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November 14, 2019

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Via Federal Express

The Hon. Judge Bruce E. Schroeder
Kenosha County Courthouse
Rm. 213
912 56th St.
Kenosha, WI 53140

Judge Schroeder,

I am writing to let you know how truly special Vince, Mary and Mike Rizzo were and how their loss has affected and will continue to affect so many lives. I first met the Rizzo family in 1984, when I became friends with their oldest son in 7th grade at Lance Middle School. Since that time, I have been very close to the family. Vince and Mary were amazing people and in many respects were a second set of parents to me. As I grew older, I looked to them for guidance and they freely volunteered their time to me. It is impossible to list all of the things I learned from them, but it is easy to say that the impact they had on my life was profound. I am lawyer in Chicago now. I honestly do not think I would have gone to college much less to law school if it was not for Vince and Mary and their encouragement. I am a successful professional because of them. More importantly, I am a better person because of them. I am frequently reminded of their focus on family and their commitment to one another. I still use that lesson today to stay focused on the things in life that really do matter.

Their community activities through their church and other organizations can be listed and certainly speak volumes on their involvement in the community. The list of those activities, however, does not show the passion which they had for helping others, including me, in the community. They really just cared about people. As simple of a sentence as that is to write, it is also very unique to find people who can actually live up to that message. Vince, Mary and Mike did.

I was fortunate enough to join their family for many holidays and birthdays. Their home was always full of love and focused on family. I will cherish the memories of those times watching the Rizzo family laugh and simply enjoy being with each other to celebrate almost anything, as they were always looking for a reason to have a family event. It is still hard to believe they are gone. Their absence is felt every day. I can physically see the pain in the eyes of their children when we are together. I don't think the pain will ever go away for them. Rather, I think they will eventually get used to the pain of having lost their parents and uncle for no reason. Since the accident, there have been two new Rizzos born (one to John and Laura and one to Janet and Ryan). Those grandchildren will only hear the stories of how great their grandparents and Uncle Mike were but sadly will never get to

experience the love from those family members. I see the weight of that reality on the surviving Rizzos constantly. There simply are not sufficient words to convey the loss from this tragedy. They were people who made the world better with them in it. I appreciate your time in reviewing this.

Very truly yours,



Thomas C. Koessl

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2009

Your honor,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Mary Rizzo (Cathy) was my sister and Dr. Vincent Rizzo was my brother-in-law. They were both killed by a drunk man on Hwy 50 in Kenosha county. These two people were the most loving and caring people to have lived in Kenosha. My sister was an RN and Vince was a dentist. These two people contributed over 90 years of caring for Kenoshans. They just celebrated 50 years of marriage by taking all of their children and grandchildren on an Alaskan cruise. I loved them both dearly. Please provide a sentence that is equal to what this man has done. Thank you Judge.

Thomas W. Fulmer

RECEIVED

November 12, 2019

NOV 18 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th street
Kenosha, WI
53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Honorable Bruce Schroeder,

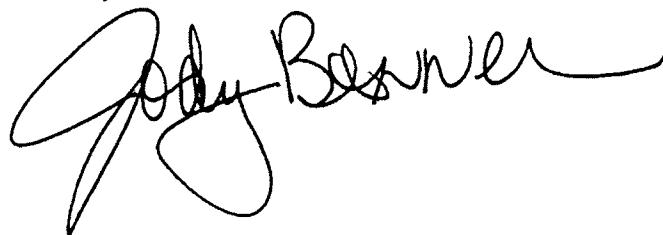
I am writing to you regarding the upcoming sentencing of Timothy Vanderveer. I couldn't imagine the weight that this decision has on you. My heart aches for all families that have been impacted by a careless decision of one. However, I ask that you make a decision that will send a message that these types of careless acts are not acceptable in Wisconsin. Also, to Tim that multiple drunk driving violations is not ok!

On April 6th, I had the unfortunate experience of telling my 2 older kids - 13 and 11 - that their Uncle John lost his parents and Uncle Mike because of the careless act of another. All of which was no accident but a decision that Timothy made to drink and drive impaired. My two older kids are both D.A.R.E graduates and understand that what Timothy did was completely wrong and preventable. Their next question was how long will he go to jail for killing 3 people. I couldn't answer that question.

As a mother and daughter, I am devastated for the Rizzo siblings. I couldn't imagine losing my parents who are still so active with their children and grandchildren. At the time of the accident, Mary and Vince were expecting 2 more grandchildren that will never know their grandparents' voices or touch. Little Gianni and baby Mary will never have a picture with their grandparents or Uncle Mike to cherish or look back on. The younger of the cousins may only have that, a picture, to remember their grandparents because they were so young when their grandparents were taken from them.

I couldn't answer my kids' question - how long will he go to jail for killing 3 people. That question is up to you Judge. What kind of message are you going to send our youth?

