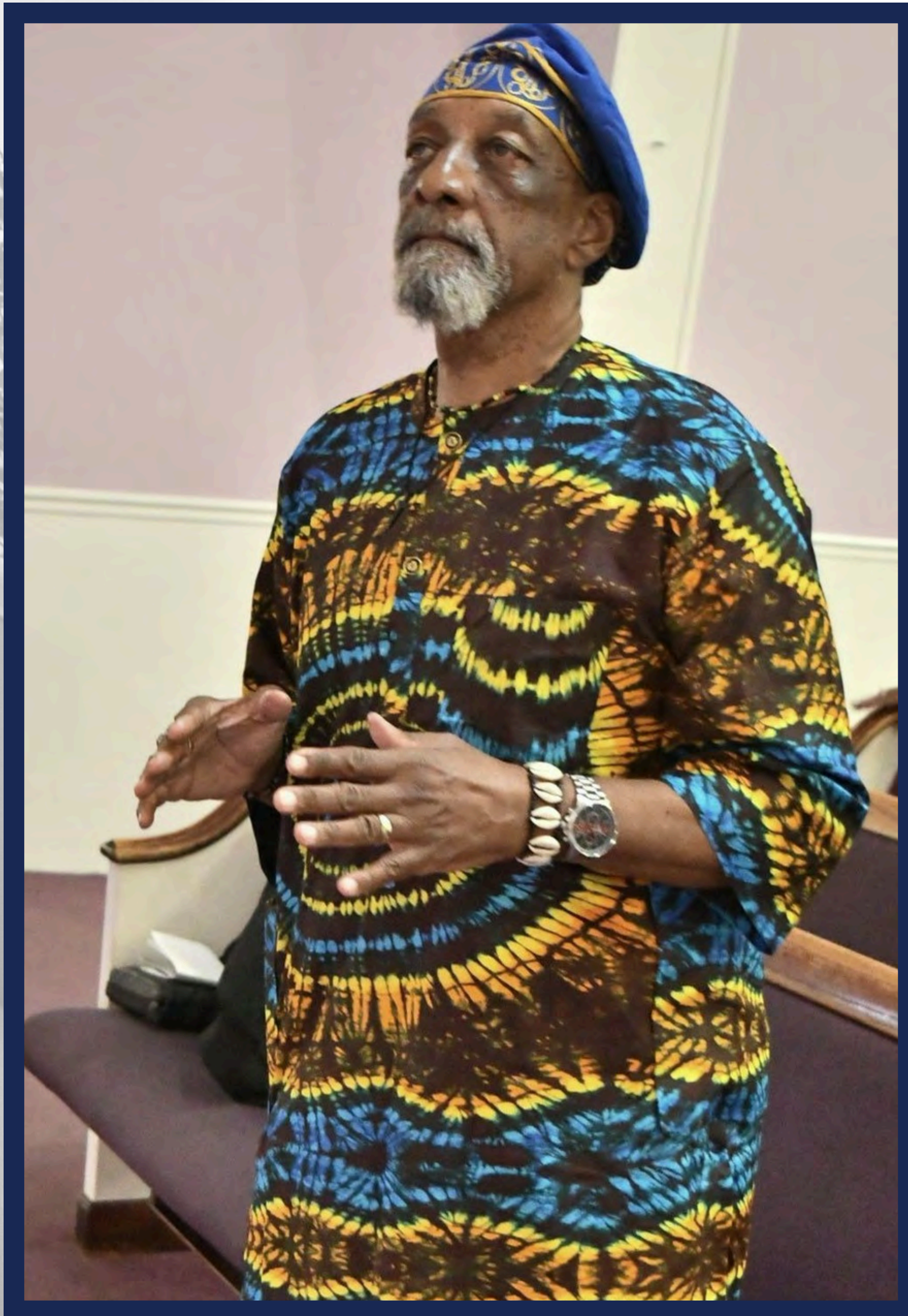




**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**

2025 EMA Spotlight



Robert D. Walker

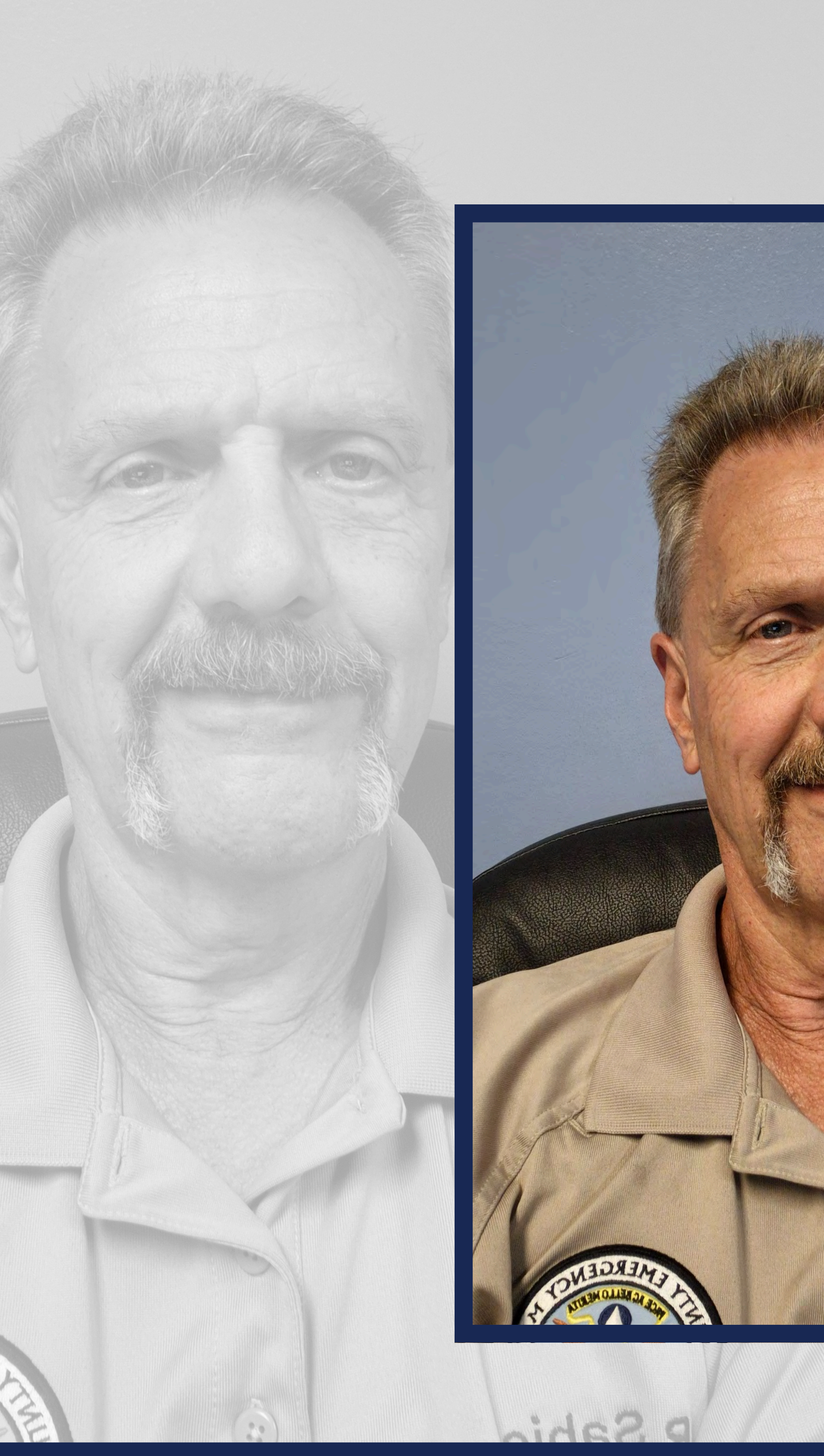
Lake County EMA (District 1)

Robert Walker leads a growing and learning agency dedicated to public safety. He believes in the importance of practicing readiness and serving the community. With over 35 years as a first responder, Walker continues to be driven by a passion for helping others.

