



Care For Crash Victims -- Dec. 2013 - Vol. 1, No. 13 -- ISSN 2332-063X

Crash Victims Suffer Deaths & Disabilities Waiting for Pres. Obama

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This is my second Petition to NHTSA Administrator Strickland and his NEMSAC and FICEMS Committee Members to act on behalf of crash victims.

December 3, 2013

The Honorable David Strickland (and Members of NEMSAC and FICEMS)
Administrator
NHTSA
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC

Since my first petition to NHTSA Administrator Strickland nearly two years ago, American families have suffered more than another 50,000 crash deaths and nearly 200,000 serious crash injuries.

Petition Supplement requested by NEMSAC Dec. 5, 2013:

In brief, what I am asking Mr. Strickland, NEMSAC and FICEMS to do is adopt 3 goals – all within the Executive Powers of the President:

1. Recommend a National Goal for Timely and Optimal Treatment for Serious Crash Injuries Within a Decade -- One Hour Med Evac to Definitive Care

2. Recommend a National Goal to Gather and Publish State Crash Injury Statistics Annually by the end of 2014

3. Recommend a National Goal for NHTSA and CDC, in 2014, to Propose Actions for Timely and Optimal Treatment for Serious Crash Injuries:

- * **Restore "Rollover and Extrication" to Triage Guidelines**
- * **Propose Automatic Crash Notification (ACN) standards**
- * **Propose NHTSA / CDC URGENCY Algorithm**

Why? Americans still wait, suffer and die while others wait, live, and suffer disabilities. Americans still wait for you to act to save future crash victims lives and livelihoods with more timely and effective emergency medical care. To this day in America, more than half of all victims who die of their crash injuries are not taken to any facility for emergency medical care. Too many die and suffer disabilities because rescue emergency medical care resources are too little, too late, too often. See <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/2012-00872-FATALITIES.PDF>

My first petition was published by NHTSA EMS at:

<http://www.ems.gov/ficems/june2012/Open%20Letter%20Request%20to%20NHTSA%20Administrator%20and%20to%20Federal%20Interagency%20Committee%20on%20Emergency%20Medical%20Services%20%28FICEMS%29.pdf>

And as published under “Petition to NHTSA” with attached documentation at

<http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/blog.php>

As of today, this first petition has not been answered by NHTSA.

So Americans continue to wait, die, and suffer disabilities from serious crash injuries – at a rate of about 500 per day. DOT policy values for such deaths and injuries amount to losses of about \$1 Billion per day.

Ask yourselves: What can you do for your country?

You know better than most that waiting for definitive emergency medical care in America today, too often, results in needless deaths and disabilities for seriously injured crash victims. You know that the Golden Hour timeline begins when the crash injury occurs. And that the rescue process in the U.S., too often, is sequential, rather than simultaneous, and slower than it needs to be:

1. Someone must report the crash – victims must wait.
2. Police, often the first responders, must travel by car to the scene – victims must wait.
3. Then EMS must travel overland by ambulance – victims must wait.
4. Then Fire/Rescue (often volunteers) with extrication equipment must travel overland to the scene – victims must wait.
5. Then, air medical services must wait to be dispatched -- while victims wait.

Wait! Wait! Wait! Wait! Wait! Until -- rescue is too little, too late, too often, for too many more American crash victims.

NHTSA has made the American people wait and die. Since 1997 more than 500,000 crash deaths and 2 million serious crash injuries ago.

1. Wait for Automatic Crash Notification standards by NHTSA!
2. Wait for URGENCY software to be proposed by NHTSA!

3. Wait for NHTSA and CDC to restore "Rollover and Extrication" to Triage Guidelines! See <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/nhtsa-ciren-safety.php>

So, as a citizen, again I am asking that these steps be taken to help provide seriously injured crash victims definitive emergency medical care within the Golden Hour.

It is in the public interest for President Obama to set these national goals.

