

5/1/14

Dear Gov. Haley,

Several months ago I wrote you regarding planting trees in the median between divided highways and narrowing the right-of-way maintenance along all roads.

I am sure you are aware of the horrific accident in California where a big rig swerved across the grassy divide and crashed into a bus loaded with students - killing ten. (Article enclosed from 4/12/14). If the grassy divide had been planted in trees these children would be alive today. We cannot prevent all accidents but we can easily and relatively inexpensively prevent head-on crashes across grassy divides.

I encourage you and/or your staff to look at I-95 & I-85 in Virginia. That is how our highways should be. It would save on maintenance mowing and those funds used for pot holes repair. It would also make the drive more pleasant and prevent lights in your eyes at night.

Also, partnering with Arbor Day Foundation or other such organization would enhance your image and that of Republicans as environmentally sensitive. But - I run on.

Please don't let future deaths rest with you.

Sincerely, Robert Kennedy 738 Nomyata Rd
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Dreams dashed in fatal tour bus crash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLAND, Calif. — It was a busload of opportunity: young, low-income, motivated students, destined to become the first in their families to go to college, journeying from the concrete sprawl of Los Angeles to a remote redwood campus 650 miles north.

Those dreams shattered for some Thursday in an explosive freeway collision that left 10 dead — students, chaperones and both drivers — and dozens hospitalized.

Desperate families awaited word about loved ones Friday, while investigators tried to figure out why a southbound FedEx big rig swerved across the grassy divide of California's key artery before sideswiping a car and slamming into the tour bus, which burst into a furious blaze.

The Serrato family, whose identical twin 17-year-old daughters set off on the adventure on separate buses Thursday, had a panicked, sleepless night. Marisol made it to their destination, Humboldt State University, but

there was no word from Marisa, who had been aboard the now-gutted bus.

Friday morning when a sheriff's deputy asked for Marisa's dental records, a grim request made to several families, 23-year-old brother Miguel Serrato said his family was "getting a little bit scared." His mother booked a flight north.

Humboldt alumni Michael Myvett, 29, and his fiancée, Mathison Haywood, who were chaperoning, also were killed. Myvett was a therapist at an autism treatment center.

"He just died," his grandmother Debra Loyd said, her voice breaking with emotion in the early afternoon Friday. "They have already confirmed it."

Myvett's manager Kyle Farris said he was "extraordinary," and that he connected with their children "on a level few others could, and he contributed to their wellbeing in such a positive and profound way."

"He will be greatly missed," Farris said.

A Facebook photo shows Haywood flashing a shin-



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A California Highway Patrol officer walks past the charred remains of a tour bus at a CalTrans maintenance station in Willows, Calif., on Friday.

ing diamond engagement ring on her finger and kissing Myvett in December near the Louvre Museum in Paris.

The bus was among three Humboldt had chartered as part of its two-day Preview Plus

program to bring prospective students to tour the Arcata campus, according to university officials. Before launching the event Friday, university Vice President Peg Blake's voice broke as she asked a crowded theater for a mo-

ment of silence in honor of everyone affected by the accident.

Most survivors were injured, some with critical burns or broken limbs. Those who made it out said they scrambled through a kicked-

out window. One man, apparently an admissions counselor, was in flames and later died. Those who could sprinted, in a desperate dash to the opposite side of Interstate 5 before the vehicle exploded.