Andre: A Family Man

“His family meant the most to him, his kids and me. He would do anything for us.”
– Interview with Natacha Menzies, 01.05.11

“My dad was about the success in our education and having a great life. I promised my dad that I would finish school and do my best in life, with Jesus by my side. My promise to my dad is going to come true. I am going to finish school and live with Jesus; because that is the way he wanted us to live.”
– Excerpts taken from Andrea’s “Remembrances,” Andre Menzies’ Celebration of Life Memorial Service, 12.12.10

“He always reminded my sister and me of how he had accomplished all his goals from hard work. I looked up to him in many ways, but what I will remember the most was that he was a go-getter. My dad didn’t care what others thought about him, yet he cared about everyone.”
– Excerpts taken from Melisa’s “Remembrances,” Andre Menzies’ Celebration of Life Memorial Service, 12.12.10

“My father was the best dad you can ever have. My father was the best role model he could ever be. He told us that we should all come together and love one another. God took him somewhere. I love my father because he took us everywhere.”
– Excerpts taken from Tiffany’s “Remembrances,” Andre Menzies’ Celebration of Life Memorial Service, 12.12.10

“I love dad because he always watched over me. I can never have another father that is so funny and caring. He paid a lot of money for me to go to basketball practice. I don’t understand why he passed away, but I believe that I can be a coach like my dad.”
– Excerpts taken from Joshua’s “Remembrances,” Andre Menzies’ Celebration of Life Memorial Service, 12.12.10

“Dad, you are the best dad I ever had in my life. You would take me to the park, carnival, circus and my sisters’ house and you would take me and my mother places that we have never been before.”
– Excerpts taken from Victoria-Skye’s “Remembrances,” Andre Menzies’ Celebration of Life Memorial Service, 12.12.10
Andre: Aftermath

Monday, November 15th, 2010
6:00 am

“When I got up, I noticed he wasn’t home. I called his cell and there was no answer. I waited a few minutes and I didn’t get a return call. I found this odd because he either answers his calls right away or calls back immediately. I started to panic because I knew he’d be here for the kids and I had to go to work in Manhattan. I thought possibly he might be at his mom’s. I started panicking. I knew his routine. He always followed his routine.”

6:30 am

“The doorbell rang. I came downstairs to the living room and I went to the living room window to see who it was and I pushed the blinds aside. I broke down immediately. I knew something was wrong, but I did not think he was dead. The men identified themselves as New York State Police Investigators. They did not have to say anything; I ran away. I just started running around the house. They said, ‘Be strong for the kids.’ Then they told me my husband was dead. They stayed for a few hours and tried to calm me down. When you tell me something like this I break down, but if you mention my kids I become strong.”

10:30 am

“How Nelly Claudio, Joshua’s third grade teacher from the Upper Room Christian School in Dix Hill, came to the neighbor’s house, Mark Smith, to talk to the kids. She told the kids their dad had gone to be with God. ‘You mean he’s dead,’ Joshua said, and started crying.”

– Interview with Natacha Menzies, 01.05.11
Wrong-way crash

Family: He loved being a dad, officer

BY ANDREW CASTLE
AND JAMIE EISENBUD

Andre Monies, 35, was driving his Honda home to North Babylon.

The officer

Andre Monies, 35, was driving this Chevrolet van.

THE DRIVER

Michael Bowen, 50, of Brooklyn was driving this Chevrolet van.

HOW IT HAPPENED

Around 11:30 p.m. Sunday

Officer Andre Monies, leaving Queens housing police command, was on Northern State Parkway southbound.

Before 12:05 a.m. yesterdays

His partner, Officer Robert Henry, was driving the patrol car.

About 12:05 a.m.

They met up on the Northern State Parkway near the Long Island Expressway.

Around 2:00 a.m.

A wrong-way driver crashed into the patrol car.

He died at the scene.

THE OFFICER

Robert Henry, 38, of Ronkonkoma was the passenger in the patrol car.

He died at the scene.

He was trying to catch the driver using a motorcycle.