As I recently wrote: *"if President Obama continues on his current path down this bloody road more Americans will die of crash injuries in his second term than the 132,250 Americans who died of crash injuries in his first 4 years – more than died in the entire Afghanistan, Iraq, Viet Nam, and Korean Wars combined."* See <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/July2013-MonthlyReport-BuildingaSaferAmerica.pdf>

It is in the public interest for you to recommend these goals to the President. You have seen or are aware of the ravages of serious crash injuries. Why not invite the President and his daughters to visit the nearby Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore on a Friday night for a learning experience in the importance of care for crash victims? There they and the nation can see both what is needed and what is possible.

Background info is available at:

See MD section of NHTSA Report starting on p. 23 at <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/CIREN1.pdf>

For comparison info on MD with other States for current air medical coverage areas see public ADAMS database at

http://www.aams.org/AAMS/Media_Room/ADAMS_Database/aams/MediaRoom/ADAMSDatabase/ADAMS_Database.aspx?key=4cccf748-2bc7-4bb9-b41a-c710366c51dc

And at http://www.adamsairmed.org/public_site.html

For some of my recent writings on the need for a national goal of "one hour medevac or less" see: <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/MonthlyReport-January2013-Vol1.pdf>

And <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/July2013-MonthlyReport-BuildingaSaferAmerica.pdf>

President Obama, and more importantly the American people, needs you to act responsibly and effectively. In a recent NY Times article we read:

"The president, who polls showed was now viewed by a majority of Americans as not trustworthy, has conceded that he needs to "win back" his credibility." Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/01/us/politics/inside-the-race-to-rescue-a-health-site-and-obama.html?src=me&ref=general&r=0>

And the CBS News poll found:

“President Obama's job approval rating has plunged to the lowest of his presidency....Thirty-seven percent now approve of the job Mr. Obama is doing as president, down from 46 percent [in October](#) -- a nine point drop in just a month. Mr. Obama's disapproval rating is 57 percent -- the highest level for this president in CBS News Polls.”

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/poll-obamacare-support-obama-approval-sink-to-new-lows/>

Reporters covering the White House report the President “thinks like a lawyer.” The President’s response to a student heckler supports this view as the President said the solution was not an Executive Order but lobbying the Congress for a new immigration law.

What the public really needs is more Presidential leadership – in talk and actions. He refers to Obamacare and to the Affordable Care Act. I have not heard him refer to the law by its correct title --The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. At least the title puts people first – “Patient Protection”.

Think JFK, FDR, and Teddy Roosevelt. That kind of leadership is what America needs today. Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin describes Teddy Roosevelt, one of our greatest presidents:

“In the wake of the Industrial Revolution, an immense gulf had opened between the rich and poor; daily existence had become more difficult for ordinary people, and the middle class felt increasingly squeezed. Yet by the end of Roosevelt’s tenure in the White House a mood of reform had swept the country, creating a new kind of presidency and a new vision of the relationship between the government and the people.” See Preface: *The Bully Pulpit*.

President Obama needs to talk less in abstract terms such as insurance, affordability of health care, the economy, infrastructure, and immigration. He needs to talk and act in inspiring terms – setting clear goals with specific time frames for goals we all can understand, need, and want – to save our lives.

As we remember JFK during this season of Thanksgiving, imagine President Obama preparing his State of the Union speech.

Imagine President Obama expressing gratitude for the police, firefighters, paramedics and medical personnel that work 24/7 often in hazardous and stressful conditions. Often as volunteers. Many of these workers voted for him, in part, because of Gov. Romney’s disparaging remarks. See <http://youtube.com/watch?v=yD1dliOryi8>

Imagine President Obama envisioning a greater and more effective role for these workers in building a Safer America. Imagine returning veterans being employed using their skills and developing new skills in emergency medical health care for saving lives right now, right here, in America.

You have the knowledge and responsibility to recommend to the President a much-needed expansion of such noble and empowering work in your professions. The technologies ACN, URGENT software, wireless communications, air medical services, are at hand now to greatly increase the life saving effectiveness of your professions. Please do your part to build a Safer America now.

Kennedy challenged the nation to greatness to put humans on the moon and bring them home alive within a decade using 1960s technologies. Today, using 21st century technologies, we certainly can put humans on American roads and bring them back alive within a decade.

Yes we can! And, yes we must!