

Pledges and Comments July / August 2008



Karen
08/30/2008

Growing up in an alcoholic family, I know the dangers and that is why I choose not to drink. I spread the word loud and clear as often as I can. God Bless and Good Luck,

Morgan
08/29/2008

Robert Schmill
08/29/2008

Leo,
I'm also a father who lost his son four years ago to an Underaged Drunk Drive. He was walking the block and half to his home with friends. (He had moved out on his own.) It was a hit and run. Like you, we needed to make sure things change and that he be remembered. I was at a meeting with an individual from a group that we work with. They were at the National Conf. that you spoke at and gave me your web site. We are also a grass roots foundation that is working in a two state area to make change. We hope to me a 501c3 by yearsend. If you have time please go to Matt's web site. I would love to open a line of comm. between Mariah's Challenge and Matt's Dream. Only those Dad's that have gone thru this, know how each other feels. Hope you have a chance to relax for just a moment this weekend.

Cathy Petersen
08/26/2008

Leo and family; I share sadness I lost my 17 year old daughter, Kayla last September. Your challenge has given me some inspiration. Thank you

shaylie brown
08/25/2008

i think this is an awesome thing you guys have made! i was at the national leadership convention in nashville, and i cant stop thinking about this. thanks for taking a stand!

Charline Tricoli
08/25/2008

Mariah
08/25/2008

I think what you are doing is so sweet and special. I will not Drive and Drive!!!

Allison Burroughs
08/25/2008

I was very touched by this story that I heard at an underage drinking conference last week. It keeps me motivated as to the reason behind what and why I do what I do as a Police Officer everyday. My heart and prayers go out to Mariah's family and I will continue to do my job in making sure that there are no more senseless losses as your family has experienced. My

heart and prayers are with you. God Bless... Corporal Allison Burroughs Mobile Police Department

Wendi Boswell
08/25/2008

Leo,
Thank you for your strength at the OJJDP Conference!!! You did a great job!! I tried to get the strength to talk with you tell you that I admire your strength!! My 13 year old brother was accidently shot killed almost 11 years ago and with all of that time that has pasted I dont believe I would have had the strength that you showed us at the confrence. Keep up the great work and Iowa is going to participate in Mariah's Challenge!! I work with hundereds of youth a year in my work of substance abuse prevention and each of my students will be made aware of Mariah's Challenge and will be asked to take on that challenge!! Thank you again!! Wendi Boswell, Corning, Iowa

Gloria James
08/25/2008

I appreciate Mariah's challente as a parent, Case Manager of Youth and a driver on MS roads. I pledged to spread the word to the youth in my program, also to my own children. I also pledge to pray for the youth of our state as well as the legislators. Prayer changes things and we do need the youth minds to be changed and the legislators to respond with stiffer penalties and tougher laws against drunk driving. God bless you, McCarthy family. Thanks.

Taylor Van Why
08/25/2008

I want to accept mariahs challenge.

Beth Ford
08/25/2008

On behave of the youth council, we accept Mariah's Challenge! Thank you for the inspiration and dedication!

Deputy Jon Tharp
08/25/2008

It broke my heart to see Leo's emotion at the Underage Drinking Conference in Nashville, TN as he addressed 2000 attendees. I compliment Leo for his courage from losing a beloved child. I accept this challenge and will share with others in the state of Iowa. Keep up the good work as we fight the battle in a war against underage drinking.

alexis johnson
08/24/2008

I love this mariah's challenge thing i got a t-shirt and her wristband it broke my heart when you came to our school and almost put me tears. I am glad ur doing this program!

Sammantha Mae
08/24/2008

This is a truly sad tragedy that shouldn't have to happen to someone so young. I have a cousin that is a deputy here in Montana and I recently heard of Mariah's Challenge from the presentation that she went to in Tennessee. Everyone should join this challenge, not just people in Montana or Butte. I feel for Mariah's family and friends and encourage them to continue to stay strong and to keep the faith for Mariah. I agree to join Mariah's Challenge to be the first generation to be drug and alcohol free.

