



THE TSC NEWSLETTER

2024 Issue 2

Let the Roadshows Begin!!!



TSC held its first grant-funded Training to Renew Underride Crash Knowledge (TRUCK) Safety Roadshow in Lexington, KY this May! [Click here to learn more](#) about our TRUCK Safety Roadshows.

Victim-volunteer, **Michelle Grubbs**, gave powerful testimony to law enforcement participants of how critical enforcement is to help keep people safe from the dangers of large trucks.

P.A.T.T. Board Member, **Kevin Donovan**, spoke from his personal experience in CMV law enforcement and helped attendees understand the critical role documentation plays in supporting regulations to prevent underride crashes.

Everyone walked away impressed and with a greater sense of the urgency to do more to prevent these horrific crashes. Thank you Michelle and Kevin for making the event possible. Also a BIG thank you **Raven Williams** for having **Texas Roadhouse** sponsor lunch!

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Grief Zoom Night

GRIEF ZOOM NIGHT



**With Professional Grief Counselor
Rob Zucker**

JUNE 20	7PM EASTERN
<u>REGISTER TODAY!</u>	


Robert Zucker is ready to re-engage with his TSC later this month!

Don't miss this opportunity to be welcomed as you are, offer support to others, receive the love and support of others and be guided in thoughtful and deliberate conversation by a professional grief counselor.

RSVP Today and be sure to join us on Zoom!!!

A Night to Celebrate Truck Safety

A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE TRUCK SAFETY



SEP 20, 2024 **RSVP**

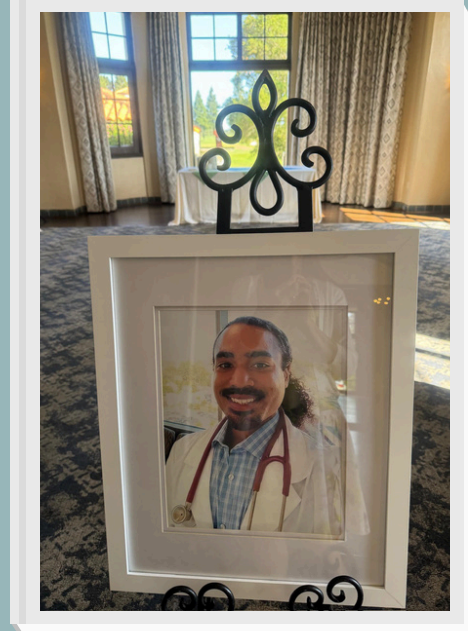
Summer may have just started, but here at TSC we are gearing up for our annual Night to Celebrate Truck Safety coming around the corner this fall!

It's an incredible time to reconnect with the entirety of our powerful community: victims, survivors, board members, staff, partners and donors all under the same roof!

RSVP today and let us know you're coming!

**DID YOU KNOW WE REGULARLY ADD NEW CRASH STORIES TO OUR WEBSITE?
CONTACT US TO BE SURE YOUR CRASH IS NEVER FORGOTTEN
EMAIL INFO@TRUCKSAFETY.ORG**

GRATITUDE CAMPAIGN HONORING DOMINIC LOPEZ-TONEY INSPIRES ACTION



TSC Victim-Volunteer, Nora Lopez, hosted a personal fundraiser with all proceeds benefiting the Truck Safety Coalition. It was a beautiful California evening honoring her late son, Dominic-Lopez-Toney that inspired incredible giving and support for TSC

Q& A with Nora Lopez

Q: What inspired you to host your own fundraiser?

A: *The loss of my son Dominic in a preventable truck crash inspired me. Hosting a fundraiser lets me channel my grief into positive action and rally others to support safer roads.*

Q: Not only did you inspire incredible charitable giving, but from the start, you were insistent your attendees take advocacy action. What did they do and why was this a priority for you?

A: *I provided postcards for attendees to send to local officials, urging them to support safer road legislation. Advocacy is crucial because raising awareness alone isn't enough; we need legislative changes to prevent future tragedies*

Q: You've been to Capitol Hill THREE times with TSC! What have you learned through these visits that you'd want to share with other volunteers who may be nervous about speaking to elected officials?

