

Death is final - Memories are forever
By: Avis Crosby

On April 14, 2006, at approximately 4:03 a.m. I received "the telephone call" that no parent wants to receive. My son, Adrian O. Crosby, and my cousin, Dominique N.T. Green, along with their girlfriends, went to Hutchison to celebrate Adrian's birthday. Adrian would have turned 22 years on April 15th, and Dominique would have turned 22 years old in July. However, neither Adrian nor Dominique lived to celebrate their 22nd birthdays, and our families' lives would forever be changed. On the way back to Wichita, the car Adrian was driving, which happened to be my car, was hit head-on. "THE DRIVER" was driving while intoxicated and his blood alcohol level was .17, twice the legal limit of .08.

Adrian was home on leave from the United States Navy. His ship, the USS Saipan, (which has been decommissioned since the wreck) was scheduled to ship out on April 27, 2006. This would have been the last leave that Adrian would have for the remainder of 2006. Dominique was going to Dallas on April, 15th to be a pallbearer at a friend's funeral, so they celebrated Adrian's birthday on April 14, 2006. Who would have thought that a birthday celebration would turn deadly for such promising young men and injure their girlfriends?

Because Adrian's ship was being decommissioned, he had opted for the early out plan, rather than being attached to another ship. The stipulation was he had to be enrolled in college for the Spring 2007 Semester. Adrian's plan was to attend WSU for one semester and then transfer to a school in the Dallas, Texas area, where he wanted to establish his home. Dominique would have graduated with a Criminal Justice Degree, in the of Spring 2006. Sadly, all of the plans that Adrian and Dominique had made for their lives were cut shortly, by the decision of "THE DRIVER" to drink and drive.

According to the Highway Patrol, "THE DRIVER" had received a telephone call from a friend to return to Hutchinson to pick him up. The car that the friend had been riding in was being impounded at a DUI Traffic Stop, and the driver of the vehicle was taken to the Hutchinson Jail for drunk driving. "THE DRIVER" was on his way to Valley Center when he received the call. "THE DRIVER" turned around to go back to Hutchinson. Unfortunately, he ended up driving south in the northbound lane. Only

God knows why "THE DRIVER" hit the car that Adrian was driving. Adrian and Dominique, according to the Hutchinson Coroner were dead before the car came to a complete stop on K-96 near Mills Road. Adrian and Dominique's injuries were extensive. Both young men died of Blunt Force Trauma. I've always wondered what Adrian and Dominique's last thoughts were...what pain, if any did they feel? Did they know that death was about to consume them? More importantly, did "THE DRIVER" realize that he was about to hit them head on? What were his initial thoughts when he realized that he had killed two young men? How does this affect him almost ten years later?

There have been so many family events and world events that Adrian and Dominique did not get to experience. They are loved and missed every day. Dominique's grandmother Mary Lyons (my first cousin) and I maintain the crosses at K-96 near Mills Road as a continuous reminder of the tragedy that happened on April 14, 2006, at approximately 2:10a.m. Adrian and Dominique were two of the "good young men". Both men were planners and visionaries. Oftentimes, when I'm reminiscing, I remember conversation that I had with Adrian and Dominique and I feel cheated. Cheated out of grandchildren, cheated out of the chance to witness Adrian realize his goals and achievements, cheated out of seeing my son and Dominique grow in to complete manhood. Adrian and Dominique were cheated out of living a full life as their lives were snatched away from them because of the decision of an impaired/drunk driver.

This tragedy and so many others did not have to happen. Everyone who consumes alcohol has a responsibility to the public not to drink and drive. As we know, all choices have consequences, either good or bad. In Adrian and Dominique's case, due to the irresponsible behavior of "THE DRIVER", who chose to drink and drive, their consequence was death. My fear is that I too will be on the receiving end of an Impaired/drunk driver. The Kansas DUI Impact Center must remain in existence to help other families like mine who have undergone such a senseless and tragic loss.