

Hopkins Student Killed In Collision Remembered At Vigil



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Robert Lang and Jim Russ

One year ago yesterday Johns Hopkins University sophomore Nathan Krasnopoler was hit by a car as he was riding his bicycle near the campus on University Parkway near 39th Street

Police say the driver, attempting to make a right turn, crossed into the bike lane and struck the student.

Six months later, the 20-year-old died from his injuries.

Sunday afternoon about a dozen family, friends and neighbors are held a memorial bike ride. Later, about 100 others attended a candlelight vigil at the scene of the crash.

Earlier this month, Krasnopoler's mother Susan Cohen, and his brother Elliot were in Annapolis to try to convince lawmakers to reject a bill that would allow drivers to hold a license for eight years instead of the current five years.

"That law is going in the wrong direction. It is not going to make our roads safer," Cohen told WBAL News after a Senate hearing.

"We are trying remember Nathan by making these roads safer."

In this case, the driver involved was able to keep her license and keep driving for several months after the accident.

Cohen learned that the driver was still behind the wheel from Nathan's friends, who visited him in the hospital.

"It actually made me feel ill," Cohen added.

Police cited the 83-year-old woman who was driving the car that hit Krasnopoler for negligent driving and failing to yield the right of way.

The driver Jeanette Walke, is no longer driving as the result of a settlement of a lawsuit filed by the Krasnopoler family.

Cohen says that eight years is too long for people over 40 to hold a driver's license without some kind of regular testing.

Her family wants legislation to require competency testing for drivers. She said, the tests are now used by the Motor Vehicle Administration at the request of a driver or their family. She says the tests will determine if a driver's skills have deteriorated.

The family is also seeking a bill that would impose up to 8 points on the license of a driver who fails to call for help, if involved in an accident that leads to serious injury or death.



Elliott Krasnopoloer and his mother Susan Cohen hold a picture of Nathan Krasnopoler after testifying at a Senate hearing in Annapolis earlier this month. (WBAL file photo)



Memorial to Nathan Krasnopoler at 116 West University Pkwy. Photo by Jim Russ



A bike chained to a tree near the scene of the accident that killed Hopkins Sophomore Nathan Krasnopoler. Photo by Jim Russ



Some of the roughly 100 people gathered to remember Nathan Krasnopoler. Photo by Jim Russ