

### **Kimberly and Piper Britton, Ulrike Blopleh, Vicky Palacios - Illinois**

On Monday, July 21, 2014, a tractor-trailer driver traveling northbound on I-55 came upon traffic stopped in a construction zone, abruptly changed lanes and crashed into three vehicles. Four of the vehicle occupants were killed in the crash including Kimberly Britton, and her daughter, Piper, Ulrike Blopleh, and Vicky Palacios. Four other victims were injured and transported to hospitals. One of those was airlifted. It was later revealed that the truck driver is blind in one eye. The truck driver was recently indicted on 15 counts of reckless homicide.

### **James McNair, Tracy Morgan, Andre Fuqua, Jeff Millea, Harris Stanton - New Jersey**

On June 7, 2014, the dozing driver of a speeding tractor trailer slammed into the back of a vehicle carrying comedian Tracy Morgan and his associates, causing it to spin and flip over. At the time of the crash, the Morgan vehicle was slowed due to construction traffic. The crash created a chain reaction involving six vehicles total. A criminal complaint against the truck driver cites that he had been awake for more than 24 hours prior to the crash. James McNair was killed in the crash that also seriously injured Morgan and Millea, and injured Fuqua and Stanton.

### **Lindsey Williams, Yazmin and Arielle Goldman, Yvette Williams, Jamin and Jazmin Osborne, Amado Mangual - Indiana**

On August 15, 2013, the family's SUV was stopped in traffic approaching a work zone when they were rear-ended by a speeding semi-truck that failed to slow or stop for traffic. The initial impact pushed the SUV into another semi ahead of them. The SUV subsequently burst into flames. The crash took the lives of Lindsey Williams, 27, and her two children, Yazmin Goldman, 5, and Arielle Goldman, 3, Lindsay's sister Yvette Williams, 35, and her two children, Jamin Osborne, 5, and Jazmin Osborne, 7, and the Williams sisters' Uncle, Amado Mangual, 49. The truck drivers involved suffered minor injuries.

### **Morgan Lake - Maryland**

On July 19, 2013, while slowed to a near stop for traffic on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, Morgan's car was hit from behind by a distracted truck driver traveling at approximately 50 mph. The impact sent Morgan's car up and over the bridge railing, where it teetered before plunging 27 feet into the water. The impact shattered the windows, and the car rapidly filled with water. Morgan freed herself from the car and swam to a bridge support pillar. She was rescued from rocks at the base of the bridge pillar and treated for shock and injuries.

### **Marianne, Caleb, AnnaLeah and Mary Karth - Georgia**

On May 4, 2013, as the Karth family drove to Texas to celebrate four graduations and a wedding, their car was hit from behind by a truck that failed to stop in time for slowed traffic. The impact spun their car around and forced it backward and underneath a second truck's trailer. Marianne and her son were in the front seats and survived the impact with serious injuries. AnnaLeah and Mary were in the back seats, which went underneath the trailer, and died as a result of catastrophic injuries.

### **Chuck Novak, Theresa Seaver, Alvin and Gail Kimble, Amber Reid - North Carolina**

Charles "Chuck" Novak, Theresa Seaver, Alvin and Gail Kimble and Amber Reid died as a result of a multi-vehicle truck crash on October 24, 2010, in Henderson County, North Carolina, caused by a speeding tractor-trailer that crashed into a line of cars stopped on Interstate 26 due to an earlier crash. Ten other victims were injured in the crash, one suffering permanent disabilities. The truck did not slow down or brake and there were no skid marks on the road. The truck driver was charged with five counts of involuntary manslaughter as well as charges of having falsified records and an improper medical certificate. The small company that the truck driver drove for had been cited a dozen times in 2010 for violations, and the truck driver had not been medically examined or certified.

### **Susan, Peter and Matthew Slattery - Ohio**

On August 16, 2010, Susan and her sons, Peter and Matthew, were on their way home from Ohio when only an hour into their drive they were rear-ended by a truck driver who fell asleep behind the wheel of a triple trailer truck. The impact of the crash pushed the Slattery family's car into the semi in front of them killing Susan and critically injuring Peter and Matthew. Following the impact with their car, the truck went on to hit two other semis and four more passenger vehicles before stopping in the divider and bursting into flames. Peter suffered a broken pelvis and a facial fracture. Matthew, who was in a coma from massive head trauma, is now permanently disabled. Ed has participated in many interviews on truck driver fatigue and in support of truck safety improvements, and is a volunteer with the TSC's First Response Program.

### **Wanda and John Lindsay - Texas**

Wanda and her husband John were on their way to Kentucky to visit family on May 7, 2010, when they stopped for traffic on I-30 as they were coming into the west side of Texarkana, Texas. They were the last car stopped in a two mile long, very visible line of traffic, in a well-marked construction zone when a Celadon tractor-trailer slammed into the rear of their car. The truck was traveling 65 mph with the cruise control engaged when it hit John and Wanda. John died on Mother's Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>, as a result of his extensive injuries. After the crash the Lindsay family learned that about two months prior to the collision the truck driver had been diagnosed with severe, uncontrolled sleep apnea, which among other health issues results in chronic, serious fatigue. Yet, he was still allowed to drive a truck even though he was not being treated and monitored for his condition.

