

## **DWI Reenactment Hits Home, by Leah George**

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They're the nights many high school seniors look forward to all year long - prom and graduation. Sometimes, those nights full of fun and memories turn tragic. Each year, emergency crews in Rush-Henrietta try to prevent drunk driving by doing D.W.I. crash reenactments for graduating seniors. Administrators say this year the reenactment hit home.

The sound of sirens still sends chills down the spines of Paul and Bernadette Kato. Because of an accident like the one in Friday's re-enactment, Paul and Bernadette sat with Rush-Henrietta's graduating class instead of their son. Seventeen-year-old Matthew Kato was killed by a drunk driver last July.

It's something that's really traumatized us as a class; we just don't want to go through it again,; said Matthew's friend and classmate Ben Skomsky. Not wanting to go through it again is exactly why Paul and Bernadette say they had to be there. We don't want to open the paper tomorrow and read about a Rush-Henrietta senior who went to the prom and either drank and then drove and got killed or somebody else went to a bar and then killed them. We don't want to see that tomorrow morning, Paul Kato said. The fact is, people are going to drink, said Skomsky, but if we can dissuade one person from drinking. Dissuade one person from considering doing something that would end up like this, that's where our success is.

Matthew's friends and classmates say the Kato's courage to come to the school and talk to them, gives them the courage to think twice and not drive drunk. They're gonna make sure Matt didn't die in vain, that Matt's accident can serve as a warning and prevent someone else from going through this tragedy, Skomsky said.

They're a great bunch of kids. I've known a lot of them since they were 3-years-old. Matthew went to school with them from Rush Nursery School right on up. I don't want to have to cry at their graves or comfort their parents. I think there's been enough tears, Bernadette Kato said. Kristian Kemp, 39, pleaded guilty to driving drunk and killing Matthew Kato. Kemp is serving a sentence of 5 to 15 years in prison for manslaughter.