Number one safety message: “Situational awareness is everyone's responsibility. If you see something, say something. If you see something that needs to be done, do it. If it is above your skill level, call 911.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Robert Sabie

LaPorte County EMA (District 1)

Robert Sabie reminds residents that being prepared protects their future. He finds purpose in helping others and believes emergency management's behind-the-scenes efforts are critical. His advice: Always be aware of your surroundings.

Number one safety message: “Always be prepared and have plenty of backup resources stored for any emergency.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Lance Bella

Porter County EMA (District 1)

Lance Bella ensures that Porter County is not only well-equipped but also well-prepared. He works to secure grants and community support while managing regional response efforts. His mission is to protect lives through sustainable emergency infrastructure.

Number one safety message: “There are no tasks we perform that should not be conducted safely. The safety of our personnel and our citizens is our most important priority.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Jennifer Tobey

Elkhart County EMA (District 2)

Jennifer Tobey lives by the motto, What do you need? How can we help? She loves working with her team and community to serve and protect. Her advice is to have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts and keep them turned on.

Number one safety message: “If you see something, do not be afraid to say something!”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Kip Shuter

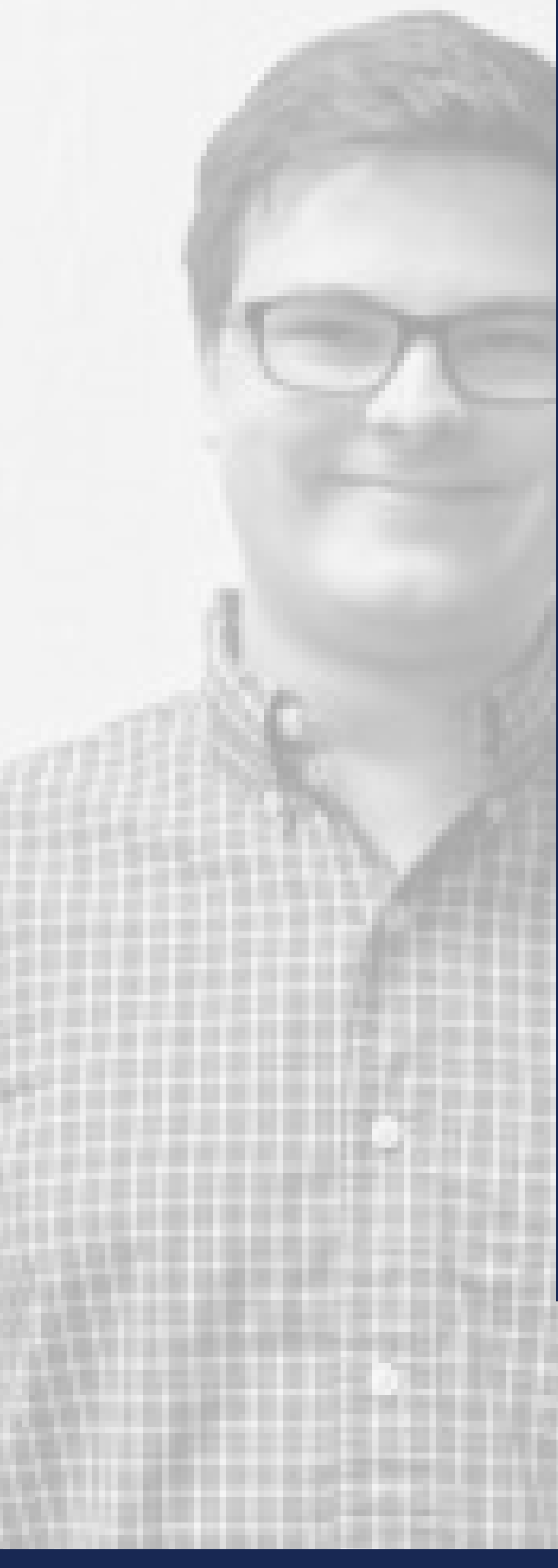
Kosciusko County EMA (District 2)

Kip Shuter emphasizes the importance of creating and practicing emergency plans at home. He finds great value in connecting with the community and encouraging personal preparedness. His favorite part of the job is serving people and working with a dedicated team.