### **Vickie, Curt, Crystal, Cody and Abbey Johnson - South Carolina**

On October 1, 2009, Vickie and Curt Johnson were on the way to the beach with their daughter Abbey and Vickie's stepchildren Crystal and Cody. As they headed across a bridge near Florence, SC, they noticed a stalled dump truck in the right lane. The dump truck had his flashers on and the Johnson family found themselves stuck behind the dump truck and unable to get into the left lane because of traffic. As the Johnson family waited for an opportunity to move around the dump truck a semi-truck slammed into the rear of the family's car causing it

to burst into flames. Crystal and Curt were killed in the crash. Vickie, Abbey and Cody survived the crash with serious injuries. The Johnson family later found out that the truck driver's cell phone records indicate he had been using his cell phone around the time of the crash.

### **Bill Badger - Georgia**

Bill Badger, was killed on December 23, 2004, just over the Georgia state border by a tired trucker who fell asleep at the wheel and crashed into Bill's car as it was slowed in traffic. At the time of the crash, Bill was on his way to the airport to fly to New Jersey and join his four children for Christmas. The truck driver stated that he had been driving all night in order to get to Atlanta by 7:00 a.m. so that he could be assigned to another truck which was headed to Florida. The driver had been enticed to make the overnight drive on time in order to spend Christmas at home in Florida with his family.

### **David and Mary Kathryn Mathis - Florida**

On March 25, 2004, David and his wife Mary Kathryn, were killed in a truck crash in Titusville, Florida as they drove home from their honeymoon. They had only been married for five days. David and Mary Kathryn were stopped in traffic because of an earlier wreck on I-95 when a truck driver, who had fallen asleep behind the wheel, rear-ended their car. The impact of the crash shoved them into the back of the truck in front of their car and set the car on fire.

### **Orbie Wilburn - Oklahoma**

On Sept. 2, 2002, Orbie was killed instantly when a tired truck driver slammed his semi into the rear of Orbie's car doing an estimated 75 miles per hour. Orbie's car, which was stopped behind another semi due to a stalled car on the highway, exploded on impact. After the crash, it was revealed that the truck driver who crashed into Orbie's car had repeatedly falsified logs and violated safety procedures while the company he worked for turned a blind eye.

### **Cullum Owings - Georgia**

On December 1, 2002 Steve and Susan Owings' sons were in a crash, in which a tractor-trailer hit them from behind, on an Interstate Highway, in stopped traffic. The driver (their first-born, Cullum) was killed at the scene. The boys were in the left lane and were stopped there when Cullum realized that a truck was bearing down on them fast. He was put in a position in which he had to make a split-second decision to flee or stay where he was and take his chances. He had done what they always trained their boys to do – he had stopped with enough maneuvering room in front of him and looked in his rear-view mirror. The crash occurred on the edge of the highway as he tried to drive into the median. Just prior to impact, the truck driver was travelling 8 mph over the posted speed limit using cruise control, and he crushed their sons' car from behind. The boys had come home to Atlanta for Thanksgiving from college in Virginia and the crash took place on the Sunday after Thanksgiving as they tried to return to school at the end of their break.

## **Stone and Holt Weeks - Virginia**

On July 23, 2009, brothers Stone Weeks, 24, and Holt Weeks, 20, were happily on their way home to Washington DC from Rice University in Houston. They were to visit friends and family and to celebrate Stone's work at the inaugural publication event honoring The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and The Crusade for America. Stone was author Douglas Brinkley's researcher for the history book. Holt was a history student and summer research intern for other professors. Both worked at The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. Driving on Interstate 81 in Virginia with only an hour left to go, Stone and Holt were in the right-hand lane preparing to exit onto Interstate 66 -- when traffic stopped because of a jack-knifed tractor trailer ahead. The brothers stopped at the end of the miles-long line, and were then slammed from behind by a 40-ton Peterbilt tractor trailer rig traveling full-speed. The severity of the impact shot Stone's and Holt's car under the tractor trailer ahead of them. Catastrophic fire obliterated their car and both tractor trailers. This carnage and devastation melted and seared the road to the extent it had to be milled and repaved. The striking truck with refrigerated trailer was hauling fruit cross-country from California to Maryland and the two men inside were able to escape. The man who claimed to be driving said he did not remember anything. The other claimed to be asleep. No blood alcohol tests were ever done. There had been warning signage overhead signaling traffic was stopped ahead. The crash occurred on a straight away with clear visibility. Stone's and Holt's parents learned that the drivers responsible for killing their only children, were -- a 21-year old on his first professional cross-country trip who had recently obtained a CDL with the minimum training required, and a 24-year old owner-operator whose license was suspended on a DUI conviction. Stone's and Holt's remains could only be identified through dental records and DNA mouth swabs from their parents.