

SAFETY CORNER

By Dave Esposito, AKA Cabbie

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Greetings All! I hope this finds everyone safe and well!

May already has had one motorcyclist fatality on the second. Perhaps some of you may know the details. As of this moment I do not.

A Patriot Guard buddy was riding in at 6:15 am on May 1st to meet up at a funeral home when he struck a median curb on John Knox Rd. His bike flipped and landed upside down while he slid on the right side of his face.

He was very fortunate at 81 years young to not suffer any injury other

than his face and right eye. He's expected to have no permanent damage, thank God. After over 60 years of riding, he says it's now time to hang it up.

I think we all remember the accident that killed a 49 year old man on Rt. 98 at Spring Creek Highway in St. Marks in late April. I'm bringing this to everyone's attention to remind you that accidents can happen at any time and to constantly be aware of your surroundings! The one fatality was the result of the rider passing at an intersection. The vehicle being overtaken was slowing to turn left without using turn signals. Two wrongs killed a man and left an injured woman without a husband and two children without a father, and so forth.

- I cannot express myself strongly enough to get you to see that nowadays drivers are distracted more that ever with electronic devices in their vehicles. Talking on the phone. They may be arguing with a spouse or whoever and not paying attention to their primary task at hand: watching for motorcyclists!!
- You must always expect the unexpected when you're driving, moreso when on less than 4 wheels. It is imperative to leave more room between you and other vehicles ahead of you so that you'll have more time to react to the careless moves of distracted drivers.
- Keep back from stopped vehicles at traffic lights and keep an eye in your rear view mirror for approaching vehicles that may not see you stopped there. You may have to evacuate your position to avoid someone hitting you from behind. There's no time to push back before turning!
- Plus, if on a slope, the vehicle ahead may roll back on you! I have a friend that had a truck roll back on him at a stoplight recently. It wasn't pretty. Thankfully, his shoulder surgery turned out OK and his insurance paid for the totaled Ultra Classic.
- I also wanted to mention to you when we're group riding, please stay in your track! That means also when turning corners! If you're on the outside track, make a wide turn.

So, I think you got the message for now. Stay awake, stay vigilant!
That's all for now. I welcome your comments!

Stay safe !

Dave "Cabbie" Esposito
Proverbs 21:31