Number one safety message: “Be prepared. Enable Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) on your cellular device. Have a backup source to be alerted during emergencies in case cellular service is down like weather alert radios, AM/FM radio and apps. Make and practice preparedness plans for the various types of emergencies that may occur in Kosciusko County.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Jack Garner

Marshall County EMA (District 2)

Jack Garner, a lifelong Marshall County resident, leads his EMA team with passion and a love for the daily variety of the job. He enjoys building community relationships while keeping people informed and ready.

Number one safety message: “Community disaster preparedness starts with YOU! EMAs should not be the only one making response plans. How will you and your family stay safe during a disaster before help arrives?”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Tori Chessor

Starke County EMA (District 2)

Tori Chessor leads year-round efforts to ensure Starke County is ready for any hazard. Her work includes public outreach and supporting first responders. She believes in staying vigilant and listening to weather and travel updates.

Number one safety message: “Your actions today protect your tomorrow.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Robert Jeffers

Huntington County EMA (District 3)

Robert Jeffers leads a dedicated team of two full-time staff and 20 volunteers who are always ready to respond. He enjoys learning new things every day that help him better serve the community. Severe weather is a significant challenge in the county, but Jeffers is committed to building resilience.

Number one safety message: “Have multiple ways to receive alerts and have your emergency alerts turned on!”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



John Petro

Wells County EMA (District 3)

John Petro believes emergency management is all about preparedness and long-term resilience. He enjoys getting to know Wells County residents and helping them prepare for emergencies. His message is simple: "Preparedness starts with you."

Number one safety message: "Create emergency plans for your home and family, practice them often and make sure everyone understands the importance of them."



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Edward Scott

Whitley County EMA (District 3)

Edward Scott believes EMAs play a vital role in all five phases of emergency management. His work includes conducting full-scale exercises and distributing alert radios. After 20 years as a first responder, he remains driven by his belief in protecting others and building safer communities.

Number one safety message: “Preparedness begins at home! Before we can protect our neighborhoods or respond to emergencies county-wide, every family should know how to stay safe in critical situations. That means having a plan, whether it is for natural disasters, house fires, health emergencies or everyday safety risks.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Rocky Buffum

Cass County EMA (District 4)

Rocky Buffum and his team are always ready to support residents before, during and after emergencies. He focuses on public preparedness through supply caches and community awareness. Buffman believes that safety should be built into everything an EMA does.

Number one safety message: “Having a home cache of supplies, home and work emergency plans and effective communication are key. Plan on how to communicate when standard mechanisms are disrupted and reach out to friends and family who might need more help in an emergency. In an actual disaster, emergency responses can be delayed. Sometimes there are small things we can do for one another that make a world of difference with very little time and effort spent.”



EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK



Renee Crick

Clinton County EMA (District 4)

Newly appointed EMA Director Renee Crick is excited to help Clinton County be more prepared. She believes that readiness starts at home and is committed to strengthening local emergency plans. Crick enjoys being boots on the ground during emergencies to support her neighbors.

Number one safety message: “You must be prepared and have a plan for yourself and your family in the event of an emergency or disaster. You must have these discussions with your children as well, so everyone knows what to do when something happens.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Jessica Burget

Montgomery County EMA (District 4)

Jessica Burget wants the public to know that emergency management is more than sirens and alerts; it is about everyday preparedness. She takes pride in the meaningful impact her work has when people need help the most. Burget believes that preparedness starts at home, and she encourages residents to know their local risks.

Number one safety message: “Preparedness starts at home; know the risks in our county, whether it is severe weather, hazardous materials or other emergencies. Pay attention to weather alerts, have multiple ways to get warnings and know where you will take shelter. Make a plan, build a kit, sign up for our mass notification system and check on your neighbors. We are all safer when we look out for each other.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Jim Morson

Warren County EMA (District 4)

Jim Morson brings nearly 30 years of military service to his role as EMA director. He manages a small but capable team committed to preparedness and safety. Morson believes the best way to face a disaster is to be ready before it strikes.