Sincerely,
Jody Banner



November 12, 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th street
Kenosha, WI
53140

Dear Judge,

Driving after drinking alcohol is deadly. My Uncle's parents and his uncle died in a drunk driving accident committed by another person. I think drunk driving is bad because you could put other people in danger as well as yourself. Drunk driving claims more than 10,000 lives a year. Which could be about 10,000 different families losing their loved ones. I'm sure as you already know that alcohol is a substance that decreases your ability brain, important thinking, reasoning and muscle movement. Everyday more than 30 lives are put on the line because of drunk driving. I think that if you are drunk driving you should get a ticket, but if you killed 3 people while drunk driving you should go to jail for life. This was a very hard time for my Uncle and for his family. My cousins lost their grandma and grandpa I couldn't imagine losing me grandparents. My cousin will have to grow up without grandparents and without making cookies with her grandma. This will be a very hard time for her when she grows up to know what drunk driving is and to know that her grandparents died because of drunk driving.

Sincerely,
Ana Banner
11 years old

November 12, 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th street
Kenosha, WI
53140

Dear Judge,

I think that drunk driving is horrible. That is why I'm typing to you. I am 13 years old and will be driving in 3 years. It scares me that this could have been me driving with my family or friends. I know both laws of not to drink while driving and don't drive while impaired. I also know the law if you kill a person you go to jail for life. This person killed 3 people when he was impaired. I think he should go to jail for his lifetime for what he has done. You should put him in for a lifetime because then you send a message to the other people that will do this.

Sincerely,
Bobby Banner
13 years old

Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th Street

Kenosha, WI 53140

Re: Letter of Support for Rizzo Family

RECEIVED

12/12/2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Your Honor,

I am writing to you in advance of sentencing for the senseless killing of the three Rizzo family members by the defendant. I have known the Rizzo's since the late 1980's as I was best friends with Vince (son) while in high school. They were as close to me as my own family, spending countless time at the house, sharing in their celebrations - weddings, graduations, birthdays, etc. Even though I moved to California in 1997, I have remained close and always visited when back in town. I will miss those visits but pity the grandkids who will never know their grandparents or uncle and experience that bond. They will only know them from stories and terrible tragedy that took their lives.

From afar, it amazes me at how lax drinking and driving laws are in Wisconsin, let alone the punishment. Examples of reading about people having their 8th OWI exemplify that changes are needed since the punishment is not strong enough to facilitate change. Since you cannot make law, but only rule on it, I would hope you would make an example of the defendant, sending the message that the consequences are severe when one gets behind that steering after drinking.

Respectfully Yours,



04/04/2019

Ted Schiess

6722 Cibola Road

San Diego, CA 92120

The Hon. Bruce Schroeder
912-56th St.
Kenosha, WI 53140

2332. Ramshead Lt.
Waukesha, WI 53188

RECEIVED
Nov 4th 2019

NOV - 7

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Judge Schroeder,

I am writing to you in regard to the Rizzo family tragedy that occurred in Kenosha County on the night of April 5th 2019. I understand Mr. Vanderslice will come before you on Nov. 22nd for sentencing. I would like to express my feelings and thoughts in that regard.

I first met Mary Fulmer in our freshman year of high school (we were 14 at that time) and immediately became best friends; two years later through Mary I met Vince Rizzo. That was the start of a deep friendship between the three of us that has lasted 57 years. Both Mary and I went to become Registered Nurses while Vince went on to dental school.

Through the years we have shared so many moments together, our work demands, our family stories, we have traveled together, shared many meals together and laughed about growing old together as the days have gone by.

Because a man decided to drink to excess and then drive I no longer have my friends. I miss going to their home, often unannounced, hearing them shout my name, calling out "stay, stay for dinner, with us". I miss the joy of being with

them, we still laugh about so many things. I love hearing about their children, & grandchildren. I miss picking up the phone, hearing their voices, making plans to get together.

Vince & Mary were the heart & soul of their family which also included Mike & Jerry Lizzo. I realize no punishment to Mr. Vanderwerf will bring them back but I trust in your decision to keep this man off the streets of Kenosha. I hope no other family needs to endure the grief and sadness that all of us experience. When I drive past their home I burst into tears, the sadness does not go away.

Yours very truly
Terrie Phannenstil
TERRIE PHANNENSTIL

Sophia S

Dear Judge two of my cousin don't have grandparents and my uncle doesn't have parents. I can't imagine not having my parents or grandparents.

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

RECEIVEDNovember 5th, 2019

NOV 12 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th street
Kenosha, WI
53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Honorable Bruce Schroeder:

I am writing this in regards to the sentencing of the person who killed the three members of the Rizzo family and injured one more.

As a person who has gone though the losing of a nephew from a drunk driver, I am asking you to give him the longest you can in jail. My nephew was killed coming home from work by a drunk fireman/emt who was hours after the accident was still three times over the limit. My nephew Jay has been gone for 25 years. The feel I had at he time will never go away. The murderer as I refer to him only cared out losing his job. Which my family had to have a meeting with the mayor, to make this happen. It took months for his trial and it was in front of a judge, no jury. He got six years in prison, but was out in 18 months, without my family being notified. Also, the judge gave him the weekend to go home and say goodbye to his family.

I never got to say goodbye to my nephew until he was laying in his coffin. So please judge, this this murderer as much time as you can by law. He took three lives. I know how hard it is for my family losing my nephew, can't even image what this family went though.

We need much tougher laws in Wisconsin. It Is sad that we have the weakest laws in any state. I guess some of our law makers in Madison get too much money from the bar association to change these laws. Some of them feel they just need to be educated. Lately in the news all that you see are people that have several DWI.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Hopefully you will take this in to consideration along with all the other letters that you may receive.