Beth Reed
08/24/2008

Leo your presentation in Nashville, TN was empowering. I think what you are doing is wonderful. I am a police officer and i will share your message to my fellow officers and community members. I am sorry for your loss and keep up the good work.

Jeff gentry
08/24/2008

Leo I was at Nashville Tn this past week and heard your story about Mariah. I'm a Police Officer and have a 16 year old son. We will be praying for you and your family. I will start in my community "Mariah's Challenge"

Erica McCrum
08/24/2008

Erin Hedrick
08/23/2008
A beautiful message from an inspirational family. Thank you for taking some action against underage drinking in a world that likes to pretend like it is not a problem.

kyrstin cleland
08/23/2008

My family and I are sorry for your loss. And we thankyou for what Butte has gained "Mariah's challeng".Keep up all the hard work!

Monica Ingham
08/23/2008

I don't live in Butte but i still love it. Mariah's Challenge is the best thing that has happened to it. I accept Mariah's Challenge. All Around Me by Flyleaf is the perfect song to go with this.
Mariah you were in our hearts then,
Your in our hearts now,
we think about you day and night,
And how you were taken from your life,
Your somewhere in the sky,
High where the Angels fly,
We will miss you Mariah our dear,
We are now sad to hear your gone.

Krystal Rucker
08/22/2008

I was at the Nashville Conference and was deeply touched. Keep going strong and you ALL in my

prayers. Thanks for all that you do. You are saving lives.

May God Bless you,

Rachael & Monica Ingham
08/22/2008

This isnt the first time ive commented but i knew Mariah and she was a good friend to have. Please help all you can with Mariahs Challenge. We all love Mariah and Miss her.

Isaiah White
08/21/2008

So tragic! Nice to see folks holding their heads up and being the change they want to see!

Raymond Hetherington
08/19/2008
Outstanding program and challenge.

Ted Dешner Jr.
08/17/2008

I only knew who Mariah was I never meet her. I play a game for mind's eye theater and we support Mariah's Challenge.

Jennifer Fauque / Porro Nox Noctis
08/17/2008

I run a game on Saturdays and the players and I accept this challenge. WAY TO GO.

Zane Turner
08/15/2008

I only knew her as a class mate, but it the event hurts me like she was my bestfriend.

nicole bisson
08/14/2008

I just want to say that this is a wonderful thing that you guys are doing. You have really changed my perspective on life completely and I thank you for that. I hope everything is going well for you. . . God Bless

Annette Burkhard
08/13/2008

So sorry for your loss. I am also a State Farm agent and feel that it is my duty to counsel with each and every new teen driver. I find that it is another way for them to hear the message!
By doing this you are keeping your daughters memory alive and helping many people as well.

Jennifer Ginn
08/13/2008

I accept mariah's challenge, i too have a son that is 13 years old. My heart goes out to you all.

Doug Van Wyck
08/12/2008

Thanks, from one State Farm agent & Family to another: your loss is our loss, your efforts will help save many lives. Doug Van Wyck agent in Clayton, California

Toni Pacheco
08/12/2008

I too feel like it is our obligation to discuss with our clients old and young the importance of driving after drinking. After 36 years in this business I cannot believe the underage drinkers....

Kristi Gentile
08/12/2008

Angie Trumble
08/12/2008

I have been browsing the state farm news hub and came across this article. I was very touched by it and feel your pain. I have two daughters of my own so this story hit close to home.

Donna Gentile
08/12/2008

What an inspiring story. I have a 17 year old and a 14 year old and I will be forwarding this to them to take the challenge.

Stephanie A. Cummings
08/12/2008
Love and support always.

Lisa Sullivan
08/12/2008

Thanks for the positive influence in God's world. I am so sorry about Mariah. Words can not express, but I can pledge this and spread this challenge to my community - Roca, Hickman, Firth, Cortland, Nebraska. We have a Norris Cares group trying to support this same cause.

