

**State Representative
Jerry Krummel (R-Wilsonville)
House District 26**



**NEWS RELEASE:
JUNE 16, 2006**

CONTACT:
DAWN PHILLIPS
503-986-1426
REP.JERRYKRUMMEL@STATE.OR.US

***Special Bike Safety Project Launched Sunday in Sherwood
Rep Krummel Honors Memory of Fallen Cyclist on Fathers' Day***

(Salem) A special ceremony will be held in Sherwood Sunday to kick off a new bike safety project and honor a well know cyclist and former Tigard High School athletic trainer from Durham who was [killed a year ago](#) along Tualatin-Sherwood Road. "Eric Kautzky was a personal friend and professional colleague. I had a great deal of respect for him. It seems only fitting that on this Father's Day we honor a man who was a father figure to so many," said State Representative Jerry Krummel (R-Wilsonville). "We all need to take responsibility to ensure our roads are safe, by being careful and looking out for others. That's what 'share the road' means."

Family and friends of the 56-year old Kautzky will gather at 2 PM Sunday June 18th, at the intersection of Tualatin-Sherwood Road and SW Wildrose Place. The Washington County Land Use and Transportation Department is installing a new bike safety sign in memory of Kautzky near that intersection, the first of its kind in the Oregon. Krummel is working on legislation to make these memorial signs available statewide.

Kautzky was wearing a helmet and riding his bike in the cycling lane at 6:30 AM June 18th, 2005 when a car driven by 18-year old Joel Flores of Vancouver hit Kautzky from behind throwing him onto the hood and windshield. Flores had been partying the night before and fell asleep at the wheel. He was sentenced in April to 17-months in prison for criminally negligent homicide.

Kautzky was in his first year of retirement after being a science teacher and athletic trainer for 24 years. "This sign was important to our family not only as a loving remembrance of Eric but also to heighten motorist awareness of cyclist and their rights to share the road. We never want any other family to experience the senseless loss of a beloved family member. Eric was the individual who always followed the rules and thought of others when he went out to ride," explained Lorna Miller-Kautzky, Eric Kautzky's widow. "Be responsible and accountable before you get behind the wheel and share the road with cyclists. We hope this reminder will help bring awareness to motorists"

According to the [Oregon Department of Transportation](#), nearly 700 bicyclists were injures in crashes with motor vehicles in 2004, a 12% increase over 2001. In 2003 motorists failed to yield to bikes in 355 crashes up from 243 in 2002. Kathy Lehtola, Director of the County Transportation Department and an avid cyclist took on this sign project herself because as she put it "we want to educate and increase public awareness that our transportation network is shared by all modes. As pedestrians and bicyclists are more vulnerable in accidents, the intent of these signs is to remind the public to remain alert to all the transportation network's users."

There have been other high profile incidents in Washington County in recent weeks. On Memorial Day a Hillsboro couple in their 60's, who were well know cyclists, were killed while riding their bikes on the shoulder of Highway 47 near Forest Grove by a car which drifted off the road. They had on helmets at the time. And last Sunday a Beaverton man was seriously injured while riding along Tualatin Valley Highway when an SUV driven by a drunk driver swerved into the bike lane and knocked him off his bike. The victim wore a helmet and bright yellow jersey.

During speech on the House Floor last year Representative Krummel said Kautzky, "set an example of life for all. He was looked up to by parents, athletic trainers, teachers, athletes, coaches, doctors, students and all who knew him." Krummel and Kautzky helped create the [Oregon Athletic Trainer's Society \(OATS\)](#) in 1983 where Kautzky was the President from 1987-1991. Kautzky was a long time bicycling enthusiast. He rode with Team Rose City in Portland, a bicycle racing team, and dreamed of riding in the Tour de France. OATS and [Tigard High](#) have both established Memorial Scholarship Funds in Kautzky's name.

900 Court Street, SE H-281, Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1426
www.leg.state.or.us/krummel