Number one safety message: “The most critical thing I want every Warren County resident to know is this: Being prepared is the best way to stay safe. Whether it is severe weather, a power outage, or any other emergency, have a family plan, keep a basic emergency kit on hand, stay connected to local alerts and practice situational awareness. Paying attention to your surroundings and thinking ahead can make all the difference. A little preparation up front goes a long way when it matters most. ‘It is never an emergency, until it is.’”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Debbi Fletcher

Hendricks County EMA (District 5)

Debbi Fletcher wants the community to know that Hendricks County EMA is always here, even when you do not see it. She enjoys making a real difference behind the scenes. Fletcher urges everyone to stay alert and be ready, because things can change quickly.

Number one safety message: “Be alert and aware. Things are constantly changing, so you need to stay aware and respond to stay safe. Preparedness starts with knowing what can happen and what you should do about it.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



John Coutinho

Delaware County EMA (District 6)

John Coutinho wants residents to know that EMA works year-round, not just during disasters. He is proud of his team's dedication to helping others and building community resilience. His guiding principle is that safety begins with care, hope and kindness.

Number one safety message: “Preparedness starts with you. Individual and family preparedness is the foundation of community safety. Whether it is severe weather, power outages or any other emergency, the more prepared our residents are, the safer and more resilient our entire county becomes. Know your risks, have a plan, build an emergency kit and stay informed. Small steps now can make a huge difference when every second counts.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



R. Lynn Edens

Madison County EMA (District 6)

R. Lynn Edens reminds residents that preparedness is not just for tornadoes, it is for everything! Madison County EMA, founded in 1953, remains committed to public safety. Edens' mission is to ensure that no one is caught off guard.

Number one safety message: "Be prepared, not scared. Be ready to take care of yourself and your family. Be prepared for the next power outage or severe storm by staying informed from a reliable source and taking heed when asked to act."



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY



HOMELAND MEDAL OF MERIT

JANICE HART

EMA DIRECTOR
HOWARD COUNTY

IN HONOR OF JANICE HART FOR HER 45 YEARS OF FAITHFUL, PASSIONATE, AND COURAGEOUS SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE LIVES OF HOWARD COUNTY AND THE GREAT STATE OF INDIANA.

THE INDIANA HOMELAND MEDAL OF MERIT HONORS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION, AND THE PERFORMANCE OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO SUPPORT THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND RESILIENCE OF ALL INDIANS AND THE GREAT STATE OF INDIANA.

I set my hand to confirm this high honor.

JUNE 5, 2025

Jennifer-Ruth Grady
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JENNIFER-RUTH GRADY



Janice L. Hart

Howard County EMA (District 6)

With 45 years of dedicated first responder service and a decade as Director of Howard County Emergency Management, Janice Hart has become a cornerstone of public safety in her community. She rose through the ranks, earning the respect of peers, volunteers and officials across the state.

Known for her unwavering care for her volunteers and tireless grant-writing to improve resources, Janice has led responses to severe weather and coordinated safety at countless community events. Her exemplary leadership, professionalism and unmatched dedication earned her the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Medal of Merit. Honoring not only her decades of service but the lasting impact she continues to make on Howard County and beyond.



EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK



Chuck Kemker

Rush County EMA (District 6)

Chuck Kemker wants residents to know that Rush County EMA is there for all types of emergencies. He developed an emergency plan for the Rushville's levee and works to solve flooding issues. He serves to make a positive difference in his community.

Number one safety message: “Failure to prepare is preparing to fail. What would you need if you were without power, not for a few hours but for days or possibly weeks?”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Chris Shaneyfelt

Randolph County EMA (District 6)

Chris Shaneyfelt wants the public to know his agency offers comprehensive support beyond disasters. He is focused on building a culture of preparedness, especially at home. Shaneyfelt finds the greatest reward in seeing plans come to life during a real response.

Number one safety message: "Stay informed and be prepared: Sign up for Hyper-Reach emergency alerts, have a family emergency plan, and know where to get accurate information before, during and after an emergency."



EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK



Shannan Cooke

Bartholomew County EMA (District 8)

Shannan Cooke continues a long-standing tradition of emergency preparedness in Bartholomew County. She enjoys collaborating with other responders and helping at local events. Her goal is to ensure residents are always informed and ready.

Number one safety message: “Be prepared, stay informed and take action. The time to prepare for an emergency is before one occurs. Have a plan, practice your plan, know how to receive alerts and know what to do. Understand the risks in Bartholomew County and how to prepare for a tornado, flood, hazardous spill or winter storm. Preparedness saves lives. Take steps today to protect yourself, your family and your community.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Valerie Luchauer

Lawrence County EMA (District 8)

Valerie Luchauer works tirelessly year-round to analyze threats and inform the public. She leads a successful healthcare coalition that meets monthly and exercises twice a year. Luchauer enjoys planning, training and exercising to make her community safer.

Number one safety message: “Be prepared for any emergency or disaster by having a disaster kit, a warning device such as a weather alert radio or battery-operated AM/FM radio and an alternative source of power if at all possible.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Jamie Neibel

Monroe County EMA (District 8)

Jamie Neibel leads a two-person team committed to helping residents receive alerts and stay informed. She is focused on building a culture of readiness across Monroe County. Her advice: Always maintain situational awareness. It could save your life.

Number one safety message: “Have multiple ways to receive alerts: our Monroe County Alert system, weather radio and emergency alerts enabled on your cell phone. Please listen to the warnings.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Deniseann "Deni" Stempowski

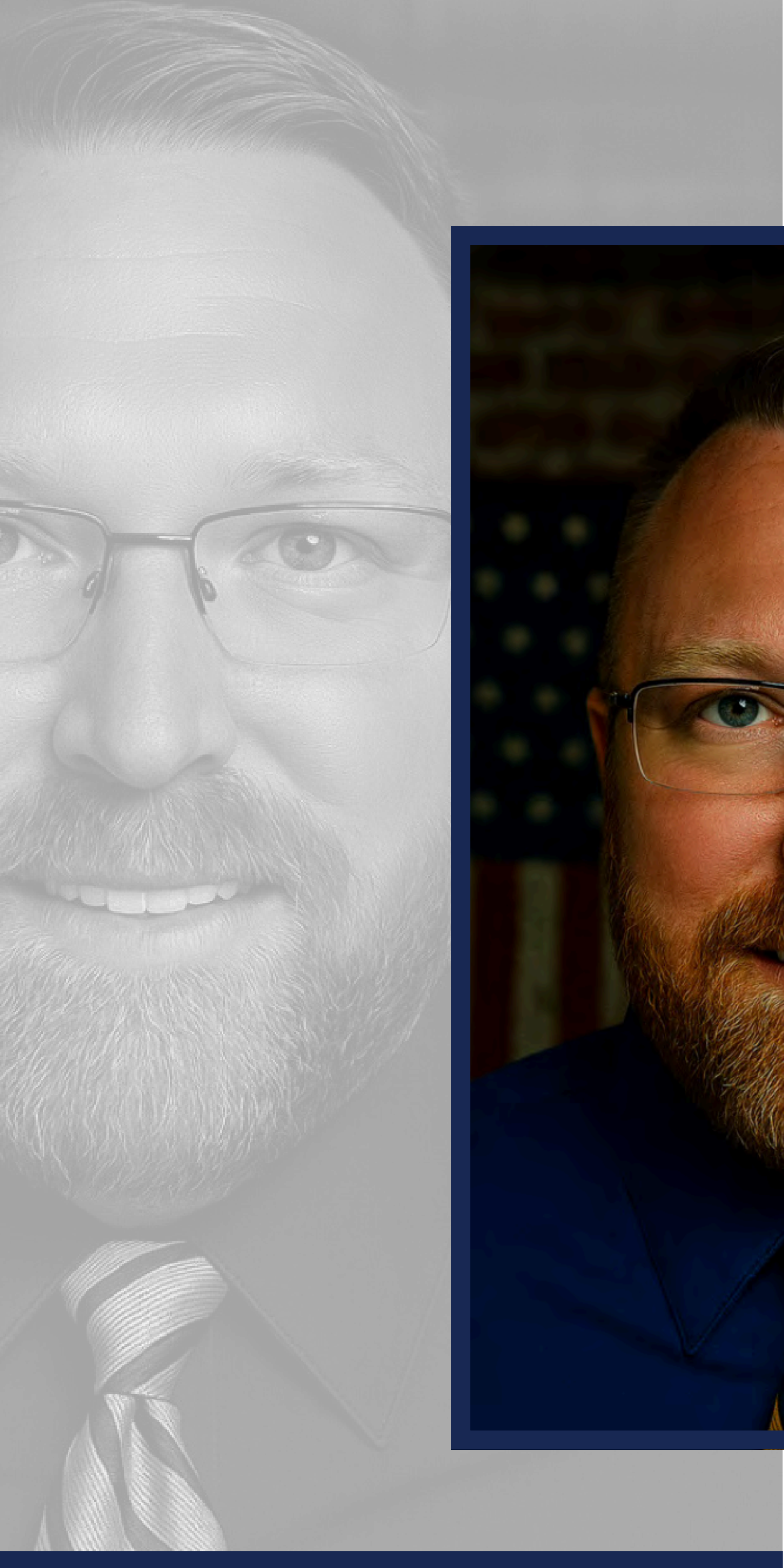
Washington County EMA (District 8)

