

ALLIANCE AGAINST INTOXICATED MOTORISTS

Victim Stories



The Aric Wooley Tribute

August 25, 1982 – June 16, 2000

In the Blink of an Eye...It's been seventeen years since the day our lives changed forever. It never gets any easier writing the tribute to a young man taken too soon. In the Blink of an Eye...Due to the senseless act of carelessness by an impaired driver, our family will never be the same. Driving impaired is against the law!!! Driving is a privilege, not a right...so make the choice not to drink and drive. Making the wrong decision to drive impaired can ruin the lives of many...In the Blink of an Eye.

Aric will always be remembered as his Dad's "right hand man, an accomplished Boy Scout and a gifted swimmer. He was a friend to many in his short life. We'll always remember his kindness, love and willingness to help others. I was reminded of his kindness by a comment posted to the online fundraiser I did in Aric's memory on Facebook to benefit AAIM victim's. The comment stated, "He was a year ahead of me and he always looked out for me at Conant. I looked up to him and I'm more than happy to contribute to the cause. I went into law enforcement to get drunk drivers off the road." This young man who was befriended by Aric life changed...In the Blink of an Eye. I've found courage and strength to share Aric's story whenever possible. I feel that if I can reach just one person and make them see how one selfish, foolish decision can change the lives of so many people...In the Blink of an Eye, then I would be honoring Aric's memory.

Our lives will never return to "normal", but we find hope in the future. Time doesn't stand still...life goes on...all we have left are photos and memories. In the Blink of an Eye, we now have a hole in our hearts and tears in our eyes when we recall that tragic day.

This is a journey we have not taken alone. Thank you seems like such a small phrase for the love, hope and support we've received each step of the way from our AAIM family...friendships that will last a lifetime. A special thank you to my dear friend Rita Kreslin for her love, friendship and support...we share a "special bond" as our lives were changed In the Blink of an Eye.

My husband has the memories of that terrible day etched in his mind forever, as he was at the intersection at the time of Aric's crash. He saw Aric's car one moment at the intersection and In the Blink of an Eye, he saw Aric's mangled car on the parkway after being hit by a semi. I'm positive Aric knew his Dad was with him during his final moments on earth. I know Aric felt comfort in hearing his Dad's voice and feeling his Dad's love surround him. Thank you for giving our family the love, support, hope and strength to face each new day...I LOVE YOU. *Continued on next page...*

Aric, thank you for leaving us with fond memories...we love and miss you every day.

We little knew that morning; God was going to call your name.

In life we loved you dearly; in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you; you did not go alone.

For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories; your love is still our guide.

And though we cannot see you, you are always by our side,

Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same.

But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

We Love You, Aric

The Wooley Family