

Please do the right thing!

On December 9, 2011, Michael and his girlfriend Jenna Carp were driving on State Route 305 near Lemolo and Totten Roads, when an impaired (.15) driver crossed the center line and hit Michaels car head-on. Jenna was killed on impact and Michael suffered lifelong injuries. "I not only lost the love of my life, but suffered many broken bones, and had to relearn how to walk." Recently on State Route 305, there have been additional serious injury and fatality crashes.

This Friday, February 18, 2022, extra traffic patrols will be out on State Routes 305, 3, 104 and surrounding areas for a "Bridge to Ferry" (Hood Canal Bridge to Bainbridge Ferry) DUI emphasis patrol. This patrol will be dedicated to Michael and Jenna. Sponsored by the Kitsap County "Target Zero" Task Force, the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Patrol, Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, and the Police Departments of Bainbridge Island, Poulsbo, Bremerton and Port Orchard are working to spread the message about doing the right thing when it comes to driving. The goal is to reduce the number of traffic fatalities in Washington State to Zero; Zero for your family, Zero for our County, and it's up to all of us to reach that goal

"Most people believe driving impaired is unacceptable and will make plans for a sober ride, said Sheriff John Gese. In 2021 in Kitsap County, 16 people lost their lives on our roadways, including a triple fatality crash on Bainbridge Island. These fatalities include impairment, speed, distracted and pedestrians.

Driving a motor vehicle is one of the biggest responsibilities we have every day. Most drivers on our roads do the right things. Most drivers are sober, wear a seat belt, pay attention and drive within the safe speed limits. We want to thank those responsible drivers and ask that everyone works together to keep your family and friends from driving after consuming drugs or alcohol. If every person does their part to achieve the goal of zero traffic deaths for their family, then together we will achieve Target Zero in Washington State. Kitsap County Sheriff John Gese states "Impaired driving is 100% preventable, just don't do it."

Kitsap 911 had received many calls on the impaired driver in Michael and Jenna's crash, Law Enforcement was enroute, but could not catch her in time. The driver pled guilty and was sentenced to four years in prison but served only 1.5 years. The hardest part of Jenna's death was for her daughters to tell their own children that "Grandma was in Heaven now." "I just wish, for one last time, I could tell her how much she means to all of us."

Many of us who encounter someone who is impaired or distracted are willing to act or intervene, to prevent them from driving. Intervening is what we do as friends, family and neighbors. It is part of being a good Washingtonian. Please Buckle Up, Slow Down, Pay Attention and Drive Sober.

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