Jim Duncan
08/11/2008

I speak in our community and neighboring counties to 1st offenders for DUI. That's dealing with drunk driving after the fact. What I like most is Mariah's Challenge is dealing with drunk driving before it happens. Please keep on SF to make this a nationwide program.

Gracene
08/11/2008

I lost my best friend, killed in a car accident by a drunk driver, when I was 16 years old. My heart goes out to you and yours. It is a great service to all the State of Montana, Mariah's Challenge. Wonderful tool to help combat the drinking and driving. If I can help in any way, let me know. Gracene Long-Stevensville, MT

nancy fiscus
08/11/2008

Your story touched my heart deeply as a mother of three. I can't begin to know the pain & tremendous loss that each one of you feel. May your good works be blessed and continue to help heal your broken hearts. I will share your story with the teens I know. God Bless each one of you. ~ Nancy

Denise Bedore
08/11/2008

Thanks for sharing your story, you have saved thousands of lives by doing so! In giving your daughter's organs she will live on in others what a wonderful and generous gift. I know God never closes one door without opening another and I know your story will open many doors for all of us. I accept Mariah's challenge not only for myself but for my children and grandchildren. May God bless your family and comfort you.

Wendy Bench
08/11/2008

Anne Harrison
08/11/2008

I saw the article on News Hub through our State Farm domain. I have lost 2 family members to drunk driving. I think it is one of the hardest ways to lose someone because there is so much anger behind it! Mariah and her family will be in my prayers!

Jennifer
08/11/2008

My heart goes out to the family of Mariah and all those who have been affected by drunk driving. Mariah's Challenge site is amazing! Keep up the good work - you are making a difference.

SHERRY PRUITT
08/11/2008

Glenn Jacobs
08/11/2008
Leo,

So sorry to hear of your loss. So proud of this challenge you and your family have created.

Ansley Peters
08/11/2008

My brother chooses to drive drunk with 2 DWIs on his record and he's only 25. He has been in one large wreck luckily not with anyone else or hurting himself too bad. I made that commitment to not endanger anyone else's life. Mariah's story has just reassured me of my prior commitment to myself and others. I really appreciate the work you are doing to inform people about drinking and driving. My prayer is that Mariah's story will touch the lives of many and help lower the amount of drunk driving and underage drinking.

Tammy White
08/11/2008

Please accept my condolences. Although I have not lost a family member to drunk driving, I have had several that have been alcoholics. I pledge my support to help in any way possible.

Andy Finley
08/11/2008

Hello, my name is Andy Finley; I work for State Farm in Spartanburg, South Carolina. I recently viewed the segment about Mr. McCarthy and Mariah's Challenge on the News Hub through State Farm's ABS homepage. I think it's great what you guys are doing. I have known several people to die due to drunk driving. It's senseless and I'll do what I can to help influence people away from driving drunk. You're doing a great thing!

LeAnn Judd
08/11/2008

This is an amazing site! I saw your featured article on State Farm's news hub. Your daughter is an amazing angel we are all blessed to have! Keep up the good work on Mariah's Challenge! I see this going nationwide!! Best wishes!

Nicola Hayes
08/11/2008

Thank you. Not only do I accept this challenge but I will encourage others to do the same! Be Blessed!

Shawn, Danette, Zach and Zane Gleason
08/10/2008

Thank you for taking the steps in establishing Mariah's Challenge. We had not formally taking the pledge and decided it was best to take the pledge as a family and individually.

As parents we pledge to educate our children on the affects of alcohol and to the best of our ability prohibit underage drinking among our sons and in our home. We will encourage the use of Butte "T-O-U-G-H" slogan.

Our prayers continue for the McCarthy family.

Shawn Gleason
08/10/2008

Danette Gleason
08/10/2008

Zane Gleason
08/10/2008

I accept Mariah's Challenge.

Zach Gleason
08/10/2008

I accept Mariah's Challenge.

