



Inside this Spring/Summer issue:

National Crime Victims' Memorial Week	1
As Others Tell Us	2
Move Spreads To Lower Legal Level For Dwi	2
Finding Closure For Victims	3

April 6-12, National Crime Victims' Memorial Week



RIDLEY alerts **Doris Aiken** that Spring has sprung I am relieved that there were no alcohol-related highway fatalities last year in Schenectady County, N.Y. and none so far to date. The huge

problem of underage drinking, leading to AOD (alcohol overdose) and serious, permanent bodily injury and addiction is rampant. The pictures here reflect the effect of death and permanent injury from AOD and DWI.

Scott Krueger (18) died September 29th, 1997 in Cambridge, MA. A short time before his death, he moved to his off-campus fraternity house (Phi Gamma Delta).



Scott Krueger (18)

After his initiation, he collapsed due to AOD (alcohol over dose) and was carried to the basement of the fraternity house, and left to sleep it off. He died after his Frat brothers found him comatose, and called for medical help. Scott's BAC was reported to be .41.

Scott was an outstanding high school student in mathematics and sports. He had every capability to succeed. The attending doctor at the hospital obtained a copy of the RID video "Without Warning" to train hospitals and students about the signs of AOD as well as the vital response to the signs Call 911 immediately to take the AOD victim to the closest hospital ER to help save the victim's life. In Scott's case, he died. A dozen other people were discovered passed out alongside Scott the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house. Only three were hospitalized according to the SACRAMENTO BEE report dated 10-4-87.

AOD MAIMS & KILLS: Is first cause of underage deaths; the warnings about a possible side effect of binge drinking alcohol (death) were covered on the mandated alcohol warning label. It was covered by a reference on the label to "other health problems." This "health problem" death needs

to be included on every alcohol container, just as similar warnings are mandated to appear on other dangerous drugs. Tylenol, an extremely popular pain killer in the United States is soon going to have a red warning on the cap which will alert consumers of the potentially fatal risks of consuming too many pills. The warning will make it abundantly clear that the product contains acetaminophen, a pain-relieving ingredient that is the main cause of sudden liver failure.

Every year, there are between 55,000-80,000 people in the U.S. who are sent to the emergency rooms from an acetaminophen overdose. Of that number, at least 500 people are killed according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration.

Lee Rottenberg, a DWI Victim for life, takes a leading role in public education for youth and serves on the local education Boards on Long Island NY as the speaker for RID.



Lee Rottenberg

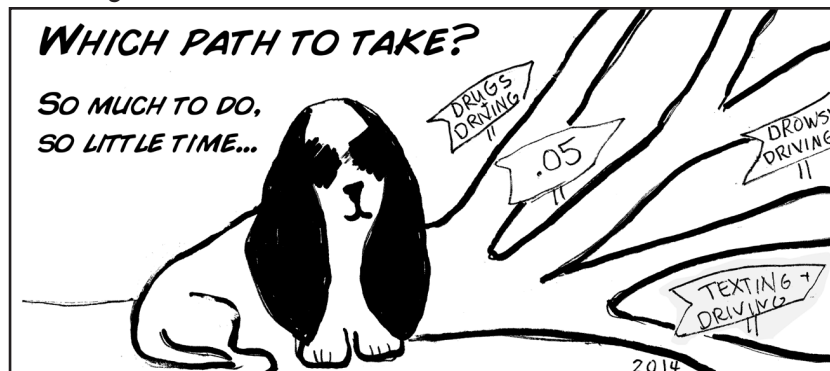
But in the case of alcohol there are no warnings on alcohol labels to alert drinkers of its potentially fatal use, even though

alcohol's impact is far worse than Tylenol. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control), there are approximately 88,000 deaths attributable to excessive alcohol use each year in the United States. This makes excessive alcohol use the 3rd leading lifestyle-related cause of death for the nation according to JAMA (the Journal of American Medical Association). Alcohol abuse is responsible for 2.5 million years of potential life lost (YPLL) annually, or an average of about 30 years of potential life lost for each death (CDC).

This example of a cover up is created by the tremendous influence the alcohol industry has everywhere from the Food and Drug Administration to the Federal Communication Commission to the members of Congress. In Canada, for example, the calories and warnings of over drinking are part of the alcohol industry's alcohol mandate that calories and alerts appear on all alcohol labels.

all best, Doris

RIDley to the Rescue



RID
Victim's Hotline
(518) 372-0034
or
518 393-HELP
(518) 393-4357
Fax (518) 370-4917
ridusa@verizon.net

...and Help RIDley curb DUI/DWI.

Join or Renew

\$20.00 Join as a National Member and enjoy a book, *My Life As A Pitbull* or *Without Warning*. (Fill out coupon or write information).

\$10.00 Newsletter only.

\$75.00 "Without Warning" Video on Binge Drinking.

\$ _____ Tax-deductible donation.

\$ _____ Memorial for: _____

Total \$ _____ check enclosed.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ - _____ E-mail: _____





As Others Tell Us

Drivers with BACs at or above .08 were 30% more likely not to use safety belts. Seatbelt use is one of the key protections against highway fatal and serious injury of drivers and passengers. NHTSA is exploring whether to allow car safety designers to use voluntary ignition perks in their new cars as a safety measure.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Vol.48, No. 10

Editor's note: I wish that adding an alcohol detector in the drivers' steering wheel with a gentle beep or whistle would be a significant safety improvement that an impaired driver and passengers would heed much like the beep heard in the car for "a no seatbelt" notice.

