



2020 National George Texido Legislative Officer of the Year Col. Gary Tobey, Colorado Wing

A Civil Air Patrol (CAP) member since 1985, Col. Gary Tobey has provided significant volunteer service in government relations to benefit both Colorado and the nation. Holder of many awards, Tobey served as Colorado wing commander from 1992-1996 and Rocky Mountain Region commander from 1996-2000. He has been the wing's government relations advisor since 2000. From 1993 through 2020, he recruited nearly 100% of the Colorado congressional delegation into the Congressional Squadron and is working hard to induct Colorado's newest members of Congress.

In previous years, with his assistance, over 95% of the Colorado General Assembly joined the Colorado legislative squadron. At the time of this nomination, 31 of 35 state senators and 42 of the 65 state representatives were CAP members. Because of term limits, this informational program requires special emphasis every two years at a minimum. Tobey foresees this requirement and leads the wing year-in and year-out to educate and encourage legislators in their support of CAP. With solid support from Tobey, the wing hosts an annual "CAP Day at the Capitol" during which CAP members tell the CAP story of its history and all three missions. CAP leaders are seated on the floor of both the Senate and House of Representatives to receive formal tributes by legislative squadron commanders and the full membership of both chambers. Tobey's advice and council has been critical to expanding the wing's relationship with the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, helping ensure a wellspring of funding and operational support.