Sincerely

Sharon Salituro
1874 22nd ave apt 402
Kenosha, WI 53140

RECEIVED

November 9, 2019

NOV 13 2019

To: The Honorable Bruce Schroeder

RE: The Rizzo family

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Your Honor, six months ago, the Rizzo/Fulmer family's lives changed forever. What started as a lovely family evening visiting, enjoying dinner, and planning for the upcoming holiday ended in unthinkable tragedy. Three members of the Rizzo family – Mary (Fulmer) and Vincent Rizzo and Michael Rizzo – dead at the hands of a drunk driver.

I could hardly believe my ears when I heard the news. Feelings of disbelief and shock rolled through their extended family, friends and the entire community of Kenosha.

While the Rizzo/Fulmer families and their friends are grieving, the community is grieving along with them. Vincent and Michael had thriving dental and family medical practices respectively. Their patients are missing the caregivers who have tended to them and their families. And the Mount Carmel church community where the Rizzos were members are missing the parishioners who contributed so much to the parish.

Mary, Vincent, and Michael were loved by many as was demonstrated by the number of people who came to their funeral visitation/mass. People waited well over an hour and a half to pay respects to the Rizzo/Fulmer families at the funeral home. Mount Carmel church was at capacity for the funeral mass. I attended the funeral. I heard the stories and saw the photos of family gatherings, vacations, holidays, and other events. I wept with the family. I prayed with the family.

These past months without Mary, Vincent, and Michael have been very hard for the families to handle. The healing process has been slow. Some days everything is fine, and on others they fall backwards. Birthdays, holidays, and family events now feel strange for them. All the important milestones of a growing family are difficult because Mary, Vincent, and Michael are no longer around to share in them. Nothing will ever bring them back...and Jerry Rizzo, brother to Vincent and Michael and the driver of the car, will always have to live with the horror of the crash. He too was seriously injured and recovery and rehabilitation difficult alongside grief of losing his brothers and sister-in-law.

I don't want other families to experience the pain that our friends are feeling. There are a lot of things in life that you have no control over, but this senseless crash didn't have to happen. Mr. Vandevere will drink and drive again if he is permitted to escape his debt to our society. You have the power to prevent him from driving by incarceration. A maximum sentence will not bring back Mary, Vincent, and Michael. It may perhaps, discourage another Mr. Vandevere from getting behind the wheel of a vehicle and killing someone you love, your Honor. A liberal attitude towards drunk driving effects all of us. Please consider the message being sent to our community when you pass sentence on Mr. Vandevere.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sylvia McGreal

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REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTIN
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

November 11, 2019

Dear Honorable Bruce Schroeder,

We are 5th grade students at St. Anthony on the Lake School in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Currently, we are in the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program learning about the impact of drinking alcohol or other drugs and driving under the influence. One of our classmates is related to the victim's son of this drunk driving accident. The family asked if we would write a letter to you.

We want to share a few facts that we learned in D.A.R.E. Many people die from intoxicated drivers. There are about "75,000 alcohol related deaths in the United States each year." People who drink alcohol have loss of coordination and self-control. They have poor judgement and blurred vision. This is a result of alcohol slowing down the person's brain and body.

Driving while under the influence impacts more than the driver who got into the vehicle accident. Many innocent people are affected by drunk driving. The victims, their family and friends as well as the suspects family and friends. In this situation, a person lost both of his parents and uncle in this horrible accident. Please keep in mind the impact the accident had on the families, friends and the community. It is your responsibility to keep the community safe from further drinking and driving incidents.

Sincerely,
St. Anthony on the Lake 5th Grade Class

Hayes Katelyn Ian Izzy Stefan
Liam Emily Josey Caleb
Maura Gabby Logan Gigi Alessia Ava Jake
Bella Henry Kyli Niko Jackson
Deputy Kim Winger Andrew
D. Hanks

Sandra Zimbric
501 Skyview Dr
Waunakee, WI 53597
November 9, 2019

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2019

Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th St
Kenosha, WI 53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Honorable Bruce Schroeder:

In reference to the horrific accident that occurred on April 5th 2019 where Timothy Vandervere was driving drunk and killed three people- Mary Rizzo, Vincent Rizzo, and Michael Rizzo, and severely injuring Gerald Rizzo I would like to make a statement regarding the impact this extremely senseless act has had.

Losing loved ones is extremely difficult but is much more than people can handle when they are killed as a result of drunk driving. Drunk driving is senseless. Seeing the Rizzos and extended family grieve through this has been excruciating.

As I raise my three boys who are now 14 and twins that are 11, I hope that the message they learn is that drunk driving is punishable to full extent of the law and there is no mercy whether it is your first offense or your 20th offense (because I think those cases disgustingly exist). We live in a great state with culture built on beer, cheese, and fun. But that does not and should not coexist with drunk driving. This state needs a cultural shift to establish drunk driving is zero tolerance. People do it because they can get away with it, or get their hand slapped and they just do it a second time, third, 20th! What if we punish people to the full extent of the law for committing this crime and hold drunk drivers fully accountable for their actions? Sure, they were drunk when they decided to drive but before they took their first drink they were not. If a person can decide to take a drink, they can think about their potential consequences of their actions. There is NO excuse for Timothy Vandervere's actions.