At his childhood home yester-

day, several family members lamented the loss of Monies, a father of five whose dedication to his profession was evident from watching his father, who worked in security at Kennedy Airport, according to relatives.

Monies became a police officer a few years after his first wife died following an episode of meningitis.

He is survived by his current wife, Leona, and their two children, Shane, 8, and Sydney, 6.

The family lived in Brentwood, where Monies was a single father to three young girls, Andrea, 13, Melissa, 14, and Tiffany, 15, who all came to live in Richmond Hill with his parents. Monies remarried, moved to Babylon with his wife, Natasha, then moved with her to Inwood, Babylon, and had another daughter, Sydney.

Robert Henry, 38, of Ronkonkoma was the passenger in the patrol car.

He died at the scene.

He was trying to catch the driver using a motorcycle.

Monies' eldest child, Andrea, 13, spoke of her father's unrelenting commitment to his children, whom he encouraged to be involved in school activities and athletics. Following Monies' advice, his children all compete in sports, including softball, track and field, cheerleading, and baseball.

Andrea Monies said, "We all did stuff so we'd do good in school and make him happy.""
Acknowledgments

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Kaitlin Altone, Francis Connors, Ilona Flores, Denis Foley, Mike Herman, Andrew Jackson, Bridget Kelly-Stein, Illona Luberman, Anna Martin, Ed Ostberg, Maria Sohn, Andrew Wolfe
Officer Andre Menzies

"His first toy was an electronic police bike that he would ride on. Everybody was saying that eventually he was going to become a cop. And it became true. He loved his job. All the time he was a cop, I knew he had a big heart. I didn’t think anything would ever happen to him."

– Robert Menzies, Andre’s father, Cop slain in crash ‘loved his job,’ says dad, Alfonso Castillo and Jennifer Barrios, Newsday, 11.15.10

Officer Kenneth J. Baribault

"Ken Baribault is the most courageous police officer I have ever met. Every day he works very hard in therapy and every day he makes incremental progress. I hope to have him teaching on the dangers of drunk driving in our police academy in the future."

– Commissioner Lawrence Mulvey, Nassau County Police Department, 04.1.11

Officer Glen L. Ciano

"Anyone Glen came in contact with, from fellow officers, volunteer fire and ambulance personnel, to tow truck operators and all the other individuals that we police officers rely on to help us do our jobs, Glen treated everyone with dignity, courtesy, and respect. He served his co-workers as our PBA Delegate for the past 9 years... To those of us in Squad 4, he was affectionately known as ‘Our Fearless Leader.’"

– Excerpt taken from Suffolk County Police Officer Frederick C. Leyboldt’s Victim’s Impact Statement to the State Supreme Court Justice Robert W. Doyle, 01.14.11

Officer Daniel O’Sullivan

"He loved working in West Harlem, dealing with the everyday people. He learned Spanish with a Hispanic partner. Daniel put his heart out there. He was in the Police Department for only a year and a half. He was hit by a drunk driver on Grand Central Parkway, aiding a victim of a car crash. He had stopped just after he had finished his shift at the 26th Precinct. He was on his way home..."

– Interview with Edward O’Sullivan, Daniel’s father, 03.22.11

Officer Jenny Carrion-Bryman

"Why did I choose to become a State Trooper? I know it sounds cliché, but I wanted to be able to help people. I have faced many challenges in my life and instead of choosing to be a victim, I chose to take every challenge and turn them into tools to make my life mean more and help me identify with the people I meet. I am able to teach my kids to be strong and not let any situation rule over them. This is why I am a State Trooper."

– Email correspondence with NYSP Trooper Jenny Carrion-Bryman, Troop A, Batavia, New York, 02.23.11

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Photos courtesy of the Ambrose Family, Baribault Family, Carrion-Bryman Family, Ciano Family, Menzies Family, and O’Sullivan Family.
One Second, Everything Changes

“As a member of Law Enforcement, I want the motoring public to feel safe on the road. As a wife, I wanted to get home to my husband. A drunk driver in the wrong lane kept me from that goal. I didn’t make it home that night. I didn’t see it coming. As a parent, I just wanted to go home and see my child. Instead I got to see the Trauma Unit at ECMC. I didn’t see that coming. No matter how defensive a driver you think you are, How can you prepare for something you don’t see coming?”

