

Volume 2

Winter/Spring 2004

# HILL1 Newsletter

## Tragedy Enroute to Grandma's House

## Special points of interest:

- Grandma's House
- Support HILLI

May 30, 1995 – November 27, 2003

Nicole Anita Wingfield

Once again another senseless tragedy; Mildred Benton had prepared a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for her grandchildren, including homemade rolls, vegetable soup and a 7 up cake, unfortunately her grandchildren never made it to her Hyattsville, Maryland Home.

Her granddaughter, 8 year old Nicole Wingfield was fatally injured while en route to Grandma's house. Four of Nicole's siblings also were injured in the crash. According to police, a van ran a red light and struck their vehicle just two blocks from their home in the Anacostia section of Washington D.C.

The suspect in the case, was arraigned in D.C. Superior Court on several traffic violations: driving under the influence, operating a vehicle while impaired, reckless driving, driving without a permit, and driving an unregistered automobile. According to authorities, the suspect failed a sobriety test at the scene and was later found to have a blood alcohol level of 0.04. In the District of Columbia the legal blood alcohol limit is 0.08, although Motorists can be prosecuted if it can be shown that alcohol impaired their ability to drive.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Stacy L. Anderson, who is handling the traffic charges requested that the suspect be held at the city's jail. However, Magistrate Judge Evelyn B. Coburn released him to a halfway house.

HILL1 is lending their support to the Wingfield family during their devastation of losing a Love one.

#### Inside this issue:

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SPECIAL THANKS

#### SUPPORT HILLI!

HILL1 is a non-profit all volunteer organization, therefore your contributions go directly into programs that benefits the community. Please tell your family and friends that HILL1 has been accepted for the 2004, Combined Federal Campaign and United Way Campaign. The designation number for making your contribution is 8947. See your agency key worker for details on how to make your contribution

to HILL1. For more information please contact HILL1 @ (240) 686-1116. Our only reason for being is you.

Also, remember if you have school age children, or know school children in need of community service hours HILL1 can help you earn your hours, and you can have fun while you earn them.

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### Letter from the Brother of Another Fallen Police Officer

#### Dear Friends:

My name is Ronn Lonon, I am the brother of a D.C. police detective who was recently killed by a drunk driver. On behalf of my family and others who have lost love ones to drunk drivers, I'm writing this letter to express our concerns regarding individuals who have killed and face minimum sentencing because they are first-time offenders.

On April 16, 2003, my brother, Detective Eugene Lonon of the 7th District Precinct, having just left work, was on his way to pick up his children to take them to school. As he waited at the intersection of Suitland Parkway and Naylor Road at the D.C. Line, a drunk driver struck his vehicle. The individual's blood alcohol level tested 0.23 (at 5:30am on a weekday morning).

The drunk driver's vehicle was traveling so fast when it violently rear-ended my brother, the impact caused his car to burst into flames. Sending it across the intersection where it struck two other vehicles. Mercifully, the impact killed Gene instantly. The medical examiner said that his neck was broken, and his back was broken in three places. He also said that there was no smoke in his lungs, which means that he was dead before he was incinerated.

The individual charged in my brother's death was arrested in January of this year in another alcohol related incident, his BAC tested 0.19. Having not been convicted of the January charge, he was considered a first-time offender in the case of Gene's death.

Upon reviewing the guidelines for involuntary manslaughter in 18 USC section 1112, the man who crashed into my brother with a 80 -- 90 mile-an-hour missile faces as little as 10—16 months with the maximum being six years.

My brother left three small children, ages 7 & 5 years old, and a 8 month old, how do we explain to them in good conscience that the man who killed their Daddy is out of jail before any of them reaches High School.

Therefore, we are circulating a petition (www.petitiononline.com/gene0416) to have an amendment to Chapter 51, Section 1112 of the U.S. Code to introduce a section (c) Involuntary Manslaughter While Impaired with a minimum mandatory sentence of at least 10 years. To act as a deterrent to folk who get behind the wheel of a vehicle under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs.

We are also proposing that an additional 5 years be added for each alcohol related driving offense previous to the fatal act, and 5 additional years if the crash leads to the death of a law enforcement officer.

We strongly feel that with your help, the circulation of this petition will get the attention of Congress and will encourage them to sponsor this amendment which will DETER impaired drivers from taking the road drunk, preventing future loss of life.