Michelle Mitchell
08/08/2008

OMG what an incredible story. I'm so sorry for your loss, and I would love to start a movement like this here on the Flathead Indian Reservation. I will definitely be in contact with your organization. Thank you for the challenge!

Crystal
08/08/2008

I admire the strength and courage that your family has. It is so great that you are honoring your daughter in this way! I proudly accept Mariah's challenge and

pledge to teach my children the affects of alcohol and do everything in my power to help them make the right choice by not drinking alcohol when they are older and faced with that decision. I also pledge to discourage my peers from drinking and driving. I hope that you will extend this challenge to the rest of Montana and perhaps even make it a national challenge. Your strength is inspiring!

GRACE SCHINDLER
08/07/2008

I pledge my support and accept Mariah's challenge with an open heart and soul.

Jessica Hardie
08/07/2008

May God Bless you, your family and the many lives you touch. Warmest Regards

Becky Tipton
08/06/2008

I'm so sorry for your family's loss... I remember hearing about this accident when it happened...what ever happened to the young man who hit her.

Also what happened to her friends.. are they okay or did you die too...

God Bless you and know Mariah guardian angel will always be there to watch over here family.

Larissa Splitstone
08/06/2008

I talk to my teens about drinking and driving, your story affected us deeply.

Jeff Wakefield
08/05/2008

I accept this challenge. Sorry for your loss. I am also a State Farm employee and wish you all the best. I live in Olympia Washington and work in Dupont. I have a nine year old son and could not imagine the loss you have suffered. God Speed to you and your family.

Melissa
08/04/2008

Sorry for your loss. This is an awesome thing you are doing in Mariah's memory and for kids everywhere.

Stacie Bowman
08/04/2008

I am sorry to hear of your tragic loss. I have 2 children of my own, and to loose a child at such a young age is beyond what I could even comprehend. I admire your courage and strength and applaud your fight to save our youths.. You and Your Family are in my prayers.

Haley
08/03/2008

Kayla
08/01/2008

shane and elizabeth childress
07/31/2008

hi i didnt know mariah but i send my love her way she is in abetter place my husban and i accept mariahs challenge godbless love alwyas the childress family

Jim Thomas
07/31/2008

I pledge to be responsible for my teenage daughters actions, and set an example for her regarding drinking.

haley jo
07/31/2008

i acept mariahs challenge and i always have and i always will and i hope every body else does 2

Jordan Clemmons
07/30/2008

My name is jordan. I didn't know Mariah at all. BUT i went to legendary this year and felt the pain her family and friends are still feeling. Cuz i have had the same thing happen to This girl that was exactly like a little sister to me. Her name was kassie. Her story is at www.KassandrasSmiles.com. But I will keep Mariah's family and friends in my prayers.

Breaynah mehring
07/30/2008

I accept mariah's challenge. I hate when people drink and drive. My cousin was killed by some drunk people. They beat him.

Charlene Macioroski
07/30/2008

I accept Mariah's Challenge. Working as a dispatcher, I see many young teens making decisions that affect not only their lives, but others as well when it comes to alcohol. It is great to have such a challenge not only for the children of Butte, but also to be able to pass this challenge on to other students in other cities in the State of Montana.

Leigh Zanto
07/29/2008

Hi, I was at the first high school camp for Legendary and just wanted to say thanks for coming and taking to us. I'm extrememly sorry for everything but I think Mariah's challenge is great:] I was wondering where you can get one of the shirts from and how much they cost. Thanks again:]

Matt Flink
07/28/2008

Robert Huguet
07/27/2008

Hi I went to legendary lodge last camp high school 1 and I can't believe what happened!!! :(I will never drink and drive! And that is a promise!! And I am telling all of my friends in Missoula about it too! Oh I was wondering where I can get the t-shirts. And how much they cost, and thank you so much for the bracelet!! It will be a reminder not only not to drink and drive but to tell people about it! I wanted to also if you have not suggested putting the video you showed

us onto YouTube for the world to see it!!!! It would be so cool! Not only aimed twords Montana but towards all of America!