— Introduction crafted with the assistance of NYSP Trooper Jenny Carrion-Bryman, crash survivor

This exhibit, through words and images, portrays different members of Law Enforcement from various jurisdictions in New York State. Each experienced a similar fate; being struck by a drunk or drug impaired driver. The exhibit focuses on these fateful events in a forensic style. Each had the courage to serve. They have everything to live for. The strength of the shield met a culture of the extreme... and in an instant, everything changed.
Officer Daniel G. O'Sullivan, 25, assigned to the 26th Precinct in Harlem, was heading home after his 4 pm to 12 am shift when he stopped about 3:30 am on the Grand Central Parkway at the LaGuardia Airport exit to assist Francesca D’Amico, whose car had been hit by Minjae Kim. Officer O’Sullivan parked his 1986 Volkswagen behind Ms. D’Amico’s Mazda, turned on his blinking hazard lights and stepped out to see whether anyone was injured. While aiding Ms. D’Amico, 22, Officer O’Sullivan was injured by Byron Marrujo who drove his 1995 Mazda into the rear of a car that had slowed, pushing it aside and to the right. Marrujo’s car continued forward, plowing into Officer O’Sullivan’s car. Officer O’Sullivan became pinned under one of two cars involved in the initial accident.

Minjae Kim, 22, of Queens, was charged with DWI. Bryon Marrujo, 21, of Queens was charged with vehicular assault and DWI. Glenn Frechter, 31, of Jericho, L.I., was charged with DWI after he was stopped at the scene for driving around traffic cones set up by police to block off the site.

Officer O’Sullivan was taken to New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens with head injuries that caused his brain to swell. After four hours of surgery, he was placed in the intensive care unit and listed in critical condition. Officer O’Sullivan remained in a coma for four weeks.

“I am pissed off that this happened. I lost my life as a cop. I miss being a cop. I miss the crew and the older guys who broke me in, like Officers Mike Iliadis and Chris Jenkins. They were professional. They were my Crockett and Tubbs. I miss helping people.”

– Interview with Daniel O’Sullivan, 03.22.11

“Dan, as a young officer, was full of piss and vinegar. He had plans. He was thinking of joining the Baltimore Police Department, one of his dreams. The kid wants to come back, but the police department will not hire him. He cannot handle a weapon. He has lost his eye-hand coordination. His spirit is still strong and he looks outwardly as the big strapping guy I broke in. He is a lost soul.”

– Interview with Det. Michael Iliadis, Emergency Services Unit, NYPD, Truck 10, Queens, New York, 03.22.11
“I will always be my daddy’s little girl and my father’s death makes me emotional when I think about my future; I’m not going to get what every daughter who has a good relationship with her father looks forward to on her wedding day. My father won’t be there to walk me down the aisle and I will not have the chance to have the father/daughter dance at my reception. My dad did not have to die when he did. His death is just a horrible consequence of [Jose Borbon’s] selfish act.”

– Excerpts taken from Samantha Ciano’s Victim’s Impact Statement to the Honorable Judge Robert W. Doyle, 01.14.11

“My dad and I always worked together whenever something had to be done on the house. These father/son projects never felt like a chore. We would always start the job his way, then we would do it the right way. The jobs are now chores. I am 21 years old and my friends have no idea why I do so much, but it is my duty.

Jose Borbon will probably get out in 3 years. Free to again make unwise decisions that could affect others. Jose can pretend this did not happen, but I can’t pretend that I still have a loving father.”

– Excerpts taken from Daniel Ciano’s Victim’s Impact Statement to the Honorable Judge Robert W. Doyle, 01.14.11

“Glen and I were high school sweethearts and quickly fell in love. We shared our love of books, the outdoors and loved to spend time with each other. Our love for each other became stronger each and every year. Becoming parents strengthened our bond and we raised our children as a team. We made plans to go to Hawaii for our twenty-fifth anniversary, a place we always wanted to go together. It would have been June 29th, 2010. Instead of that wonderful trip, I wrote him an anniversary card and brought it to the cemetery.”