Sincerely,

Ronn Lonon

## Don't Drive through New Jersey if you are Sleepy

As if staying alive were not enough of an incentive, motorists in New Jersey have another reason to make sure they are well-rested when they get behind the wheel; a first in the nation law against driving while drowsy. Under Maggie's Law, Police will not be pulling over drivers whose eyelids look heavy. But the law allows prosecutors to



NI Tumpike

charge a motorist with vehicular homicide, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine. In the event of a deadly crash if there is evidence the accident was caused by sleepiness. Safety advocates are expected to push other states to crack down on sleepy driving the way many did against drunken driving two decades ago.

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## The President's Corner



### IN LOVING MEMORY OF: MALCOLM XAVIER DUANE HILL

I often Wonder

Always in a gleam of light I often Wonder What our lives would be like

Driving down a ruff road I often wonder Am I going to make it there

Sitting in our screen house Listening to nice soft jazz I often wonder where you are

Being around friends and their children I often wonder And ask why aren't you here

I often wonder Why you could not Be here with us today To share our life
To smile with you
To play with you and love you unconditionally

I often wonder

How lonely we are

Without you to

Share the good and bad times

I often wonder Why me Why you Why us

I often wonder and Know for sure How much we miss you and love you very much

I often know that is why I often wonder

By Penny G. Hill

## **Odds & Ends**

HILL1 is seeking legal services pro bono, if you know of any resources that the foundation can take advantage of, please contact us.

Please be a responsible Host when you invite family members and friends to your homes.

Also, check with your guest about designated drivers before the good times roll and serve non-alcoholic beverages.



home, be a responsible host

Be sure to have a variety of non-alcoholic beverages for the designated drivers and others who prefer not to indulge in alcohol beverages. Please do your part in ensuring your guests get home Safe.

HILL1 ask that you be responsible and help save lives by not drinking and driving.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE UP AND COMING 2004 SPRING AND SUMMER AWARENESS EVENTS: Volunteers are needed for all events

MARTIN LUTHER KING PARADE April 17, 2004

SEAT PLEASANT COMMUNITY DAY May 1, 2004

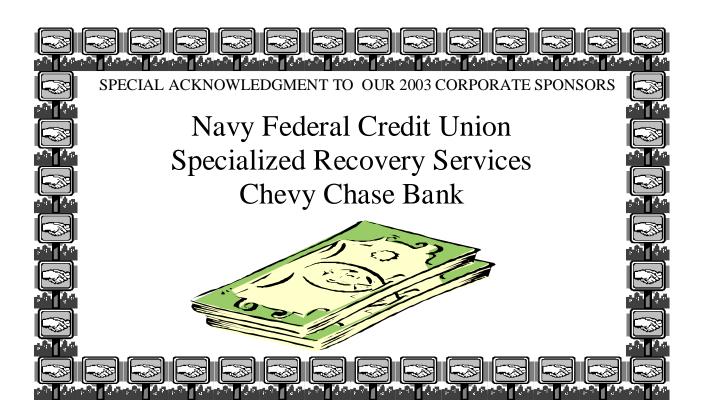
ARDWICK-ARDMORE COMMUNITY DAY June 5, 2004

KETTERING, LARGO, MITCHELLVILLE July 17, 2004

COMMUNITY DAY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DAY August 13—21, 2004

OKTOBERFEST ANNUAL FESTIVAL October 3, 2004



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#### HILLI NEWSLETTER

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From Tragedy to Triumph





The mission of Healing Innocent Lost Love 1's Inc. (HILL1) is to assist families when a love one has been killed or disabled in a drunk driving crash. HILL1 is an all volunteer, non-profit organization.

HILL1 serves as an out-reach mechanism of a support system that reaches communities that our counterparts have difficulties reaching. HILL1 offers spiritual, moral, and limited financial support to those in need . HILL 1, will also disseminate information, and be a advocate for the voiceless victims of drunk driving.

HILL1 is non-profit membership organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions under 501 (c) 3 of Internal Revenue Code, Founded in 1998.

## Healing Innocent Lost Love I's

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HILL1's newsletter written & produced by Steven E. Hill, V.P. HILL1, except for the President Reflections

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