Nora Rector
07/26/2008

Tara Stromberg
07/26/2008

Kalie Browne
07/26/2008

My Name is Kalie Browne from Missoula, Montana and I accept Mariah's Challenge.

Ashley
07/26/2008

I just learned about Mariah's Challenge at Legendary Lodge this past week and was truly inspired. I am from Billings Montana and drinking is a problem at my school, and I would love to see it change. Thank you for the motivation to make a change.

Brian Bergeron
07/25/2008

Paula Benningfield
07/21/2008

Mr. McCarthy spoke at the Alpha Delta Kappa Northwest Regional Conference this month at Fairmont Hot Springs. I was impressed by both his courage and his cause.

Rosie Stimatz-Richards
07/21/2008

Frank Rozan
07/21/2008

Hi Leo and Family, I was just checking in on the website and could not pass up the opportunity to say Hello. I am sending the Best Wishes to you guys, see you soon.

MALAYNA DYKMAN
07/20/2008

I think this is a wonderful program! It is a shame it had to start out of tragedy!! thank you for starting it, I am honored to be a part of this program!

jill de witte
07/20/2008

kelli jo
07/17/2008
im sorry about ur lost

kassidy
07/17/2008
i acept mariah's challenge

Stacy Wesen
07/16/2008

I was recently at a SKSC meeting in Helena when the Butte SKSC program shared Mariah's Challenge with all of us. I was truly touched by this story, not only in my work in traffic safety, but also as a mother of two children. Thank you for the work you are doing!

Allison Goodman
07/15/2008

i've already pledged but im still going on strong and i plan to stay that way. I pledge NEVER to drink and drive or drink underage. Its not worth it. Your no where near being forgotten Moriah, and i didn't know you but i wish i did.

Mike Clayton
07/15/2008

Hello, I am a drivers education teacher at Bozeman High School. I heard that you might do presentation to groups. My next session will have about 128 new drivers. Would you be interested in coming to Bozeman in August to talk? Let me know.

Jami Flink
07/10/2008

I do accept Mariah's Challenge :]

maureen downey
07/10/2008

i have accepted Mariah's Challenge since the funeral but i wanted to make it offical! Leo, i just moved to deer lodge and i want to do all that i can to spread Mariah's Challenge here... let me know when you need me... i am willing to do whatever!

Brittany Edmunds
07/09/2008

Laura
07/09/2008

brooke bailey
07/08/2008
i accept mariah's challenge

Carmen Judd
07/07/2008
I accept the challenge!

mijah mcleod
07/07/2008
dear leo, thank you for the chance to change butte and everyone in it.you are doing a great thing for me and everyone else.once again'thank you.

Kenny Cavill
07/05/2008
I think its tragic and completely messed up that someone would even think of driving after drinking when they themselves before intoxicating themselves, knew they must yet drive again. I pray that the under age drinking stops, and teens become more aware of what can happen when you drink and drive. She was too young, and it could've been avoided.

Brittney
07/05/2008
I hereby accept Mariah's Challenge. I love Mariah!!!!!!

KIRA
07/05/2008
I EXEPET MARAH CHALLING

Debbie Plummer
07/05/2008
I heard Leo speak at our ADK conference aT fairmont Springs. Is there a way to get a copy of the DVD to show in Klamath Falls, Oregon schools?

kira medina
07/03/2008
i am sorry for youer slost and i exepept mariahs challenge to not drink and drive and risisc ather pepel live

Monica Ingham
07/03/2008
You guys are so strong. Keep up your good work. All of you are really brave. All the people out there, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE. I Accept Mariah's Challenge. Do you?

Rachael Ingham
07/03/2008
Jessica and Bob it was a great thing how you went to drivers ed 911 and spoke the mariah's challenge. I think it really opened the eyes of some people.
I accept Mariah's Challenge

Rose Tracy
07/02/2008
Mariah's story is powerful and amazing! I am so happy that this is giving awareness to all drinking and driving and other drugs.