I refuse to drink and drive. I have family members that have been arrested for drinking and driving, and I do not have any mercy for them. I hope you show no mercy in sentencing in this case. I'm guessing Mr. Vandervere wishes he could go back and do things different but that's just too bad. If we could bring people back from the dead then it would maybe make sense to cut him some slack. But the family is forced to live the rest of their lives without their mother, grandmother, sister, father, grandfather, uncle, brother. It seems the only choice here is to punish Mr. Vandervere to the full extent of the law.

Sincerely,



Sandra Zimbric

Sarah Deeley
300 8th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215

RECEIVED

NOV 18 2019

November 11th, 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

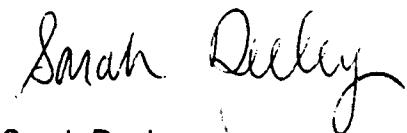
Dear Judge Schroeder,

My name is Sarah Deeley and Janet (Rizzo) Duemke is one of my dearest friends. Janet's mother, father, and uncle all lost their lives when they were struck by a drunken driver this year. The defendant's sentencing in this case will be decided on November 22nd, 2019 within your jurisdiction. I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Rizzo family as I have witnessed the aftermath of suffering that this senseless incident has had on them.

I have known the Rizzo's since 2000 when I met Janet at the beginning of our freshman year at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. We spent our spring break in Kenosha and stayed at her parents' house. Her family made us feel right at home and I remember a lot of laughter and delicious, home-cooked Italian food. Ever since then I have greatly enjoyed all the time spent with them when they would visit Janet at college and at the celebration of life events. The Rizzo's exude joy that comes from sharing life together and the love they have for one another is profound. I love spending time with them and being in the presence of their wonderful family dynamic!

Unfortunately, the Rizzo family was forever changed when Vincent, Mary, and Michael Rizzo were killed all at once by a senseless act. Janet is given reminders of this tragedy throughout every single day as she deals with the psychological shock and the bureaucratic tasks left as a result of this incident. There is a dark cloud that hangs over them now. It is very hard to see my dear friend live a nightmare that could have easily been prevented. However, I am in awe of her and her siblings' strength and believe that this is a testament to the deeply positive impact that the Rizzo parents had on their children's lives.

Sincerely,



Sarah Deeley

Dear Judge Schroeder,

I'm writing on behalf of the Rizzo Family. Our family and the Rizzo Family have been intertwined for over 30 years.

We are members of Our Lady of Mt Carmel church where I served with Vince on a finance committee and my husband worked closely with Vince at our summer festival. Mary sing in our church choir.

They were pillars in our church and we miss them dearly.

They are sorely missed by their immediate family, their church family and our entire community.

Sincerely yours,
Rosemary Sels-Aulio

Dear Honorable Judge Bruce Schroeder:

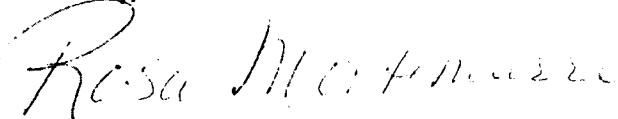
On November 22, you will be residing a decision on a drunk driver who took the lives of 3 very special people. I hope you do not disregard this letter as being any letter but to know what these 3 wonderful individuals represented in so many lives.

I will not at any time mention the drunk driver in my letter...doing so would only make my blood boil and bring back anger in my heart. This anger is directed at how the Justice system fails to work for the victims. This drunk driver was at an age where one knows the difference between right and wrong. This drunk driver jumped in a truck and was highly intoxicated...in making this decision we can no longer can see the beautiful smile that Mrs. Mary Rizzo brought into a room. We can no longer hear Dr. Vincent Rizzo let out his hilarious Laugh. Many patients, family and friends will no longer see Dr. Michael Rizzo's shy smile and be attended to as patients.

Two beautiful newborn grandkids will not be held by their grandparents. I could go on and on Judge Schroeder and I could fill sheet after sheet of what the bad decision this drunk driver took from us but that would not bring our loved ones back....but what you can do as a judge is to lock this drunk driver for life in hopes that your decision can set examples so this does not continue to happen in the State of Wisconsin.

I hope your Honor that you can begin the process of healing for the Rizzo family.

Sincerely,



Rosa Montemurro

RECEIVED

NOV - 6

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

RECEIVED

NOV - 8

Hon. Judge Schroeder

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Re. Kenosha County Case 2019CF000375

Your Honor,

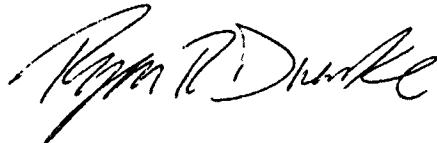
Thank you for your time and service during this process. The day of April 5, 2019 will continue to have a lasting effect on our family. I could not have asked for a more loving family to become a part of. Vincent and Mary Rizzo have always treated me more than just a son-in-law, they brought me in as another one of their children. I looked up to them and respected their wisdom and guidance. Vincent, Mary, and Michael were tremendous role models to myself and I'm sure to countless others. I'll miss those Sunday afternoons discussing and comparing our gardens that year or learning how to make the traditional Christmas Eve dinner.

