

**Presentation to UTA PH class
November 10, 2016**

1. I want you to get a picture of what it was like for our family.
2. A lot of love and fun and preparation went into the months leading up to our crash: Mary Bakes a Cake: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zv36c3NI7E>
3. And then we faced a very unexpected and horrific and traumatic tragedy for which we were totally unprepared: **Bittersweet Graduation:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbKhY0gXQqY> 4:29
4. **After we picked up the pieces and began to discover what had gone wrong, we learned some things about truck safety which we had never even thought about before. We found out about underride guards and that they could be made safer but the trucking industry was not being required to make them safer. I asked, If they could be made better, why aren't they? It didn't make sense to me and it made me very frustrated and angry.**
5. **Rebekah set up a memorial facebook page for us which I am so thankful for. It allowed me to work out my grief with memories of AnnaLeah and Mary and to begin share the things we were finding out about truck safety and to help raise awareness with others as well.**
6. **We found out about the Truck Safety Coalition and started doing things with them. The crash was in May and in August we went to meet with our Senator. Then in September, we went to Washington, DC and met with the Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx to ask for change in regulations. He promised us that we would see tangible progress in our requests in a short time.**
7. **The next spring, we checked on that progress and when we did not find any, we started an online petition to demand change.** Couple fights for stricter trucking regulations after daughters' deaths <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7zuoOKzky8> 2:01
8. In fact, we were encouraged when DOT responded with an ANPRM for underride guards two months after we delivered our petition. But we quickly realized that they were still not going to be made as strong as they could be. And why not? NHTSA aims to strengthen safety devices that have failed in deadly crashes
9. <http://www.wsmv.com/story/31026756/nhtsa-aims-to-strengthen-safety-devices-that-have-failed-in-deadly-crashes>
10. Jerry & Marianne Karth Sorrow To Strength: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LGcWc4m9VA>
11. We learned that we should not rely on government alone and we worked hard to organize an Underride Roundtable and to get trailer manufacturers to respond to our requests through other means. **Stoughton Rear Underride Guard Crash Test, May**

5, 2016 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK6osM0kIGU> 2:02

12. Safety Group Tests Rear Crash Bar on Trucks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BEg-s4CXKA>

13. In addition to the rear of trucks, the sides and front of trucks need underride protection as well. It doesn't take an engineer to figure that out. My 9 year-old grandson was able to see that. **Our Grandma Wants to Make the Roads Safer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBbLCubz7xU> 2:25

14. **We have been working with an engineer near where we live. He investigates crashes and was so disturbed by the underride crashes that he saw that he invented his own design for underride prevention and we got to help crash test it. Innovative Side/Rear Underride Guard:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_T1EANb6Ys :56

15. The problem is that the safety problems we learned about are only the tip of the iceberg. There are many, many things that contribute to traffic deaths and injuries. We can't just say, oh well, you take a risk when you go on the road and leave it at that. Not when so many things could be done to prevent these tragedies. That includes defects in cars and automated safety technology, safer roads, truck safety regulations, overcoming distracted driving and drowsy driving. And we all need to work together to make it happen and it can happen.

16. I have a dream of organizing a nationwide network of Vision Zero/Traffic "Safety community action/advocacy groups so that we can work together to make this happen. I challenge you to be a part of it and to speak up for traffic safety. Toward Zero; There's no one Someone won't miss: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsyvkrEjoXI> 1:00

17. And traffic safety, of course, is not the only thing which needs bold voices to speak up and stand up for what is right. Keep your eyes and heart open to how you can be that kind of advocate.

- **With Hope We Carry On:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp7acA3CI34> 5:12