A: *Speaking to officials can be daunting but impactful. Personal stories resonate deeply with lawmakers. Be honest, passionate, and persistent—your voice matters and can make a real difference.*

Q: People have many options where they can donate. Why do you think the people reading this newsletter should choose TSC?

A: *TSC is dedicated to making roads safer through advocacy and education. Donations directly fund these efforts, helping push for critical legislative changes and support families affected by truck crashes. Your contribution can save lives and prevent future tragedies.*

A Note from the Executive Director



It's hard to believe SUMMER is already here!!! The year is racing by and is as busy as ever. As always, I find myself grateful and inspired by our volunteers and Board Members who make all of our success

Nora Lopez single-handedly put on an amazing fundraiser. Lee Jackson accepted the Chairmanship of the Advisory Committee on Underride Protection and facilitated several challenging meetings. Michelle Grubbs and Kevin Donovan were powerful speakers at our inaugural TRUCK Safety Roadshow. Morgan Lake, Anna Guardipee, Paul Huffman, Sherri Arrington, and Nora Lopez all participated in the Joint Road Safety Advocacy Day led by the National Safety Council in May. And that's just a few examples of how volunteers drive what we do!

If that wasn't enough, TSC also witnessed the unanimous passing of H.R. 7527, the Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act in the House of Representatives, which was the culmination of the work of several volunteers efforts who courageously told their stories.

It is through the engagement, initiative, and power of volunteers that TSC is able to have such an outsized impact despite only having two staff members! I hope you all have healthy, safe and fun summer season, but don't forget to check your emails so you too can participate in ALL of our Action Alerts and opportunities to come to make our roads safer!!!

-Zach Cahalan, Executive Director
Truck Safety Coalition



TSC is thrilled to introduce DOCTOR Johnetha Lindsey to the TSC family.

This May, Dr. Lindsey had her Ph.D. in Executive Leadership conferred to her from the University of Holy Cross. After two long years, a 300 page dissertation, and many, many, many long nights -- she achieved this long-standing goal and promise she made to her late mother, Gloria.

There is nothing Johnetha cannot accomplish that she sets her mind to. TSC is fortunate to have her on the staff and witnesses firsthand her initiative, intelligence, and authentic empathy that shines in all she does. Congratulations Dr. Lindsey on this important and impressive professional milestone!!!!

JANUARY 2024 - MAY 2024

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VICTIM & SURVIVOR FAMILIES REACHED

The purpose of our First Response Program is to get information and resources to people affected by truck crashes as quickly as possible after their crash, when they need it most.

This work is supported through the generous donations of our volunteers and the broader community. Please consider a donation to help us continue to be there when someone needs us most. To donate, visit our [website](#).

Is There a Doctor in the House???

BOARD MEMBER, ANNA GUARDIPEE RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF UNITED WAY'S "100 HEROES"

We are thrilled to share some exciting news about one of our most dedicated and inspiring board members, **Anna Guardipee**. Recently, **Anna was honored as one of the "100 Heroes"** by her local United Way for her exceptional advocacy work with the Truck Safety Coalition (TSC).

Following a life-altering truck crash in 2019 that left her paralyzed, Anna has shown remarkable resilience and dedication. Despite facing immense personal challenges, she has channeled her energy into supporting fellow victims and advocating for safer highways. Anna's tireless volunteer work with the TSC has been instrumental in reaching out to crash survivors and their families, providing them with crucial support and guidance as they navigate their difficult journeys.

Anna's commitment to championing change goes beyond individual support. As a valued TSC Board Member, she has been a driving force behind positive reforms in transportation policies, working closely with Congress and federal agencies to implement changes that will ultimately create safer highways for all. Her efforts are not only shaping a safer future but also inspiring others to get involved and support this vital cause.

We recognize that advocating for truck and road safety can be emotionally challenging, especially for Anna, as she keeps the memory of Jenny alive through her work. Anna's determination to honor Jenny's memory by advocating for safer roads serves as a powerful reminder of the human impact behind our cause.

In recognition of Anna's remarkable achievements and dedication, we will be sending out an email blast to our community to celebrate and acknowledge her well-deserved recognition as one of United Way's "100 Heroes." We believe that highlighting Anna's story will not only shine a spotlight on her incredible work but also inspire others to join us in our mission to create safer highways.