I have three children. I know that my sons will have some memories to carry with them of their grandparents. My oldest will hopefully think happily back to the times Grandpa would always have a packet of fruit snacks waiting for him or riding on the lawnmower. My other son, though only two, remembers Grandma and Grandpa each night as he goes to bed and I hope his few memories never fade. He had a special bond with Michael and would always find room on the couch next to him at any family gathering. Even now he still asks about "Uncle Mike" when he finishes his bedtime prayers. My daughter will unfortunately not have those direct memories as she was born this September. There will be plenty of stories to share and laugh about with her as we try our best to convey the love these three individuals had for their family.

I appreciate your time in reading this letter. I ask that you take into consideration this and other reflections of the impact these individuals had on the lives of others. Thank you.

Regards,

Ryan Duemke



November 11, 20019

RECEIVED

NOV 18 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder:

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

I'm writing in reference to our loss of Mary Fulmer Rizzo, her husband Vince Rizzo, and Mike Rizzo. My name is Robert Fulmer Jr. Mary or Cathy as we called her, was my younger sister, and Vince was my brother in law and best friend. I was Cathy's protector before handing her over to Vince.

They were a wonderful couple. My wife and I live in Missouri. Their home was always open to us for any event when we needed to travel to Kenosha. Generous, as they always made sure we were comfortable. Cathy made little elephants out of towels that welcomed us sitting on our beds. They went out of their way to have the special things we liked: hot fudge fancies, breakfast treats, and brats. They even opened their home to my son and his family for several weeks when they relocated.

My husband traveled to Kenosha several times a year to visit Dr. Vince, his dentist. He trusted no one else. In our early years of marriage, with little money, he never worried about payment.

They were a very important part of our family. They are a piece of our family puzzle now lost. That puzzle looks broken to us now and sits somewhere incomplete.

Please see that justice is done to their murderer, Timothy G Vanderveere.
Case # 2019CF000375.

Thank you,

Robert and Mary Fulmer

RECEIVED

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder -

NOV 19 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Re: Rizzo Family / Mr Vanderveer's Sentencing

Sir, thank you for taking time to read all the letters that have been sent to you regarding the Rizzo family and the horrible tragedy that occurred.

John Rizzo, Dr Michael's nephew and son of Dr Vince and Mary, is my brother-in-law. I wanted to personally ask you to consider giving Mr. Vanderveer the maximum sentence of 40 years. Not only did Mr. Vanderveer's actions end 3 lives, he forever altered the lives of the family. Now there are two babies that will never meet their great uncle and grandparents. In one moment the lives of 3 great people were cut short and countless other people have had

(2)

Their lives turned upside down and crushed. I

understand that you and you alone need to make

This sentencing decision and unfortunately 40 years

is the max. Yes 40 years is the max value our

system places on 3 lives. 40 years is, in my

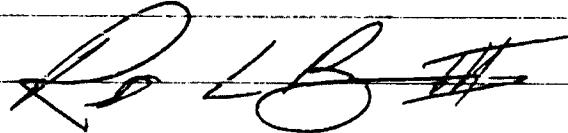
opinion low and anything lower than that will send

Several messages:

- 1) The value of life is small
- 2) Drivng drunk is really no big deal
- 3) A shorter sentence says that Mr. Vanderslice, a murderer is more important than 3 up standing members of the community

Sir, please, please for the sake of the Rizzo family & others that might consider driving drunk give Mr. Vanderslice the max sentence.

Thank you for your consideration.



(Robert L. Bennett, Jr.,

John Rizzo's brother-in-law) (2)

RECEIVED

November 2, 2019

- 8

Judge Bruce Schroeder
912 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Judge Schroeder –

For the past 10 years, April 5th has been a special day for me. On that day in 2009, I met Dr. Vincent and Mary Rizzo's oldest daughter, Cathy Koessl, after mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. So, the day that Cathy and I used to celebrate as our anniversary has now become the day that we will remember as the day that her parents and Uncle Mike were killed in a senseless drunk driving crash.

Shortly after I met Cathy, I lost my father. I remember Dr. & Mary Rizzo coming to his funeral and how much it meant to me to have them there.

I call him Dr. Rizzo, but I looked at him more like a father to me. Dr. & Mary Rizzo welcomed me into their family like I had always been a part of it. That meant a lot to me. The way I see how Cathy and her siblings treat each other with love and respect is a testament to how wonderful their parents were. It still is so hard to believe that this is actually real. It was so unnecessary for them to die because someone decided to drive while he was so drunk.

I had a drinking problem but chose to quit drinking on October 4, 2001 after a drunk driving arrest. I have not drunk alcohol since that date. I knew that I could hurt someone else by drinking and driving and so as difficult as it was for me, I chose to turn away from that life.

I just wanted to be sure you knew how wonderful they were and how unnecessary it was for them to lose their lives when they had so much more to give. I wish I had more time with them, and it was an honor to have known them.

Thank you,



Ronald Fliess



Reygoes Treaty
Pam Hegy
Verona, WI

RECEIVE
11-5-17

NOV - 8

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTIA
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Honorable Bruce Schroeder,

I'm writing to tell you how important the Reygoes were to so many.

