

## HISTORY

The DWI Victim Memorial Sign Program is a grassroots program borne from an idea of two people who had lost family members to crashes on state highways caused by drunk drivers. The Department of Transportation embraced the program as a way to join together with the citizens of this state in the ongoing efforts to combat drunk driving.

The original co-sponsors, Sylvia Cortinas and Nancy McClenny-Walters of Walla Walla had lost family members to crashes caused by drunk drivers. As a result of their presentation to the Transportation Commission, a pilot program was created. This team effort included the Transportation Commission, the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, and the Walla Walla DUI Task Force.

The first sign installations in the state were in Walla Walla County on SR 125 Walla Walla and on SR 12. The McClenny family sponsored a sign for Frank and Emily McClenny who were killed when their family was hit by a drunk driver on July 10, 1988. The Cortinas family sponsored a sign for John Cortinas who died in an alcohol related collision in July of 1993.

Since the original DWI Memorial Sign Program was implemented, the sign program has expanded to include other safety messages based on the most common contributing factors to fatal collisions. Memorial signs are available with the following messages:

- Please Don't Drink and Drive
- Please Drive Safely
- Please Don't Speed
- Please Watch for Motorcycles
- Please Watch for Bicyclists
- Please Watch for Pedestrians
- Seat Belts Save Lives

This brochure was put together to give families and friends of victims of traffic fatalities a guide on how to sponsor a roadside Memorial Sign. The type of roadway (and the agency in charge of that roadway) will determine which agency to contact. If you are unsure of who is in charge of the road, call the Washington State Department of Transportation for the information or the Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force.

## GUIDELINES

Only the "Please Don't Drink and Drive" signs have a conviction related to the sign. "In Memory of..." will be used when there is a vehicular homicide conviction based on DUI. If no conviction, then the sign will say "Sponsored by..." For all other messages, "In Memory of..." will be used on the plaque under the message sign regardless of any conviction.

The person requesting the sign must be a family member or close family friend who has the family's permission to sponsor a sign.

## INTERSTATE ROADWAYS (i.e. I-5)

Memorial signs along interstate highways have not yet been allowed by the Federal Highway Administration. However, please contact the Washington State Department of Transportation to be sure that this status has not changed.

## STATE ROADWAYS (i.e. SR 512, 410)

### CONTACT

Washington St. Dept. of Transportation  
PO Box 47344  
Olympia, WA 98504-7344  
Phone: (360) 705-7282

### COST

Depends of type of roadway: \$750 - \$950.

### PROCESS

Contact, by phone or letter of request, the name above. Once the location of the incident is determined to be within the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Transportation, the request needs to be approved by the State Traffic Operations Office.

Below the safety message sign, is a plaque displaying the message "**In Memory Of**" along with the victim's name. They are placed near the scene of the collision.

A confirmation of the sign layout will be sent to the requester, together with a letter that acts as an agreement between the department and the requester.

Sign fabrication and installation will then be scheduled and notification given to the requester when the sign is scheduled to be installed. A bill will be sent to the requester after installation.

## PROCESS

### **ORDERING MEMORIAL SIGN ON CITY OR COUNTY STREET/ROADWAY**

- A written or telephone request for a memorial sign will be made through the appropriate city or county agency – City of Walla Walla Public Works, City of College Place Public Works or Walla Walla County Public Works.
- The Agency will confirm the location of the incident through the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- The Agency Director, or his designee, will work with the requester to establish sign positioning and estimated cost for sign materials and installation.
- The Agency will give the requester written confirmation of these details, which will serve as an agreement between parties. The requester will acknowledge the agreement.
- The WW County Traffic Safety Task Force will coordinate sign template with requester and facilitate ordering the sign. Upon receipt of the sign, the Agency will install sign and send an invoice for actual costs to the requester.
- Once sign is installed, subsequent maintenance costs will be borne by the requester or the Task Force.
- After a period of ten years, the sign may be removed.

### **WALLA WALLA CITY STREETS**

#### CONTACT

City Public Works  
55 E. Moore St., Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 527-4463

### **COLLEGE PLACE CITY STREETS**

#### CONTACT

City Public Works  
625 S. College Ave.,  
College Place, WA 99324  
(509) 525-0510

### **WALLA WALLA COUNTY ROADWAYS**

#### CONTACT

County Public Works Department  
PO Box 813 / 990 Navion Lane  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 524-2710

### **WALLA WALLA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY TASK FORCE**

The Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force is available to coordinate and facilitate the Memorial Sign Program.

The Task Force has an established program to assist with monetary costs if needed and will also facilitate a sign dedication ceremony if desired by the requester.

For information on the Memorial Sign Program, contact:  
Traffic Safety Task Force  
c/o Walla Walla Police Department  
54 E. Moore, Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 524-4425

# ***Victim Memorial Sign Program***

PLEASE  
DON'T  
DRINK  
AND  
DRIVE

IN MEMORY OF  
INDIVIDUAL'S NAME

***Walla Walla County  
Traffic Safety Task Force  
Contact: (509) 524-4425***

Sign options:

- ♦ Please Don't Drink and Drive
- ♦ Please Drive Safely
- ♦ Please Don't Speed
- ♦ Please Watch for Motorcycles
- ♦ Please Watch for Bicyclists
- ♦ Please Watch for Pedestrians
- ♦ Seat Belts Save Lives