Please join us in congratulating Anna on this incredible honor and thanking her for her unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Her passion, dedication, and resilience are truly inspiring, and we are privileged to have her as part of our team.



***"This is my newfound passion and the way I honor Jenny's legacy."
- Anna Guardipee***

Volunteer Spotlight:

Beth Badger



Early in the morning of December 23rd, 2004, Bill Badger was killed in Georgia on his way to the Atlanta airport from his home in Alabama. He intended to fly to New Jersey to spend time with family for the Christmas holiday because Bill's wife of more than 50 years had died unexpectedly in July and he didn't want to spend that first Christmas at home alone.

Bill was stuck in slowed traffic when a truck driver who fell asleep at the wheel sped through a construction zone and smashed into Bill's car. Bill was killed instantly.

One of Bill's daughters, Beth, was waiting at home for a call from her father asking to be picked up from the Newark airport. A call did come, but not from her Dad. Instead the person on the other end of the phone line was the County Coroner.

In the years that followed Beth chose to honor the loss of her father by learning to play the bagpipes. The mournful, somber, yet beautiful sound channeled her feelings into music in a powerful way. As she honed her craft she started fielding requests to play at funerals and other special events.

She made the decision to play whenever her schedule allowed, but not for profit. Instead, she always requests that her clients make a donation to TSC! Beth has become one of TSC's top and most consistent donors by living out her commitment to her late father. In addition, Beth hand-paints cards and has volunteered to join our team that sends out crash anniversary cards to victim and survivor families.

Thank you Beth!! You are an incredible example of how individuals can use their unique gifts to support TSC and help us comfort victims and save lives.

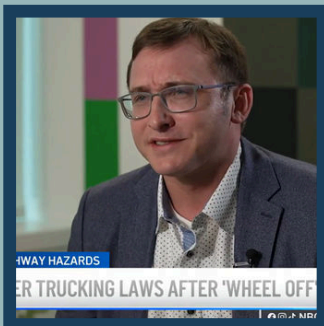
TRUCK SAFETY COALITION IN THE NEWS



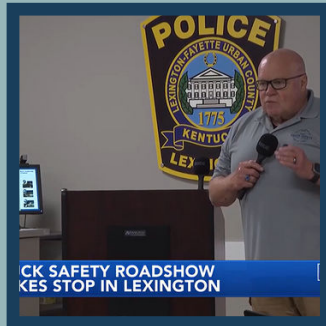
Washington Post: [Former US Department of Transportation Official Alleges the Federal Department Withheld Important Safety Information Regarding Side Underride Guards from the Public](#)

[**Read Article**](#)

Additional Stories



NBC4 DC:
[Tougher Truck Safety Laws Needed](#)



WKYT Lexington: [Truck Safety Roadshow Makes Stop in Kentucky](#)



WVIA PBS News:
[Governor Makes "Paul Miller's Law" Official](#)

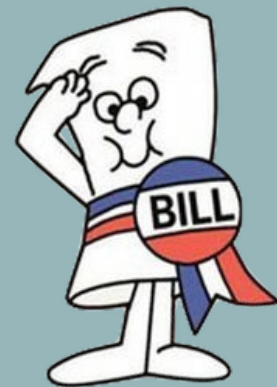
Government Affairs Update

Congress may be stuck in neutral, but somehow legislative shenanigans and Agency Rulemaking continue unabated! Take a look at just SOME of the recent government affairs happenings impacting our world.

• Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act Passes the House

Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11) and James Comer (R-KY-1) bi-partisan bill, **H.R. 7527** unanimously passed the House of Representatives. This bill will require the United States Postal Service to track deaths and injuries caused in delivering freight, force transparency in reporting this information, and provide USPS enhanced ability to penalize existing contractors who take unsafe actions.

Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and Representative (D-TN-09) introduced the **DOT Victim and Survivor Act**. This bill create a new role designated as the “National Roadway Safety Advocate” at the Department of Transportation (DOT) who will be responsible for working directly with roadway safety crash victims, survivors, and their families. Specifically, this new role will be responsible for building relationships with victims and survivors, providing education on DOT activities, and providing the victim perspective to the Secretary of Transportation and other DOT officials throughout the process of Department decision-making.



