

Recounting the Worst Motorcycle Wreck in AZ History



Fourth in a series of installments

by survivor Ernie Lizarraga

Ernie's doctors weren't sure he would make it past the day.

Dr. McGeever, the trauma team leader at St Joe's Hospital, had Ernie x-rayed and found Right rib fractures 1 through 12, Right open Tibia and Fibula fracture, Right hemopneumothorax, Right Transverse Process and Spinous fracture, Right Adrenal hematoma, Right Nasal bone fracture, Left rib fracture, Left Zygomatic Arch fracture, Left Sphenoid fracture, Subdural hematoma, Subarachnoid hemorrhage, Frontal Skull fracture, Traumatic Brain injury, Right Brachial Plexis injury, Right Ankle fracture, and a Right Optical nerve tear. The optical nerve tear results in blindness, which will never heal. Ventilator-dependant respiratory failure aspiration required placing him on a breathing machine. His liver was found torn which caused heavy internal bleeding.

By 11pm that night Ernie has had more than 6 hours of surgeries, including one replacing his right Tibia bone with Titanium and additional brain surgeries. When Lorri gets to see Ernie, the doctor tells her the facial fractures will heal on their own. Ernie recounts, "I'm unconscious, have a leg cast, an arm cast, my head's wrapped up, and a neck brace. Lorri says both of my eyes were purple and looked like they had golf balls under the lids. There was an airway tube hooked up to a breathing machine going down my throat, a drain tube inserted in my head, a drain tube inserted in my right chest filled with blood draining from a collapsed lung, a feeding tube inserted in the left side of my body, and IVs in both arms. I'm not pretty to look at, but I'm alive."

Dayle is flown by Native Air to John C. Lincoln Hospital with Dr. Gale leading the trauma team. She has massive brain trauma, fractured right leg, ribs and many internal injuries.

Terry arrives at John C. Lincoln Hospital with injuries including a fractured right leg and compound fracture of the

right arm.

Julie arrives at John C. Lincoln with a severe injury to her right calf. She described it as a grapefruit size chunk of skin being removed. She also had a fractured ankle plus multiple cuts and bruising.

Jason goes to St. Joe's with a right leg open Tibia/Fibula fracture, a severe sprain over his left shoulder, and bruises over his entire body.

Todd goes to John C. Lincoln with a laceration to his scalp and a chipped spine. He is released later that day.

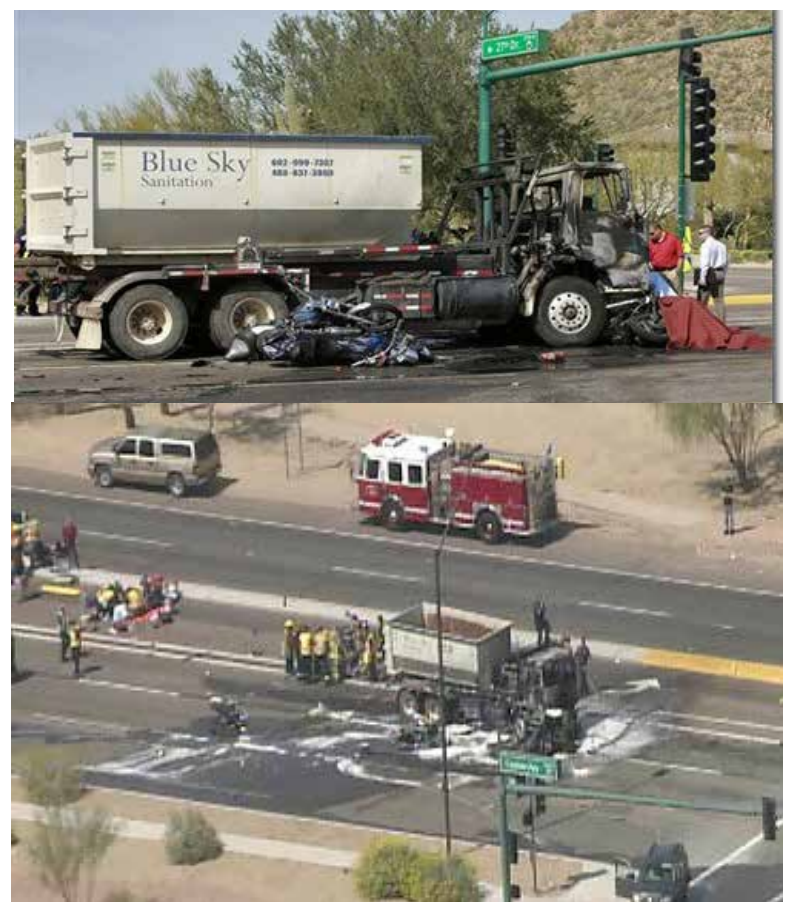
Back at the accident scene Tania, an employee at Walgreen's, is standing in the parking lot watching what's going on when the man next to her says, "I didn't see them." Tania turns to the man and asks, "What do you mean you didn't see them. Were you driving that dump truck?" The man answers with "Yea". Tania says to stay right there, goes and gets a nearby detective and points to the man. When the detective starts walking towards the man he starts walking away. The detective catches up to the man and says we need to talk, follow me. They start walking towards the Walgreen's. He notices the man was walking very slow and deliberate with his steps. He was carrying a water bottle that he dropped and dropped it again as they were inside the conference room of Walgreen's. The detective also notices that the man's eyes are red and blood-shot. The detective asks him his name and the man answers with Michael Jakscht. He is asked, "Have you consumed anything illegal?" Michael answers with "Only ice cream" then snickers. His pulse is taken at 15:01 [3:01pm] and it is 116 beats per minute. When told it seems high Michael responds with "Whatever". The pupils of his eyes were measured and were approximately 2.0 - 3.0mm in size (Cursory measurement). During the interview the detec-

tive noted Michael didn't show any sign of remorse at all about the devastation he had caused. He only seemed concerned about himself. Michael said he was worried that those bikers or their friends were going to do harm to him.

Detectives are able to obtain a search warrant to take blood from Michael. The blood was given to Forensic scientist John Musselman to analyze the results. Later the results that were found from the blood were Amphetamine 71 ng/mL CNS [Central Nervous System] stimulant with Methamphetamine 460 ng/mL CNS stimulant. John Musselman states "That amount would have a negative effect on driving".

While at the police station Michael asks to use the phone and is given one. He goes into a cell and calls up his girlfriend Kelli. She tells him to call an attorney which he does. When Michael is talking to the attorney, the attorney tells him not to cooperate with the police any longer because he is not under arrest. When the detective is told this the detective then puts the phone nearby so the lawyer can hear as he puts Michael under arrest. Michael is booked on four counts of Manslaughter, five counts of Aggravated Assault, & seven counts of Endangerment.

< continues in January 2020 >



As the word went out about what had happened, well wishers began visiting the site, bringing flowers & tokens of support for the Fallen & their families; including tying bandanas to a nearby Palo Verde tree.

