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Some Award

When teenagers get their license, we get an overwhelming sense of freedom. For most parents, it can be one of the scariest moments of their life. They suddenly have to trust that we grasped all of the information they tried to teach us, about all of the dangers, that could potentially face us. We are taught never to drink and drive, to ignore any notification on our phones, and avoid any distractions to the best of your ability. Though our parents can warn us of a thousand different dangers, it is ultimately up to us to make the right decisions.

Every year a national safe driving convention is held in Detroit, where a car is given to one high school senior. In 1989, the award went to a young man named Billy Connolly of Concord, New Hampshire. One night after a few too many drinks, Billy convinced himself and others around him that he was perfectly safe to drive home. It only took a mile for him to realize that this decision that he made was not wise, and it would soon become the worst decision of his life. He told himself, "home is only a little further, I can make it." Those were the last words that Billy Connolly said to himself on his way home.

When it comes to driving, you need to be able to use your hands, feet, and eyes. When someone drinks, their brain is affected, and necessary motor skills required to operate a car or any other moving vehicle safely are impaired. You are temporarily unable to see clearly, and know the proper time to push the gas or the brake. With the inability to have the proper reaction time, driving while intoxicated is one of the most dangerous things that a person can do.

With his vision impaired, Billy was unable to keep his car in his lane, while traveling down the windy back roads. With another vehicle approaching in the opposite direction, Billy knew he needed to move over. Unfortunately, with his motor skills being impaired he accidentally pushed even farther into the other lane. The other driver slammed on their horn and pulled as far over as she possibly could, but nothing worked. The two cars collided, killing both Billy and

the driver of the other vehicle instantly. Sadly, they were not the only victims of the crash. Both of their families lost their children. They never got to say that final goodbye. They lost a part of themselves that they will never get back.

The name Billy Connolly is fake, but the story is true. Vehicle crashes make up one-third of teenage fatalities, and a significant reason behind that is because of drunk driving. We all have a choice when it comes to drinking. And our decisions will not only affect us but also innocent bystanders who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. What did they do to you, for you to decide how their life ended.