– Excerpts taken from Sue Ciano’s Victim’s Impact Statement to the Honorable Judge Robert W. Doyle, 01.14.11
‘His last patrol’

Thousands remember veteran cop as dependable, generous

BY ANDREW STECICLES

As Glen Clancey’s family and loved ones gathered into a Blue Point church following his funeral Mass, a clergyman offered a eulogy in honor of the officer who died in the line of duty.

Family and friends of Clancey, left, gather at Our Lady of the Snow church in Blue Point to say goodbye. Kimberly, accompanied by a police song, sung "Amazing grace." After the service, bearing the coffin lined up in the police car for a private burial in front of a group of law enforcement officers for her son.

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NEWSDAY
Clutching photos of her husband and their two children, a heartbroken widow on Friday heard her 3-year-old son's killer get a 3 to 4 years in prison. He had admitted he was drunk and driving on his cell phone when he smashed into Ciano's police cruiser at Vanderbillt Metro Parkway and Commack Road. Ciano, 43, of Eastport, was killed when the cruiser was crushed by the other vehicle. The 20-month-old child's long wait for justice is over.

"Now you're a bona fide murderer, and in four years you will get out of prison," Susan Ciano said, sounding from a statement at a courtroom letter to Borbon, seated a few feet away. "I'm looking at a life without him because you decided to drink and drive and murder.

Minutes later, Borbon apologized to Ciano's family and dozens of police officers who placed the third-floor courtroom. "I have cried at night thinking what you are going through," said Borbon, dressed in a white shirt and gray tie. "I have my emotions and what they do every day."

Prosecutors had said Borbon's blood-alcohol content was 0.33 percent — more than twice the legal limit of 0.08 — when his vehicle struck Ciano's cruiser. Susan Ciano later expressed disappointment about the sentence. "I've been waiting a long time for this," she said. "I don't think I will accept that," she said outside the courtroom. She and the couple's children, Samantha, 3, and Daniel, 1, had asked Doyle for a stiffer sentence. Prosecutors had recommended 3 to 4 years behind bars.

Doyle called Borbon an outstanding police officer and added, "The sentence in this case does not in any way represent the measure of the blame."

The judge said the case some evidence would have made it difficult for prosecutors to prove Borbon caused Ciano's death. A reconstruction of the crash showed Ciano's responding to a call, was driving above the speed limit and had his emergency lights on when the vehicles collided.

Speaking afterward, chief trial prosecutor John Collins acknowledged Borbon could have been acquitted of vehicular manslaughter at trial. "The punishments of [Manchester police officer] Michael Doyle's decision," Collins said.

Outside the courtroom, Susan Ciano noted that when he struck her husband's police car, Borbon had been free on bail after a DWI arrest six weeks earlier in Nassau County.

"Things have to change — DWI laws. No. 1," she said. "Talk to [state] legislators. Laws have to change."
Suffolk County Police Officer Glen L. Ciano, 45, of Bayport, New York
Officer Glen Ciano was officially recognized five times in his 22-year career with the Suffolk County Police Department.

Officer Ciano was responding to assist a fellow officer who had stopped a vehicle with stolen license plates. His patrol car was struck by a vehicle just off the road at the above intersection. The force of the collision sent the patrol car off the road and the equipment exploding from the vehicle...

Communications Section, People v. Jose Borbon, 02.22.09 & The Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc., Copyright 1996-2011

Jose Borbon, 23, of Plainview, New York
"Jose Borbon is the author of two From Hell Planners. He was a Patrol instructor, has also been charged with assaulting an officer in 2006, criminal mischief in 2007 and has caused five auto wrecks [between 2006 and 2009]. " – NY Daily News, 02.23.09

Borbon's Timeline

Saturday, February 21, 2009
Drinking
Jose spent Saturday night drinking Coors Light at his brother-in-law's home. He drank a 31.9% of his body weight prior to his vehicle and began to drive Sunday morning.

