

On the evening of September 11, 2008 I was at home cooking dinner, talking to my Dad on the phone. He said had been to the sale barn that day. Dad went faithfully every Thursday to watch the cow sale and loved visiting with the other farmers there.

Several hours later, I got a call in the middle of the night. It was my cousin Rob and he said Dad had been in a terrible accident, it was serious and I needed to get to the hospital right away. As my husband drove us to the hospital I just kept praying that my dad would be okay. When we got to the hospital my cousin Rob was waiting for us outside and when I got out of the car and looked at him, he just shook his head no. At that point I knew that my Dad didn't make it.

My Dad and his friend Tutty and my cousin Rob and his wife had went out that evening. My Dad loved to play craps and would jump at the opportunity to go to the boat. As they were returning home, My cousin Rob and his wife were following behind the vehicle my Dad was in. When Dad and Tutty went over a hill there was another car traveling in the wrong direction coming straight at them, in their lane. Tutty tried to avoid the accident but it was impossible the other car collided with them hitting them headon. The crash occurred just a couple of miles from my Dad's home.

My Dad, Melvin Briggs, at the age of 77 was killed by a drunk driver. The drunk driver was a female in her early thirties. This crash was her third DUI offense. She did not have valid drivers license. as 11 months prior to the crash she had received her 2nd DUI conviction, in Olathe Kansas. She was currently on probation in Kansas and had just been released from house arrest 2 weeks prior to the crash.

My Dad was a long time resident of Kansas but was in Missouri when the crash occurred. The drunk driver was charged and convicted in Missouri with Second Degree Felony Murder because of her prior DUI's convictions. She was sentenced to 15 years in prison, and has to serve a minimum of 85 % of that sentence.

My Dad was an awesome Dad. He was 54 years when he had me and 57 when my younger brother Mark was born. Dad was born in 1931, he attended school until the 8th grade and then he had to stop school to help provide for his family. He served in the army for two years during the Korean War. When he returned from the army he started a sod business. Dad served as the President of the Kansas City Turf Association and also had a nursery business and a cattle operation.

My Dad had overcome so many obstacles in his life. He survived Quintuple bypass heart Surgery and had made a full recovery. He had also had a few strokes, but was lucky that his only major complication was losing sight in one eye. He was able to overcome his complication and learned how to drive again, But soon after that he was killed. Dad was a remarkable individual. He started his own business at a very young age and built a successful business from nothing and with little education. He did not deserve this.

There are not words to fully describe how ones life is affected when something like this happens. There is not a way to describe your hurt, sorrow, loss, or frustration.

Every aspect of my life has been affected by this tragedy. My Dad will never see my younger brother Mark get married. He will never meet our future children. We will never share another hug.

I wish that I didn't have this personal story to tell you.

I have already lost my Dad, so I am here to protect all of the other Dad's that are out there. I am here to protect my family and community from drunk drivers.

I feel the only thing worse then this happening is this happening again.

I wish that the drunk driver that killed my Dad would have had an ignition interlock device on her vehicle, that could have saved my Dad's life.

I come to you as a Kansas Resident, a drunk driving victim, and as my Dad's daughter to ask you to please support Senate Bill 7, drunk driving is 100 percent preventable.