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MEDIA PRESS RELEASE

RE: DY High School Docudrama

DATE: 5/28/10

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Friday 5/28/10 will be a day to remember for some Dennis Yarmouth High School Seniors. They were witness to a mock multiple vehicle accident in the parking lot of the high school. Death, injuries and arrests for drinking and driving with vehicular homicide were part of the docudrama. The part of the docudrama that really hits home with the students is the fact that all those involved are their peers.

Yarmouth Firefighter/Paramedic, Lt. Paul Holmquist has organized this event for the past 15 years, "The goal of the program is to demonstrate the consequences of young people drinking and driving in a very real demonstration. The docudrama is a fact-based representation of real events that have happened in the Town of Yarmouth."

Lt. Holmquist credits the success of the program to all the organizations and individuals who participate year after year.

- The Yarmouth and Dennis Police respond to the accident and perform a series of sobriety test on the suspected drunk driver, after the test the driver is arrested and placed into a cruiser.
- The Yarmouth Fire Department responds with engines and ambulances and extricates victims with the Jaws of Life, places injured victims into the ambulances on backboards and covers a deceased passenger with a sheet.
- The school assists in organizing the event and has representatives talk with students about what happened, during the assembly following the accident.
- The District Attorneys office talks about the arrest and court proceedings of the young drunk driver.
- Mr. Lapsley , a parent who lost his 20 year old daughter on June 29, 1991, spoke of the night two police offers woke him to notify him of the accident and the death of his daughter and her two friends. Mr. Lapsley has told his story to the Dennis Yarmouth High School Seniors for the last 15 years in the hopes of preventing another parent from going through the terrible night he did 19 years ago. He hopes his story will make students stop and think before getting behind the wheel intoxicated or into a car with someone who is intoxicated.

Local papers reported on June 29, 1991:

– Yarmouth – Three young Cape Cod women, friend since their days together at Dennis-Yarmouth High School, died early yesterday in a high-speed single-car accident in Yarmouth. Local police identified the three as Kerry Ann Bangs, 20, of West Yarmouth; Jean Marie Lapsley, 20, of West Yarmouth; and Meredith Quinn, 22, of Yarmouth Port. Police reported the accident occurred at 12:30 a.m. and the car was traveling north on Forest Road at a very High rate of speed.

Lt. Paul Holmquist is retiring from the Yarmouth Fire Department after 26 years of service and counts his involvement with the docudrama over the last 15 years as one of the most important annual events that he has been involved with during his career. He feels confident the program will continue as he is leaving it in good hands. Lt. Holmquist thanks everyone for their help over the years but really wants to recognize Mr. Lapsley for sharing what was the worst night of his life. “Mr. Lapsley has relived that night, at Dennis Yarmouth High School, for the past 15 years.”” A father’s love of his daughter and the thought of another parent having to go through what he went through is what enable this man to speak of that night”.