– Derived from Det. Jernigan and Det. Stewart, Suffolk County Police Department, 01.15.11

Sunday, February 22, 2009
4:00 am Request for Assistance
"Glen and I had a call on Vanderbilt Motor Parkway and Commack Road. The operator of the [other] vehicle was sobbing, down to his knees, and saying, 'I'm sorry.'" – Officer Enid Nieves, Suffolk County Police Department, Communications Section, Babylon, 02.22.09 & The Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc., Copyright 1996-2011

4:15 am Car 218 Engulfed in Flames
"I smelled alcohol from his breath. " – Police Officer Fred Wines, Suffolk County Police Department, Supplemental Report, 02.22.09

4:21 am
Crash
"All police officers are often confronted with violent acts and are always aware of the possibilities that each tour of duty holds for us... I have always tried to shield my family from that harsh reality. Mr. Borbon brought all that to an end..." – Suffolk County Police Officer Frederick C. Cappello

"Officer Ciano was responding to assist a fellow officer who had stopped a vehicle with stolen license plates. His patrol car was struck by a vehicle just off the road at the above intersection. The force of the collision sent the patrol car off the road and the equipment exploding from the vehicle."

– Police Officer Fred Wines, Suffolk County Police Department, Supplemental Report, 02.22.09

"I'm sorry." At approximately 4:21 am, I assisted 404 in a motor vehicle crash and 218 fully engulfed in flames.

– Officer Ciano responded to assist a fellow officer who had stopped a vehicle with stolen license plates. His patrol car was struck by a vehicle just off the road at the above intersection. The force of the collision sent the patrol car off the road and the equipment exploding from the vehicle."

– Suffolk County Police Officer Frederick C. Cappello

"I had just seen him." (Later, I asked, I didn't know what had happened. I just noticed that it was car 218 that was engulfed. There was no way to get close because of the heat. The fire department had just arrived...)

– Interview with Police Officer Dave Pendola, Suffolk County Police Department, 03.16.11

Family Time
"We had both sets of grandparents over for dinner.

We had both sets of grandparents over for dinner. Dinner that night was a lot of fun.

– Excerpt taken from Sue Ciano's Victim's Impact Statement

Afterwards, Glen had to get ready to go to work, 9pm – 7am. Glen kissed me goodnight and said, 'See you tomorrow.'"

– Interview with Cheryl Fontana, Commack Fire Department, 03.21.11

"I'm sorry." At approximately 4:24 pm, while exiting Vanderbilt Motor Parkway and Commack Road, an operator contacted our communications center and stated he was involved in a motor vehicle accident and was to the right of the road. We dispatched Engine 2-11-33 and Engine 2-11-13 to assist.

– Interview with Police Officer Dave Pendola, Suffolk County Police Department, 03.16.11

Crash site
COMMACK ROAD, COMMACK, SUFFOLK COUNTY CRASH TIMELINE | FEBRUARY 22, 2009

**Borbón’s Timeline**

**Sunday, February 22, 2009**

5:40 am
Jose is Arrested
Suffolk County ADA John Collins’ case notes

"When asked several times to perform FST’s (Field Sobriety Tests) [the Def. responded], 'No, no I can’t do it. I just saw something terrible.'"
– Police Officer Fred Fingerle, The People of the State of New York v. Jose Borbon, Evidence of Oral statements, Case No. 1088-09, 02.22.09

"When defendant is asked to perform FST’s (Field Sobriety Tests), he refused saying, 'My life is ruined.'"
– Police Officer Jesus Faya, The People of the State of New York v. Jose Borbon, Evidence of Oral statements, Case No. 1088-09, 02.22.09

6:09 am
Spontaneous Utterance
"Def. [Jose Borbon] makes spontaneous utterance that was with his wife earlier in the evening and was going south bound on Commack Road to get toilet paper."

