

AAA urges drivers to practice '100 Days of Safe Driving'

Summer driving brings increased risks, but safe choices can save lives

BY AAA EAST CENTRAL

Memorial Day marked the beginning of the summer driving season, a time when teens gain more independence behind the wheel, families hit the road for vacations, and celebrations bring more motorists onto the nation's roadways. To encourage safer choices during this high-travel period, AAA is urging motorists to commit to "100 Days of Safe Driving" between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

This message comes at a critical time: according to AAA's review of national crash data, more than 30% of fatal crashes involving teen drivers and nearly one-third of all impaired-driving fatalities occur between Memorial Day and Labor Day. By making smart choices behind the wheel, motorists can help make summer roads safer for everyone.

"While teen drivers are particularly at risk during the summer months, the '100 Days of Safe Driving' campaign serves as a reminder to all motorists to make simple

choices behind the wheel that can help save lives," said Lynda Lambert, safety advisor, AAA East Central. "Safe driving habits developed early can last a lifetime, and AAA is encouraging everyone to stay focused, slow down, buckle up, and plan for a sober ride before going out."

In 2024 alone, the most recent year of complete crash data, 2,636 people were killed in crashes involving a teen driver. A third of those deaths, 825, happened in the 100 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day. AAA encourages teens to use the summer months as an opportunity to build safe driving habits by limiting distractions, obeying speed limits, buckling up, and never driving impaired. Parents also play an important role by setting expectations early and modeling safe behavior behind the wheel.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE DANGEROUS SUMMER DRIVING PERIOD, AAA ENCOURAGES PARENTS TO

- Discuss with teens early and often the dangers of risky driving situations, such as speeding and nighttime driving.
- Discuss with teens the dangers and consequences of distracted driving (i.e., texting, having multiple people in the car, etc.)
- Stress the importance of buckling up. According to

NHTSA, more than 50 percent of teen drivers who died in 2020 were not wearing seat belts.

- Teach by example and minimize any risky behavior when behind the wheel.

- Make a parent-teen driving agreement that sets family rules for teen drivers. Consider setting driving limits that are stronger than state laws and enforce those limits.

Summer is also a great time for teens to complete a comprehensive driver education course to learn the rules of the road. Visit Teen Driver Safety - AAA Exchange.

Summer celebrations and travel can also increase the risk of impaired driving. According to AAA crash data analysis, nearly one in three summertime traffic deaths involves an impaired driver. AAA, in partnership with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, reminds anyone who plans to drink or use impairing substances to arrange a sober ride before going out.

AAA East Central is a not-for-profit association with 69 local offices in Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia serving 2.7 million members. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. AAA East Central provides services to its members including Automotive, Insurance, Discounts & Rewards, Financial, and Travel.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CARLIN FAMILY THANKFUL FOR HELP IN RESTORING LOCAL SPENCER COUNTY FAMILY CEMETARY

Dear editor,
For about 35 years, I have been researching my Kentucky Carlin ancestors who resided in present-day Spencer County for over 100 years, from the early 1790s, until around 1900. My curiosity to learn and know more became something of an obsession, resulting in many trips from my home near Seattle to visit Taylorsville and the surrounding areas of Normandy, Elk Creek and Rivals.

Highest on my information wish list was the location of the Carlin family burying ground, but, after three decades of searching, I had begun

to lose hope that it would ever be located.

Then, just two years ago, I discovered a compelling clue in an obituary published in the Shelby Sentinel in 1888. With the help of the Spencer County Historical and Genealogical Society, and very specifically, Terri Cooper, the burying ground location was found in May of 2024.

Since that time, my family and I have been overwhelmed by the positive response and kind assistance of the many dozens of local Spencer County residents who have volunteered their time and energy toward restoring this now 200-year-old Carlin Cemetery with its 36 gravesites.

With the cemetery now finished, and dedicated

last Sunday, I want to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved in restoring this long-forgotten final resting place of my pioneering Kentucky ancestors. Over the past two years, you all have welcomed my family and me with kind hearts and unbridled enthusiasm.

With special thanks to Terri and Dan Cooper and the SCHGS, as well as the current cemetery private property owner, and finally those dozens of individuals who volunteered and labored in so many ways, please know that you have blessed the Carlin family beyond measure, and we are so very grateful to all of you.

Don Carlin, Washington

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