



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **KTA celebrates employee service anniversaries**

WICHITA, Kan. — Each year the Kansas Turnpike Authority recognizes employees and Kansas Highway Patrol troopers assigned to the Turnpike who are celebrating years-of-service anniversaries. For 2022, KTA recognized 38 individuals that collectively have 585 years of service to the KTA.

Employees reaching service anniversaries include:

**45 years:**

- Wendy Sears (Topeka), Toll Collector

**35 years:**

- Paul Shirey Jr. (McLouth), Highway Maintenance Foreman

**30 years:**

- Mitchell Foster (Topeka), Equipment Operator
- Ron Komp (Clearwater), Highway Maintenance Superintendent
- Mike Wecker (Olpe), Structures Foreman

**25 years:**

- Terry Gannon (Andover), Senior Equipment Operator
- Mary Stegner (Wichita), Customer Service Representative

**20 years:**

- Tanya Austin (Augusta), Senior Compensation & Benefits Specialist
- Gary Culbertson (Wichita), Customer Service Manager
- Christopher Hammond, Trooper
- Maria Hernandez (Wellington), Toll Collector
- Michael Konrade, Trooper
- Victoria Marmon (Kansas City), Toll Collector
- Andre Pierpont (Carbondale), Senior Auto/Truck/Equipment Technician

**15 years:**

- David Bowman (Wellington), Equipment Operator
- Blake Butterworth (Wichita), Application Development Manager
- Marta Heasty (Wellington), Toll Collector
- Diane Heath (Park City), Toll Collector
- Brian Higinbotham (Topeka), Senior Equipment Operator

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- Jeffery Kueser (Tecumseh), Senior Toll Equipment Technician
- Merri Beth Thompson (McLouth), Assistant Toll Supervisor

**10 years:**

- Jeri Biehler (Augusta), Senior Communications Manager
- Ashley Clark (Haysville), Image Reviewer
- Stephanie Crisler (Wichita), Toll Collector
- Judy Denny (Lawrence), Toll Collector
- Amy Maske-Mueller (Wichita), Customer Service Assistant
- Keri Row (Wellington), Toll Collector
- Jason Zeigler, Trooper

**5 years:**

- Shelby Baker-McElfresh (Emporia), Toll Collector
- Erik Chaney (Lawrence), Structures Lead
- Veronica Couch (Emporia), Toll Collector
- Laurie Crumb (Topeka), Toll Collector
- Scott Emond (Park City), Senior Accountant
- Skylar Ford (Wichita), Network Infrastructure Technician
- Ty Gaines (Madison), Senior Utilities Tradesman
- Grant Kabler (Wichita), Senior Incident Management Specialist
- Waylon Lane (El Dorado), Equipment Operator
- Clark Rials Jr., Trooper

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**About KTA:**

For 65 years, the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) maintains 236 miles of user-fee supported roadway from the Oklahoma border to Kansas City. KTA doesn't receive state or federal tax funds. Instead, toll revenue pays for preservation and modernization of the Turnpike system. [KTA's Strategic Plan](#) supports organizational goals with four strategic initiatives, including a transition to cashless tolling in 2024. KTA's mission is to move Kansas forward by operating a safe, reliable and customer-valued turnpike system in a fiscally responsible, businesslike manner.

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