7:00 am
Refusal
Suffolk County ADA John Collins’ case notes

"When asked permission to perform FSB’s (Field Sobriety Tests), the Def. refused saying, ‘No, no, I can’t do it.’ Just one more something brave.”
– Police Officer Fred Fingerle, The People of the State of New York v. Jose Borbon, Evidence of Oral statements, Case No. 1088-09, 02.22.09

10:25 am
– Det. Jernigan and Det. Stewart, Suffolk County Police Department, 09-87143 MVC/Fatal DWI notes, pg1

**Ciano’s Timeline**

7:00 am
Telling the Family

"I remember feeling lost and hopeless."
– Excerpts taken from Samantha Ciano’s Victim’s Impact Statement to State Supreme Court Justice Robert W. Doyle, 01.14.11

10:00 am
At Medical Examiner’s Office in Smithtown

"Det. Jernigan... observes 218 car being brought to M.E. (medical examiner’s) office. P.O. Ciano’s body removed from vehicle."
– Det. Jernigan and Det. Stewart, Suffolk County Police Department, 09-87143 MVC/Fatal DWI notes, pg1

"Officers stood in formation and saluted at Ciano’s body was brought into the county medical examiner’s office, and flags were lowered to half-staff outside the police department."
– Suffolk County Cop Killed by DWI Offender, CBS NY & The Associated Press, 02.23.09

10:00 am
Dan learns of his father’s death

"I was walking up early in the morning by my house, I obviously knew something was wrong because my mother was accompanied by my father’s law partner and her police chaplain."
– Excerpts taken from Daniel Ciano’s Victim’s Impact Statement to State Supreme Court Justice Robert W. Doyle, 01.14.11

10:00 pm
Ciano’s car

EMT Robert Spencer lays flowers at the utility pole where 218 crashed

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Photos: Pete Tartaglia, Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office
"Never in nearly four decades on the bench, have I seen such an outpouring of love, support, and admiration."
– State Supreme Court Justice Robert W. Doyle

Borbon’s Timeline

Monday, February 23, 2009

"Jose Borbon is arraigned on DWI charges and given $75,000 cash bail.”
– Alleged drunken driver arraigned in cop’s death, News 12, Bay Shore, 02.23.09

Friday, January 14, 2011

A Plainview man who admitted driving drunk in a 2009 crash that killed a Suffolk County Police Officer was sentenced to 1 1/3 to 4 years in prison on Friday and Borbon's already serving a one-year term in an unrelated DWI case.
– Plainview Man Sentenced In Crash That Killed Cop, CBSlocal.com, 01.14.11

Ciano’s Timeline

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Funeral: Honoring Officer Ciano

"Officer Glen Ciano’s funeral will be held at St. James Church in Commack. The Mass will be followed by a reception at Blue Point Yacht Club. The procession will take place at 10:00 a.m., and the church service will begin at 10:30 a.m. A police cordon will be in place throughout the service. Votes, police say, will be saluted by his fellow officers. Helicopters will fly over the funeral. Family and friends place flowers on Glen's casket at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial at scene."
– Plainview Man Sentenced In Crash That Killed Cop, CBSlocal.com, 01.14.11

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Phones: Police formation – Suffolk County Auxiliary Police, Memorial – Dennis Foley. All other photos – 2009, Newsday LLC.
“Glen was more than just a partner at work with me. We worked midnights together for about 15 years. On the way to work I would sometimes call him to set up a meeting time later for coffee. He was my big brother, friend, work husband, and more. When both my sisters moved to Florida, and I was upset, we joked that he was my big sister too. He listened to me and I listened to him. Our families got together for New Year’s Eve and we even traveled together when our kids were small. Sue and I would laugh that she was his wife and I was his work wife, but she and I had a friendship of our own. Glen and I would laugh so hard sometimes I would cry. I haven’t laughed like that since Glen died.”

– Email correspondence with Police Officer Nancy Amato, Suffolk County Police Department, 01.15.11

“I wasn’t working when Glen got killed. I got a call from my supervisor. He told me I had to come in. There’d been a crash and Glen was dead. I thought for a minute and I said I wouldn’t be able to do anything at the scene. I had to get to Sue… I knew she’d know the minute she saw us. If you see a few police officers before the shift you know. She came down the stairs and was able to see us from the window. We knocked a few times again. I knew she saw us. She could see we’d all been crying. She opened up the door and she started screaming. She was hysterical. It was terrible. She knew it when she saw us.”