• Priority Rulemakings from NHTSA & FMCSA Overdue

One of the most anticipated rulemakings in recent history, **NHTSA’s Heavy Vehicle (i.e. Large Truck) Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) remains stalled**. Originally expected in May, this final rule will require AEB on ALL classes of newly manufactured large trucks. If the final rule resembles the proposed rule, it will undoubtedly save thousands of lives. TSC signed on to a letter with Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety to Secretary Buttigieg urging NHTSA to issue its final rule as soon as possible.

FMCSA announced its intention to to move forward with rulemaking requiring the use of speed limiters in large trucks more than **TWO YEARS AGO**. Since that time, the proposed rule was supposed to be released in Mid-2023, then the end of 2023, and then May of 2024. That’s three 6-month delays and still a rule is nowhere to be found. 20% of fatal large truck crashes occur at speeds 70+ mph and this delay is unacceptable.



• Advisory Committee on Underride Protection to Publish Report

The ACUP met six times on the following dates from May 2023-May 2024. It’s Congressionally-mandated charter is to provide advice and recommendations to the DOT Secretary on safety regulations to reduce underride crashes and fatalities relating to underride crashes. The final report is being written and expected to be released soon. TSC is proud to have three representatives on this Committee: Committee Chair, Lee Jackson and ACUP Representatives Jennifer Tierney and Jane Mathis.



TSC HITS THE HILL WITH ROADWAY SAFETY ADVOCATES



Left: TSC Volunteers Morgan Lake, Nora Lopez and Anna Guardipee pause for a photo outside the Rayburn House Office Building

Right: TSC Volunteers Nora Lopez, Morgan Lake, Sherri Arrington, Anna Guardipee and Paul Huffman share a meal after a long day of sharing their stories with elected officials



Victim Advocates participated in a press briefing joined by elected officials

It was a very successful two days together fighting for change with other victim advocates! Our people were reminded of the **POWER OF THEIR STORIES** and how they can “light a fire” under a Member of Congress. Anna Guardipee even leveraged her meeting to get ANOTHER meeting with her Congressman in their home District. Way to go TSC Team!!!



JOIN US FOR “A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE TRUCK SAFETY”



We are thrilled to announce our annual fundraising event, **“A Night to Celebrate Truck Safety,”** happening on **Friday, September 20, 2024**, at **6:00 p.m.** at the **Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.**

This special event will bring together community members, leaders, and supporters to celebrate the significant milestones achieved in truck safety over the past year. The evening will include a Silent Auction, with proceeds directly benefiting victims and family survivors of truck crashes.

Limited Tickets Available – Register Now! We have only 100 tickets available for this exclusive event, so be sure to secure your spot early. [Click here](#) to register and purchase your tickets.

Seeking Event Sponsors and Silent Auction Donations

We are actively looking for event sponsors and silent auction items. By becoming a sponsor or donating to our silent auction, you will play a crucial role in supporting truck crash victims and their families. Your generosity will be acknowledged in our event program and marketing materials.

To become a sponsor or donate an auction item, please contact Mrs. Johnetha Lindsey, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Development, at johnetha@trucksafety.org or call (202) 937-6430.

Highlights from Last Year

Here are some photos from last year’s event to give you a glimpse of what to expect:



Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make our roadways safer and provide much-needed assistance to those affected by truck crashes.

We look forward to seeing you at the event!

6-Months Left in our Annual Campaign!



WE ARE ABOUT 70% AWAY FROM ACHIEVING OUR GOAL!

We're thrilled to share a major update with you! At the six-month mark of our 2024 annual campaign, we're nearing the halfway point. Our upcoming target is to raise \$75,000 by September 30th, and we can't do it without your support. Your donation will help us keep making a difference in our community. To contribute, please visit our [website](#).

Follow us on Social Media!



- Comment on our posts!
- Share or retweet our posts
- Offer and receive support in the [Survivors, Families, & Friends Community on Facebook](#)
- Tag us!
- Engage with our community
- Join our Zoom nights
- Sign up for our Action Alerts and Newsletter!

Questions?
Contact johnetha@trucksafety.org