

Flashing Yellow Lights in Tyler, Texas

When I was six years old, my mother and her first cousin, Kendrick Clark, were both taking finals at the Tyler Junior College Testing Center. Kendrick finished before my mother and she did not get to tell him goodbye. He was driving a motorcycle back and forth to school to save money and get better gas mileage. As he traveled back to his home from school, he was involved in an accident.

Kendrick was traveling down South Broadway, heading back to Frankston. He had a green light in front of the Broadway Square Mall. A woman, Hellen, was in a car on the opposite side of the road. She had a flashing yellow light and she was in a hurry. Hellen didn't notice Kendrick on his motorcycle. Hellen started to turn into the mall and hit Kendrick as he was passing through the intersection. Sadly, even though he was wearing a helmet, he did not survive the crash.

Kendrick Clark was many things including a Navy Veteran, a father, a son, and our precious cousin. I am 17 years old and have not had many years of experience driving. Because of this tragedy, I am extremely cautious of other vehicles around me. My mother continuously repeated that "we share the road" during my practice hours achieving a license. I tell my friends about Kendrick in hopes that they, too, will always look carefully when driving.

I wait patiently to turn at flashing yellow lights. When I am riding with friends, I make sure they are cautious when switching lanes and turning as well. There is nothing more precious than a life. If Hellen had waited for Kendrick to pass by or waited for a green light, maybe he would still be here with our family today. I pray that people keep their eyes on the road and think about other motorists and pedestrians, as well as their own safety. Nothing is worth risking something so irreplaceable. My message to others is don't get in a hurry, wait your turn, and it's ok to wait another rotation through a red light.