– Interview with Police Officer Frederick C. Leyboldt, Suffolk County Police Department, 01.14.11
Jenny: A Mother’s Blessing

“I now have two beautiful angels. My daughter was born on September 17th, 2008; two years to the day as her big brother. I had always prayed to God that he would bless me with twins, a boy and a girl. I used to joke that it would be perfect; I could close up shop and not have to go through the labor again. God knew that I would enjoy going through the pregnancy process all over again, so I did, right down to the accident – this time it was an operator who was not paying attention, not a drunk. This time I was in the passenger seat in my role as Field Training Officer with my recruit driving. We had turned on a vehicle with a suspended registration. The accident was not that bad, although it was my side that was struck. When I returned to the station, and was alone, I fell apart. I thought I was over the first crash, but it was that crash that I relived. I guess I will never get over it, but I can get passed it. I still think about Mrs. Dixon, how she must feel having lost her son. I have wondered so many times how I would have reacted had I lost my baby that night, but I would quickly shake my head, as though to perish the thought, and I would just say, ‘Thank you, God, for letting me keep him.’ I love my children, I love being their mom.”

– Email correspondence with NYSP Trooper Jenny Carrion-Bryman, Troop A, Batavia, New York, 02.18.11
“I completed my shift and I was on my way home. I was excited because the next morning I was going to find out if I was having a baby boy or a baby girl. All I could think of was getting to see a picture of my baby and what my husband and I would name our little one.

I was traveling west bound on State Route 33 in the Town of Alden. It was 11:15 pm when I was blinded by a pickup truck traveling east bound. When I opened my eyes I saw the front of a dark blue car in front of my car with no headlights traveling east in the west bound lane. My headlights lit up the other car. The next thing I know we collided and it sounded like a muffled shotgun blast. My car began to spin and I began to pray, ‘Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God.’ When my car stopped spinning I felt my belly and I began to plead, ‘My baby; please don’t take my baby.’

I prayed to God that I had not done something wrong and hurt someone. I then found out that the driver of the other car had died and I felt horrible because I thought that maybe it was my fault. Again I prayed. In the hospital I found out that I didn’t do anything wrong. I learned that the other driver was indeed driving the wrong way and did not have his headlights on. When it was confirmed that Scott Dixon (the other operator) was drunk, (.26 BAC) it was no surprise. I then learned that he had 5 felony convictions for DWI, his driver’s license was revoked, and a friend of his registered and insured a car for him.

That night I suffered a broken leg, a large gash to my elbow and some other minor cuts. Every once in a while my son sees the scar on my elbow and asks about my ‘boo boo’ and the bad guy that hurt Mommy. Usually the drunk stumbles away from the wreckage and leaves the devastation behind as he takes his next drink. I am thankful that I survived and my baby was unharmed.”

– Email correspondence with NYSP Trooper Jenny Carrion-Bryman, Troop A, Batavia, New York, 09.20.10
An Update on Kenneth Baribault

“We were told, initially, that Kenneth’s ‘best case scenario’ would be that of a Nursing Home and feeding tubes. Meanwhile, he ate again on his own after only being at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation a few weeks. Thanks to the doctors at Kessler and Dr. Philip DeFina of the International Brain Research Foundation and their cutting-edge treatments, Kenneth is walking, speaking and doing many other things that would otherwise seem impossible. His road is still difficult, however, he is improving. His improvement is slow, steady, and never ending. Every single day he is getting better and stronger and he never, ever loses hope. Kenneth never gets angry, upset, very rarely gets sad or down, and wakes up everyday determined to work to get better. He goes to physical, occupational, and speech therapy three days a week on Long Island. And he travels to New Jersey twice a week, every week, to receive ongoing treatments from the International Brain Research Foundation. Kenneth goes to acupuncture every Saturday. The sky is the limit for Kenneth. And cognitively, he’s the one reminding us to give him his daily vitamins; he’s the one who shows me the correct way to use the DVD player when I can’t figure it out and his memory is absolutely fine. In fact, it’s better than mine!”