The grandchildren will never get to spend valuable time with them. It's proven how important they are in a child's life.

Mary was such a dear person. When we got together it was a time of sharing & laughs about family.

Ort Mary was so important in Janet's life. They were always calling each other. When I worked with Janet they always checked in each day. No one no checking in.

If family wiped out by such a terrible accident. Please think of this

Pam Hegy

Learn more about the Lakota (Sioux) culture at stjo.org/culture

RECEIVED

November 13, 2019

NOV 18 2019

The Honorable Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

My name is Rita Clark. I have known the Rizzo Family for over 40 years, both professionally, working for Dr. Vincent Rizzo for many years, and personally as friends of the entire family.

This terrible, senseless and preventable crime that occurred on April 5th, 2019 has deeply touched me and my whole family. The profound sadness will affect me for the rest of my life.

These three people were caring, kind, exceptional, professional people in the community. They provided many, many years of caring and compassionate healthcare in Kenosha, and now, all of that is gone.

My hope is that you, Judge Schroeder, will give Timothy Vandevere the maximum sentence allowed by law.

This tragedy has destroyed many lives, their children, their grandchildren and many dear friends and patients.

Dr. Vince, Mary and Dr. Michael should never be forgotten.

Thank you for your time,



Rita (Maccari) Clark

RECEIVED

Dear Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

It is with a heavy heart that I am reaching out on behalf of my family. It has been a very difficult time for the Rizzo and Fulmer families since the tragic, senseless, alcohol related tragedy that took the lives of my family members. My sister-in-law, Mary Fulmer Rizzo, brother-in-law Dr. Vincent Rizzo, and his brother Dr. Michael Rizzo.

As we try to make sense of it all, we know that some things are left in Gods hands and are not in our control. I see the way the children of Mary Fulmer Rizzo and Dr. Vincent Rizzo are grieving daily. The anxiety leading up to this sentencing is weighing on them so heavily.

I understand that we are all imperfect, and have at some point in our lives, made poor decisions. This man did not have one too many drinks, get behind the wheel and cause an accident. He was driving 100 miles an hour and had a blood alcohol of nearly 4 times the legal limit. To me, this is more than just an "accident" , I have to believe that he did not care who he hurt, if he himself died that day, or who he was going to take with him.

Mary Fulmer Rizzo was my husband Dr. Jim Fulmer's sister. Mary was such a sweetheart who loved life. I don't remember her ever not having a smile on her face. Mary and Vince were wonderful parents, grandparents and pillars of the community. The very large Fulmer family is also missing these two very much. Not having their smiling faces at our family events is heart breaking. Mary had just gone shopping and bought a dress to wear to my daughter, Kaleigh Fulmer McGhee's wedding this past May. She didn't get to wear her new dress and joyfully dance the night away like I know she and Vince would have. Instead, the wedding ceremony started off with tears and heart wrenching sobs as the Pastor spoke of Mary & Vince before we had a moment of silence and prayer.

Please consider this heartless act and the effect it had on these families and our community when sentencing.

Sincerely,



Pam Fulmer

TO: Honorable Bruce E. Schroeder, Branch 3
Kenosha County Circuit Court
912-56th Street, Kenosha, WI 53140

FROM: Michele M. Martin, BSW/CSW inactive
Juvenile Court Social Worker, KCDCFS (1993-2007)
Best friend to Louisa Rizzo

TMM
RECEIVED

DATE: November 9, 2019

NOV 13 2019

RE: Circuit Court Case No: 2019-CF-000375
Victim Impact Statement

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

On April 5, 2019, the Rizzo family's lives were changed forever due to a senseless and malicious act.

I had received a call about 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from Louisa explaining the traumatic events which transpired after she and her husband Vince left the restaurant after having a family dinner with her in-law's, Dr. Vincent and Mary Rizzo, along with her uncles, Dr. Michael Rizzo and Jerry Rizzo. She struggled emotionally and was extremely distraught and in complete shock over the events. It was difficult for her to get the words out. I was in complete shock and emotionally devastated for her and her family. I, too, was numb. To think they (Vince and Louisa) had left only minutes from the restaurant before the others for their drive home. On their way home on Hwy 50, Vince and Louisa both had seen the police en route with sirens going to the scene of the accident. At home, sometime later that evening, Vince had received a call from Aurora Hospital-ER indicating his mother was in a horrific accident. His mother Mary was transported to Froedtert Hospital for severe injuries and later died. Emergency surgery was performed, but the damage was too severe. The family was there to let Mary know they were there for her as she was not alone. She had succumbed to her injuries. Knowing his mother had been with his father that evening, Vince began to make calls to St. Catherine's Hospital to locate his father's whereabouts. Vince had gone to be with his father who had later succumbed to his injuries as well. Dr. Michael Rizzo, family practice physician had died at the scene. Jerry Rizzo was transported from the scene to Froedtert Hospital. As Louisa told me every detail as she remembered, I just had chills. I, too, felt my heart racing in fear of what she was going to tell me next.

