MADD Honoring Area Law Officers

Four area law enforcement officers will be honored when the Lafayette Parish chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) observes state DWI Awareness Week Tuesday at a banquet meeting at the Petroleum Club.

Guests will be area nominees for the statewide award. The award is given to officers with outstanding service in the fight against drunk drivers.

Those nominees are Trooper First Class Kenneth Langlinais and Senior Trooper Billy Miller, both of Louisiana State Police Troop I, and Lafayette City Police officers William “Billy” Picard and Terry Head.

Mary Jo Brook, intervention instructor with the Chemical Dependency Unit of Lafayette, will be the guest speaker. She was recently appointed to the 13-member Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, formed in July as an advisory board to the state's Office of Prevention and Recovery of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (OPRADA).

Between Jan. 1 and Sept. 20 this year, Troop I's total of OWI arrests are 6 percent above the state average, and Langlinais and Miller are largely responsible for the crackdown, a MADD spokesman said.

Langlinais made 66 OWI arrests in Vermilion Parish. Miller made 64 in St. Mary Parish, which has an high percentage of serious accidents in-