

Honorable Judge Teresi,

My life and that of my family and friends changed on October 30, 2011. My son, Patrick, called about 8:30 p.m. and said, "Come to Albany Medical Center, Dad and I have been in an accident and Dad's unconscious." I hurried to the hospital as fast as I could. They brought me in to see my son, who had a cut on his head and multiple bruises and abrasions. He was very upset and sore, but, amazingly, seemed like he was going to be alright. He was more concerned about how my husband was doing and wanted the doctors to work on him. I was not allowed to see my husband right away. Later, the doctors told me he had head trauma and they were going to put a drain in to relieve the pressure. We were still not allowed to see him. I was very worried. Still later, a group of doctors came to talk to me again, and I had to make the hardest decision of my life. They could not relieve the pressure enough and they could perform surgery, but there would be irreparable brain damage and he would basically be non-functional. I knew my husband would not want to live like that so we decided against the surgery. It was a very difficult decision. One minute I was having a nice dinner with my husband, and the next he's near death. To say I was in shock was an understatement. When I finally got to see him he had many bruises, tubes coming out of him everywhere and he was hooked up to all kinds of equipment. He never regained consciousness. It was a terrible experience. We were married for 25 years, and I never got to say goodbye to him or tell him I loved him one more time. I stayed with him all that night and most of the next day and night. I did not want him to die alone. He died on November 1, 2011, after they declared him brain dead. He donated his organs and tissues. If anything good could come of this horrible act, at least we could help save some lives. It's ironic that David should have died this way, since he was the safest and most cautious of drivers. He never ran a red light or stop sign, always obeyed the speed limit, and never even had a parking ticket. He always maintained his cars meticulously.

David led his whole life that way. He worked very hard, was very conscientious, and always played by the rules. He took care of himself physically by running every day, eating a healthy diet, and generally maintaining a healthy lifestyle. He also took care of others. We were looking forward to seeing our son graduate from high school, maybe attend college, and possibly travelling and spending more time with his brother and sister during retirement. Now he'll never be able to do those things. He certainly didn't deserve to die like this. He had many good years left. I have had many sleepless and tearful nights reliving the events surrounding his death. I am also more cautious when driving, and especially careful around intersections. I also don't take anyone or anything for granted.

David took care of Patrick and I. He was my literal "right hand man." Having had polio as an infant, I have trouble doing certain chores at home. He was always there to help me out. He took care of me when I was sick and always took care of the finances, the house, the yard, and the cars. He was very intelligent and he could fix anything. Patrick has his issues also, and David was always there to help him, support him, and calm him down when necessary. With David gone, our income is cut in half, and we have to hire people to do many of the jobs he did.

David took care of others also. He was never one to stand around and do nothing. In his retirement, he worked for an organization called Umbrella, doing odd jobs for the elderly and handicapped, so they could stay in their homes. Many became his friends.

David was a wonderful husband, father, brother, uncle, in-law, and friend. We all loved him very much, miss him terribly, and are all devastated by his death. Mr. Hooper took a human life that evening as a result of his depraved actions, a very valuable and productive human life, and he did not even stop to see what he had done. For this, he deserves the maximum punishment. It is my hope that during his term in jail he seriously reflects on what he has done, shows remorse, reforms his ways, and rehabilitates himself to become a contributing member of society. Unlike my husband, he'll still have a life when he's released.

Kathleen Concordia