Vince, Louisa, son Vinny and the rest of their family have experienced such an unforeseen loss — unexpected deaths of their loved ones with such emotional devastation as they had less time to prepare and process their deaths. The Rizzo family had always put their family first and kept everyone close. Always celebrating birthdays, holidays and significant milestones such as anniversaries with family trips, family dinners or just spending an evening at one of their children's homes. They were loved and respected by the community as they were devoted by their profession and by faith.

Dr. Vincent and Mary Rizzo and Dr. Michael Rizzo's deaths have shaken our community. We all try to live an honorable life in faith, love for our family and our community. When we experience a loss all too soon, it leaves an impact on those they have left behind - always regretting the

things left unsaid or the milestones left to come. For example, the Rizzo family were preparing and excited about two new beautiful grandchildren who were on the way. Louisa and her family endured such a tremendous loss, left to experience signs of depression, anxiety and possibly PTSD. I have seen from Louisa, she replay over and over in her mind the aspects of their deaths. She has such a strong attachment to the event itself, she will have a constant focus of loss, as Dr. Vincent and Mary Rizzo and Dr. Michael Rizzo were gone way too soon. However, they also cherish the memories and are grateful for the time they had them in their life.

I as a parent of two 12 year old girls is reminded about our imperfect world which tries to understand how someone who could be so willful and irresponsible, can cause such devastation not only to a family, but a community as well. We keep our loved ones close as long as we are able, until we allow our children to spread their wings. But, the fear will continue to haunt us.

Please take into consideration the above mentioned statements upon sentencing this defendant on May 22, 2019. After having worked with you professionally in my capacity as a Social Worker, I am confident and trust your decision to do right by the Rizzo family. Knowing the defendant's prior criminal history and bouts of alcoholism, I implore you to impose the maximum sentence not only as a consequence for his actions, but also to ensure the safety of our community.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

RECEIVED

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th St.
Kenosha, WI 53140

NOV - 7

Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

This letter is written in support of the Rizzo Family, in anticipation of the sentencing of Tim Vanderveere on November 22nd.

Dr. Vince and Mary Rizzo's daughter-in-law is one of my best friends. I waited hours in line at Proko to pay respects and give my condolences to this wonderful family. I attended the funeral of all three Rizzo family members and it was plain to see the positive impact these three people made on everyone they met. Seeing three caskets in the aisle at Mount Carmel was very hard to comprehend.

What a nightmare the Rizzo family has gone through. Anyone who has lost a dear family member understands that death is a nightmare. But in this case, it's a nightmare that will never end. One person at the wake remarked to me that while his own elderly parents had died, they died because they were sick – but the Rizzos were *killed*. Their killer lives on. The Rizzo family lives with a nightmare.

I have prayed for all the Rizzo family, for the souls of Dr. Vince, Mary, and Dr. Mike, and for some small amount of peace to come to the family they left behind.

Very sincerely,



MaryAnn Roiniotis

10503 W Garfield Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

RECEIVED

NOV 14

November 10, 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Judge Schroeder,

My name is Mary West and I am one of Janet(Rizzo) Duemke's best friends. Janet is the youngest of the four kids in the Rizzo family. Janet & I met freshman year @ UWM. We were fast friends & spent our first spring break in Kenosha with the Rizzo family. Mary Rizzo made us an authentic home cooked Italian meal! It was delicious & we had a ball with the Rizzos. This was the start of many memories to come. From Janet's graduation party, wedding day, to baby showers etc. I can assure you that the Rizzo family is top notch!! Getting to know them & being a small part of their family tradition has meant so much to me!

Unfortunately, the action of one man has taken the lives of three amazing individuals in the Kenosha community who meant so much to many. My best friend Janet lost both her parents & uncle all in one night!! This didn't have to happen!! Vanderveere shouldn't have been driving!! This could have been prevented. Please give Vanderveere the maximum sentence.

Sincerely,

Mary West

Mary West

RECEIVED

OCT 31

10-25-19

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
KERN COUNTY COURT

Dear Judge Schmitz,

My name is Mary King, and my husband, Patrick, and I were both patients of Dr. Michael Rizzo for 25 years.

The loss of Dr. Mike has not only been devastating for us, but also for this community.

Dr. Mike and his staff were like family to us. They all genuinely cared about us, and we genuinely cared about them.

Dr. Mike always entered the exam room with a wonderful smile on his face. He was a great listener, and we knew he would treat us with the same care and concern he would give a family member.

He also had a great sense of humor. We felt like a million bucks whenever we left his office.

Aurora would send out surveys after our visits. We would always give a 10 to

(2)

every category for his rating. And in the "comment" section I always let Aurora know that if all of their employees were as kind & caring as Dr. Mike and his staff, every patient would be happy to go to their doctor.

My husband and I went to the wake and the funeral. It left us speechless to see all the love for this family. There was not a dry eye in Church when the three caskets were carried in by so many pall bearers. It just broke our hearts. And then the beautiful children of Dr. Vincent Lizzo and his wife, Mary, spoke about Dr. Mike and about their parents. What an amazing family, and how very sad that they have all this suffering through no fault of their own.

That is why we are writing to you, Judge Schroeder, to ask you to do what is right and just,

(3)

to sentence Mr. Vandervort to the maximum penalty available under the law. All actions have consequences, and surely the actions of this man must have the most severe consequences possible.

