

## Wayne grad plays key role in next of kin registration system

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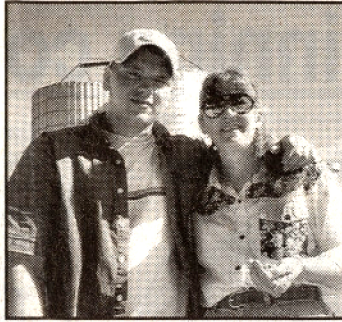
Carmela Wiant, a 1976 Wayne graduate, has turned unfortunate circumstances around a family tragedy into helping other families avoid the agony she had to endure.

Wiant's son, David Money, 23, was killed in an automobile accident on Aug. 7, 2006 in Columbus after his van hydroplaned.

Wiant called a hospital and asked if her son was at that hospital.

According to Wiant, a hospital chaplain, without knowing who she was, told her over the phone that David was dead.

"He did not ask me if anyone was home with me or if I was driving, nothing," said Wiant, in a recent telephone interview from her present home in Mechanicsburg, Ohio. "I was beside myself with this happening."



Carmela Wiant and David Money (at age 17) at Young's Jersey Dairy.

A few months later, Wiant talked to the Sgt. Hickey who handled her son's case. She asked the Sgt. what comes up when they put in a driver's license in the system. He told her that only David's information would appear.

"Why don't we put the next of kin on our driver's license," she asked Sgt. Carl Hickey, of the Franklin County Post. "He said, Carmela, that's an excellent idea."

As a result, Wiant began a campaign in April

2007 to create a bill that would notify next of kin immediately, so their family members could be with their loved ones immediately.

"I do not want others to have to experience the pain I have endured by not getting to be with David right away and I will never get that back," said Wiant. "The emotional trauma of being told is very devastating no matter what, but being told properly would cause less trauma."

Governor Strickland signed the Money-Burge Act on May 1, 2008, allowing for emergency contact information to be readily available for law enforcement in the state of Ohio. Senate Bill No. 249 and House Bill No. 392 were signed in memory of David Money and Steve Burge.

"What Sgt. Hickey has done for me is way above

the call of duty," said Wiant for his assistance in the process.

Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director Henry Guzmán, bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Registrar Mike Rankin and Rep. Jim McGregor announced the launch of Ohio's Next of Kin Registration System on Sept. 8 with Wiant in attendance.

With the launch, Ohio became one of the first states to make a next of kin registration process available. Any holder of a valid Ohio driver license, commercial driver license, temporary permit or state of Ohio identification card will now have the option of providing the name and information of a contact person they wish to be notified in the event the individual is involved in a crash or emergency and is otherwise unable to communicate with the contact

person.

"In an emergency situation, time is critical to saving lives," Guzmán said in a BMV press release. "This is yet another way we can all work together to be prepared to respond, or help the public respond, to any emergency."

Ohioans can now provide next of kin information for up to two contacts online ([www.ohiobm.com](http://www.ohiobm.com)) or through any BMV deputy registrar. For those over the age of 18, the contact person can be a nearby relative, friend or co-worker. Those under the age of 18 are required to provide a parent or guardian for the primary contact. This secure database will only be accessi-

ble to BMV employees and law enforcement officials.

"We are encouraging all Ohioans to take advantage of this beneficial opportunity, to save time when trying to identify family and friends of a crash victim," said Rankin.

"It's just so very important that people do this," added Rankin.

"The famous last words are this will never happen to me but it can happen to anyone," said Wiant. "You do not have to wait until your license is renewed; this can be done immediately."

David's father, Dana Money, resides in Huber Heights.

For more information visit [www.money-burge.com](http://www.money-burge.com)