Deni Stempowski is passionate about helping Washington County stay ready for any disaster. Her favorite part of the job is seeing the community become more prepared, one step at a time. She reminds residents to be resilient and to speak up if they notice anything.

Number one safety message: "Be aware, be prepared, be resilient!"



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Matthew Goebel

Warrick County EMA (District 10)

Matthew Goebel leads an EMA built on more than preparedness. It is built on compassion and teamwork. He enjoys standing alongside residents during crises, ensuring they are not alone. One of his biggest challenges is modernizing the county's outdated siren system.

Number one safety message: "Safety begins with care. When we lead with hope, act with kindness, and commit to each other we build a stronger, more resilient Warrick County."



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Kyle Henry

Pike County EMA (District 10)

Kyle Henry and his team work alongside first responders to keep Pike County ready for emergencies. He enjoys building relationships with fellow agencies and neighboring counties. Henry emphasizes that today's actions can protect you tomorrow.

Number one safety message: "Stay prepared and be vigilant of the elements around you, including weather and travel conditions."



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Tammy Humbert

Dubois County EMA (District 10)

Tammy Humbert wants residents to know that EMA does far more than manage sirens. She loves helping the people of Dubois County prepare for emergencies and believes in the power of teamwork. Her message: Situational awareness is everyone's responsibility.

Number one safety message: “Be prepared! Have a plan in place for all types of emergencies, such as tornadoes, flooding and fires. Know where to go, have a disaster supply kit and be prepared to take care of yourself and your family until help arrives.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Stephanie McKinney

