

Truck driver indicted on charges from fatal 2010 Turnpike crash

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A Pennsylvania truck driver whose triple trailer struck and killed a woman driving home to Maryland on the Ohio Turnpike in August 2010 has been indicted by a Portage County grand jury on three felony charges.

Douglas S. Bouch, 49, of Greenville, Pa., was indicted July 27 on one count of aggravated vehicular homicide, a third-degree felony, and two counts of vehicular assault, both fourth-degree felonies. Arrested in Pennsylvania in August and extradited to Ohio, he was arraigned Aug. 29 in Portage County Common Pleas in Ravenna.

Bouch pleaded not guilty, and Judge John Enlow released him on a \$50,000 personal recognizance bond. The court has scheduled a jury trial for Oct. 25.

A message seeking comment was left with Bouch's attorney, Errol Can.

Portage County Prosecutor Victor Viglucci said charges were filed as a result of an "extensive" investigation by the Ohio Highway Patrol into the Aug. 16, 2010, crash that killed Susan P. Slattery, 47, of Cockeysville, Md. and severely injured her two sons, Matthew J. Slattery, 12, and Peter Slattery, 16.

Viglucci said Bouch was driving a 2006 Mack semi truck hauling three trailers through a construction zone on the Turnpike near the 190-mile marker in Streetsboro at 11:45 a.m. the day of the crash when he apparently fell asleep behind the wheel.

His truck crashed into the back of Susan Slattery's 2010 Ford Focus, pushing it under the back of another stopped semi. Bouch's truck then proceeded to strike another semi and at least five other cars before coming to rest in the median, where it burst into flames. He was not injured, according to the State Highway Patrol.

Firefighters from five northern Portage County departments responded to the wreck. Susan Slattery was pronounced dead at the scene. Matthew and Peter Slattery were flown by LifeFlight helicopter to Akron Children's Hospital.

Matthew Slattery, who was knocked unconscious in the crash, suffered critical head trauma and is "incapacitated for life," without the ability to eat or perform most day-to-day functions on his own, Viglucci said. Peter Slattery was treated for a broken pelvis, facial fracture and other injuries.

Susan Slattery, who was survived by her husband, sons, a stepdaughter and stepson, was the chairwoman of the mathematics department and professor of mathematics at Stevenson University in Stevenson, Md., and had been there since August 2005.

http://www.e-portage.us/newsgen/news_details.php?id=1347