– Danielle Rella, Kenneth’s sister, 02.22.11
“Growing up together, I could not ask for a better big brother. Rob played varsity football in high school and even made Captain of the team. I remember in high school many of Bob's friends would come up to me and say, 'Hey, you're Rob's brother.' Yes, I was, and very proud then and even more now... A few years after high school we both purchased motorcycles. We enjoyed riding on the weekends. The Marcus Dairy Festival in Connecticut was an annual motorcycle festival we looked forward to every year.”
– Excerpts taken from correspondence with Paul Ambrose, Robert's brother, 03.03.11

“Bob was big. Everything about him was: his stature, his smile, his laugh, his personality and his heart. He would always go out of his way to say 'hello' or help someone out. Bobby was charming, handsome and sweet too. He did not take his short life for granted. He lived every day to the fullest and knew how to have fun. I always looked forward to spending my time with him. He was my protector and my big teddy bear. He always made me feel good about myself and taught me how to be outgoing and enjoy life. I look forward to that big bear hug and seeing that huge smile again one day.”
– Excerpts taken from correspondence with Christina Ambrose, Robert's sister, 03.03.11
Thursday, December 19th, 2002
10:00 pm

“We were watching the 10 o’clock news on channel 5. Evelyn, my wife, heard that a Trooper had been involved in an accident. My wife became very nervous. They said the accident was around Yonkers and I didn’t think the Troopers went as far south as Yonkers. Evelyn was worried anyway and called Bob’s home and got his voicemail. At 11 o’clock, one hour later, his captain, Evelyn Mallard, and his best friend Danny DeLeon knocked on the door. I saw both of them. Danny said, ‘There’s been a crash.’ I asked, ‘Is he okay?’ ‘No, he is gone.’ My wife broke up. Then I picked up the phone. Evelyn was crying and I called [our son] Paul and I said, ‘Paul, come over to the house.’ At 11:45 Paul came over. I told him Bob was gone. Then he just broke up. Then some Troopers came and helped make arrangements. There was nothing we could do.”

– Interview with Wayne Ambrose, Robert’s father, 01.23.11

Monday, December 23rd, 2002
10:30 am

“The funeral was unbelievable. Outside the church, it was all police. There were motorcycles and motor cops. They even stopped the Long Island Railroad when we were on our way to the cemetery. The cemetery was Holy Rood on Stuart Avenue. People got out of their cars along the way and saluted.

Danny DeLeon, Bob’s partner, told us that Bob saved his life because he took the call. That morning Bob was doing paperwork and he took the call saying, ‘I’ve got to get out of here.’ Danny said, ‘That would have been my call.’

– Interview with Wayne Ambrose, Robert’s father, 12.24.10
Bidding Farewell to State Trooper Robert Ambrose

By Carisa Keane

Thousands of New York State troopers, police officers, citizens and dignitaries, including Village Mayor Ann Corbett, County Executive Tom Suozzi and Governor George Pataki, bade farewell to 31-year-old village native Robert Ambrose just days before Christmas at a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Mr. Ambrose died in the line of duty on the New York State Thruway late last month. As he filled out paperwork for a two-car fender bender on Interstate 87’s shoulder in Yonkers, a Jeep Cherokee veered off the road, causing a chain reaction crash.

The impact caused two of the four vehicles involved, including Mr. Ambrose’s Ford Crown Victoria police car and a tow truck that arrived on the scene, to go up in flames.

Mr. Ambrose lived in Floral Park until just recently when he moved to Rockland County to be closer to his job. Mayor Corbett, on behalf of the Floral Park community, extended heartfelt condolences to the Ambrose family. At Our Lady of Victory Church, Governor Pataki spoke highly of Mr. Ambrose. He leaves behind his brother Paul, his sister Christina and parents Wayne and Evelyn.

Thousands of New York State troopers and other police officers and local citizens stand in respect for Robert Ambrose outside Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church in Floral Park. The village native died in the line of duty at age 31.