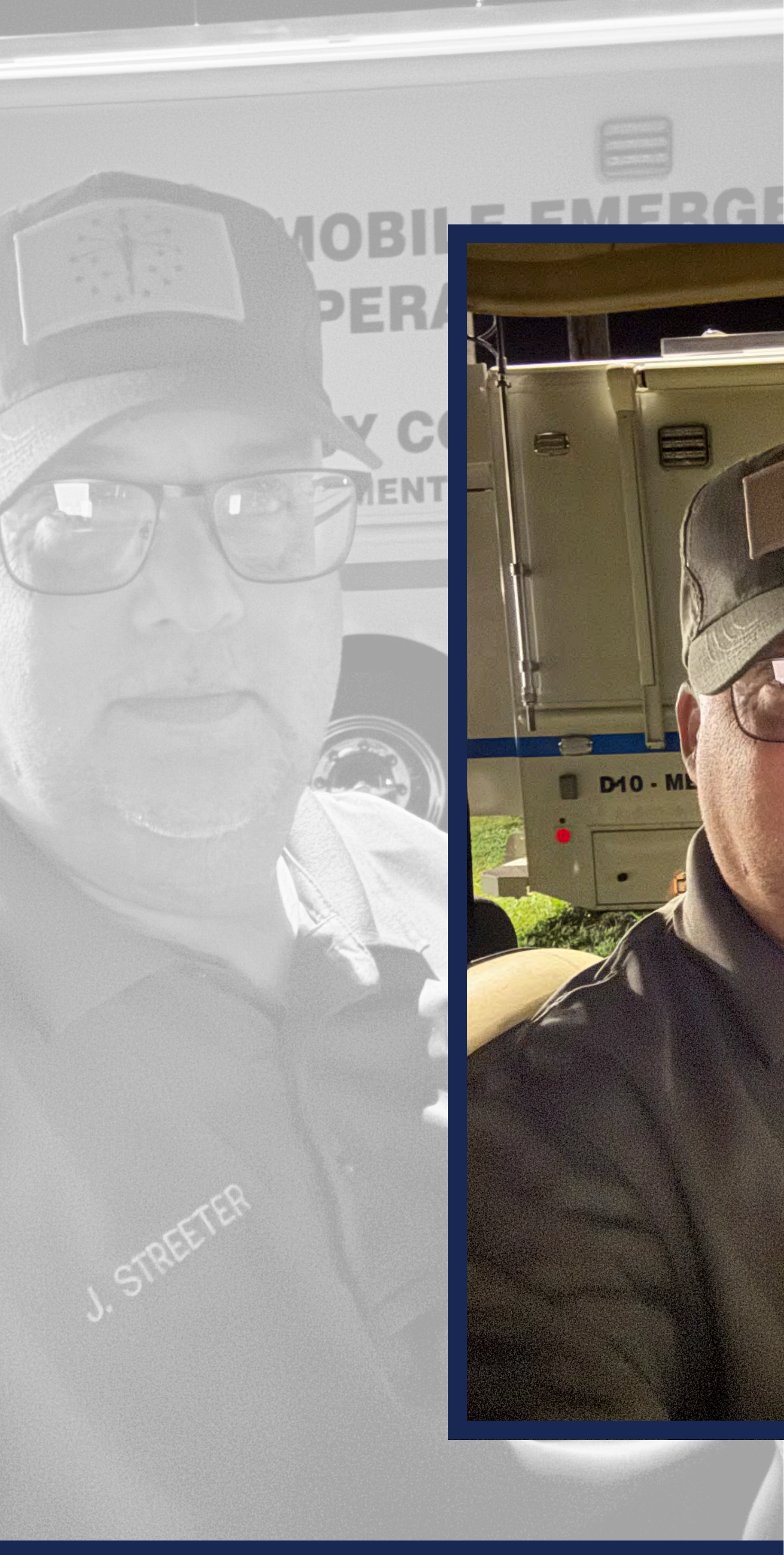
Gibson County EMA (District 10)

Stephanie McKinney operates Gibson County's EMA solo, but she works hard to ensure residents are prepared for all hazards. She partners with local health educators to provide CPR training and emergency supplies. Her favorite part of the job is helping people prepare and recover.

Number one safety message: “Preparedness is key! Preparedness is now!”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



John Streeter

Knox County EMA (District 10)

John Streeter manages a well-trained 15-person team focused on all-hazards response. Monthly training ensures they are ready for anything, and public education remains a key priority. His philosophy is simple: Preparedness is now!

Number one safety message: "Situational awareness, always! We have so many ways for humans to interact with technology. Be alert for your family, your friends and your neighbors."



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**



Carrie Thompson

Posey County EMA (District 10)

Carrie Thompson wants people to know that Posey County EMA is more than a response agency. She enjoys working across agencies and appreciates every opportunity to serve. Thompson believes that every alert should be taken seriously. Do not ignore them.

Number one safety message: “Do not assume an emergency notification is not essential. EMAs regularly test equipment to ensure that it works properly. Be aware of when these alerts happen and be mindful of alerts that are heard at any other time. It is also essential to have more than one way to receive emergency alerts.”



**EMA
APPRECIATION
WEEK**