

FAVORABLE TESTIMONY FOR HB974

I am Accokeek resident Rev. Tierney Screen in favor of HB 974.

We moved to Fort Washington, Maryland 46 years ago and now reside in Accokeek since 1993. During these years I was employed with the Federal government and commuted on Indian Head Highway traveling to numerous destinations.

We raised our daughter and son and taught them to drive paying strict attention to roadway signs, especially speed limits. They are grown-up and have families of their own now, visiting us from time to time. Our greatest fear is their safety on MD 210 Indian Head Highway, which should not be. Every time they leave, we remind them to let us know when they arrive home safely.

In June 2017, an Accokeek resident was violently killed by a Speeder at the intersection of south bound Indian Head Highway and Pine Drive, as he left his job to go home to his family after a day's work. He called home, as usual, to let them know he would see them soon. HE NEVER MADE IT HOME TO HIS LOVED ONES!!!

After seeing the grief on his widow's face and hearing her quivering voice talking with a TV reporter, I felt her pain. It was at that point I decided to do something about the senseless deaths on Indian Head Highway because the victims should not be snatched away from their loved ones, who would never hear their voices, laughter and get and give loving hugs again. Their life's destinies are cut short by drivers who make a conscious decision to "break the law" by exceeding the posted speed limits and driving recklessly.

Today, his family and church community are missing him for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and services he provided to his church.

Unfortunately, he was only one of many who have perished on MD 210 Indian Head Highway. Many families are grieving the sudden and senseless loss of loved ones.

This is why, in August 2017, I became a founding member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, to advocate for safer driver behaviors on Indian Head Highway. Something must be done to STOP the senseless law-breaking speeding that have killed many innocent people who were going about their daily lives to work and live in our communities and to enjoy the love and affection of family.

I pray none of you ever experience the suddenness, shock, and grief of losing a loved one in this manner and that you cast an affirmative vote to support HB974, which is about "Changing driver behavior to SAVE LIVES".

Thank you.

Rev. Tierney Screen, 18100 Breann Court, Accokeek, MD 20607