



Parents Against Tired Truckers and Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways

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### Crash Accounts

#### **Jane Mathis**

St. Augustine, FL

On March 25, 2004, Jane's 23-year-old son, David and his wife Mary Kathryn, were killed in a truck crash in Titusville, Florida as they drove home from their honeymoon. They had only been married for five days. David and Mary Kathryn were stopped in traffic because of an earlier wreck on I-95 when a truck driver, who had fallen asleep behind the wheel, rear-ended their car. The impact of the crash shoved them into the back of the truck in front of their car and set the car on fire. Jane is the Florida Volunteer Coordinator for the Truck Safety Coalition as well as a board member for Parents Against Tired Truckers (P.A.T.T.).

#### **Ed Slattery**

Baltimore, MD

On August 16, 2010, Ed's wife Susan and sons Peter and Matthew were on their way home from Ohio to Baltimore when only an hour into their drive they were rear-ended by a truck driver who had fallen asleep. The impact pushed their car into the semi in front of them killing Susan and critically injuring Peter and Matthew. Following the impact with their car, the truck went on to hit two other semis and four more passenger vehicles before stopping in the divider and bursting into flames. Peter suffered broken pelvis and a facial fracture. Matthew, who was in a coma from massive head trauma, is permanently disabled requiring round-the-clock care.

#### **Ron Wood**

Washington, DC

On September 20, 2004, Ron's mother Betsy Wood, sister Lisa Wood Martin and his sister's three children, Chance, Brock and Reid Martin, were killed just outside Sherman, Texas when a tractor trailer driver fell asleep behind the wheel and crossed a median into oncoming traffic on a busy North Texas highway. The driver collided with two vehicles, killing a total of ten people and injuring two more. The truck driver eventually pleaded guilty to 10 counts of manslaughter in the 2004 crash. It was this particular crash that set an investigative team from *The Dallas Morning News* on a 14 month-long exploration that revealed - among other things - unqualified drivers, dangerous working conditions, lack of safety inspections, and very little oversight of an industry that affects every city in the country.