Another helpful safety improvement would stop a stolen car or a drunken driver and help eliminate the dangerous police fatalities and impaired driver deaths due to a police car chase. The suspect's car would slow down and stop for police inspection. This life saving device would lower significantly the deaths of pedestrians who attempt to beat the red light (jay walk) in congested city areas. Many pedestrians believe wrongly that "jay walking" is acceptable, since there is little enforcement of this serious menace to the pedestrian. This is similar to the early public antipathy to police safety checkpoints. Now checkpoints are part of the traffic safety budget everywhere.

*You may help to find out what the budget is in your town for regular safety checkpoints; offer to help the police produce them. The RID chapter volunteers in Clearwater, FL led initially by **Barbara Aho** provide support to the police for the long checkpoints (overnight) by providing water, coffee, hamburgers, cookies and public recognition of their lifesaving work in step with the police activity. Each year the chapter holds a police dinner in their honor in the lovely, large hotel ballroom bordering the ocean.*

Move Spreads To Lower Legal Level For Dwi To .05 Bac

Due to the rise in teen age drinking with youth inflicting mayhem and death on themselves and others have caught the attention of the NTSB (National Traffic Safety Board) who is required to determine the cause of disasters in boats, planes, and trains. The mission of the NTSB is passenger safety, as well as the condition of the water and land of the ports of entry on land and sea.

RID supports the NTSB's efforts. The NHTSA (National Traffic Safety Administration) has not decided as yet to endorse this move citing the need for more research.

You may not know that NHTSA is exploring which is the best way to deter drunk driving. I suggest that increasing safety checkpoints, as the RID volunteer supporters do in several states, would be a good move. Mandates that ban plea bargains out of the alcohol to non-alcohol conditions cover up that the defendant has committed a crime not just a misdemeanor.

Ed. Note: The volunteer RID groups that help police deliver checkpoints in Florida, Maine, New York and other States do help reduce DWI when the checkpoint's results are published the next day in the local media. Information is available to the public on the number and description of DWI arrests and convictions, on demand. Just ask your Governor; or local legislator to find out the numbers.

For example: I called the NYS Office of Victims Services in Albany, NY and asked the Attorney General for the numbers and received by Email the following info: During the State fiscal year of 2013-2014 there were 62 claims of DWI fatalities, and 122 personal injury claims. I received this information in an hour from the General Victims Counsel Office.

These were case claims that were accepted by the Commission's Counsel office.

You can contact your State Office for victim services. Please let me know the results for the RID Fall newsletter.

Finding Closure For Victims: For Most, It's Difficult, If Not Impossible

RID reached out to three different victims of alcohol-impaired drivers to address the issue of closure. What we learned is that attaining closure for them is an extremely difficult process that is never fulfilled.

Linda Campion's daughter Kathleen died in March of 1989 when she was hit by an alcohol-impaired driver in Saratoga County. Linda feels the use of the term closure is insulting to many victims she has come to know over the past 25 years. She writes this: "Closure is a word used by those who hope that if they were ever placed in a similar situation of losing a loved one to an alcohol-impaired driver, that there will be closures of some kind."

Yet, Linda has taken her anger and channeled it into positive action. She and her family founded the Kathleen A. Campion Foundation to spread awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving. She has advocated for and improved victims' rights in the court of law. While she may never find closure, Linda has turned her loss into the motivating factor for prevention and education so others won't have to experience the devastation of losing a loved one to drunk driving.

Jared Spinola lost his companion, **Laurie Tavares** to a drunk driver on November 27, 2003. Jared suffered through a litany of emotions First, Shock as he couldn't believe that this amazing person he had come to love was gone and their future together was stolen by a drunk driver. Then depression came as he spent the first couple of months sleeping more than he ever had in his life. The worst emotion for Jared was regret to which he struggles with to this day.

Jared found some relief from his pain when he attended the trial of the defendant. He viewed him a pathetic human being. While he could feel bad for him, he can't forgive him for what the drunk driver took from him and Laurie's family. The anxiety this tragedy has brought upon Jared is the only lingering emotion that he feels just as strong as he did ten years ago. Jared writes:

"If there is one piece of advice I could give anyone coping with a sudden, tragic loss of a loved one it would be to seek others who had the same experience. I spent weeks being consoled by friends and family, all of whom had loved ones, but none of them experienced losing someone so close, so sudden and so tragic. I have been through both and I promise there is a HUGE difference! I wasn't the only one with those regrets. That was the most helpful thing I did that helped me cope and find some closure. You must seek others out who have experienced the same as you, so you may learn that you are not alone."

35 years ago, **Bill DiKant** lost his first wife and two of their children when a drunk driver plowed into their vehicle, killing the drunk driver as well. Bill has been a forerunning advocate to get drunk drivers off the road ever since. His tireless energy spirited message as a motivational speaker has been heard by thousands of convicted drunk drivers covering four counties in the Capital region. He also spreads his message about the hazards of drunk driving to school children. Bill Writes:

First off it was how to deal with this; I lost my wife and daughter, then I had to decide to take my oldest son

off life support, what's to become of my youngest son? I'm being driven to frustration because of selfishness and greed. I'm thankful that the man (drunk driver) died. I kept thinking on how should I get even with him? There is no closure on this; it continues to be with me. I re-married and my wife was an EMT with the local ambulance, so I joined to assist the community. I made contact with Remove Intoxicated Drivers and did what I could to help them. I also try to speak to other Victims' of these domestic terrorists trying to encourage them in dealing with this "Non Violent" crime as stated by the Second Court Circuit."

I would like to thank Linda Campion, Jared Spinola and Bill DiKant for sharing their thoughts and experiences in such a poignant manner. Please go to our web page, www.rid-usa.org and click on the link, Finding Closure to add your comments and feedback.

**Source: Andrew Welsh-Huggins, Associated Press September 13, 2013*



Victim's Hotline
(518) 372-0034
or
518 393-HELP
(518) 393-4357

Fax (518) 370-4917

ridusa@verizon.net