He stole the joy from the Ringers family for their lifetime. No more birthday celebrations, holidays together, graduations, births, and on and on. He is responsible for their suffering. He was selfish & irresponsible. He thought of no one but himself. He never even thought of his own family! Some things in life are unforgivable, and the murder of three innocent lives and the heartache for their loved ones and for this community is so reprehensible that this man must never be allowed to be free again.

Thank you for taking our letter into consideration, Judge.

Sincerely,
Patrick & Mavis Ring

Maria Merritt
5308 24th Place
Kenosha, WI 53144

RECEIVED

12 10/12/2019

November 6, 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Re: Sentencing in case 2019CF000375 Timothy Vandervere

To the Honorable Judge Schroeder,

I am writing this letter to express my wish for a maximum sentence for Mr. Timothy Vandervere.

A loophole in the system and the lack of communication between states allowed him to get a legal driver's license, despite a lengthy record of drinking and driving. He is now held responsible for driving drunk and killing three members of the Rizzo family.

This tragedy was preventable through tougher driving laws and communication between the states. I feel this tragedy should be used to bring about action in changing the driving laws in Wisconsin.

I am asking for the maximum sentence for Mr. Vandervere, not only to honor the lives he has taken, but also to prevent this senseless tragedy from happening to another family.

Please use Mr. Vandervere as an example of the horrific consequences of driving while intoxicated.

Sincerely,



Maria Merritt

RECEIVED

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder

NO 12

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

I am writing to you on behalf of Mary, Vincent and Michael Rizzo who no longer can speak on their own behalf because of a senseless, brutal accident cause by a despicable drunk with no concern for his fellow human beings and whose inebriated, selfish actions cause the death of three amazing, professional and devoted people.

I am a seventy-five year old teacher who has known Mary for sixty-eight years. She was my best friend since grade school and the matron of honor at my wedding. I have known Vince, her husband for fifty years ever since they were married. I only know Michael through his reputation from his patients who loved him.

I am close to Vince and Mary's family. I am Cathy's Godmother.

Mary would have turned seventy-five this November... a huge day for celebration..... but there will be none!

A grandchild was recently born to Mary and Vince who they will never have the joy of seeing, loving, holding, spoiling. This child will be deprived of knowing and loving two amazing people who she- Mary, (named after her grandmother) could call grandma and grandpa and whose life- undoubtably -would have been much richer with them in it.

Not only family, friends, and neighbors are feeling the loss of Mary, Vince and Michael, but also HUNDREDS of patients who have relied on them for their physical well being for years and years and who now have had to find new physicians. To the older patients this is a difficult and even traumatic experience.

All of this sorrow, anxiety, loss and anger is felt by hundreds of people. I myself still shed tears when I think of my good friend Mary and the joy she brought to my life with her sense of humor and mega-watt smile and the love she and Vince shared.

The drunk who took so much from so many needs to be punished for MURDERING three amazing people. And I understand this was not his first offense of DUI. He is a constant danger to society. I am begging you to punish him to the full extent of the law. And even that will not be enough. This miserable person lives. Three amazing human beings do not! I am begging you for JUSTICE!

Sincerely,



Marianne Lara

Steven and Maria Riesenbergs
27 New Hampton Road
Washington, NJ 07882

RECEIVED

November 2, 2019

NOV - 7 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th Street
Kenosha, WI
53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

RE: Kenosha County Case # 2019CF000375 State of Wisconsin vs. Timothy G. Vandevere

Dear Honorable Schroeder,

We are writing to you regarding the case of Mary Rizzo, her husband, Vincent, and brother-in-law, Michael, who were killed on April 5 of this year by a drunk driver.

We have never met Mary before but we have known for quite a while about how wonderful a person she was from stories told us by her sister, brother-in-law, nephews, and nieces. We are good friends of Mary's sister, Lori Finnegan, and her family. Mary and Vincent made positive contributions to their community, their church, and their children's lives. Lori used to joke about how often her sister would tell her how she wished she and her husband could retire from Vincent's dental practice so that they could spend more time with family and friends. They were in the process of transitioning into that phase of their lives when a selfish, irresponsible man decided to kill them.

Mr. Timothy Vandevere made his own choices. He chose to drive even though his license had been revoked in another state because of DUI. Were it not for an unfortunate difference in laws between Illinois and Wisconsin, three well loved human beings would still be alive. He was the one who decided to drink into inebriation knowing very well he had to drive himself to his next destination. No other person was responsible for the death of three innocent individuals except for him.

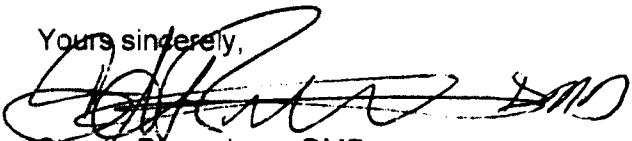
Because of his actions, he sentenced dozens and dozens of friends, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts, in-laws, daughters, sons, and co-workers to a lifetime of loss. The Rizzos lost three members of their family. That's three death sentences for them!

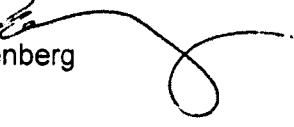
Our own dear brother-in-law, Ronnie Ty Diaz, was killed by an unlicensed, uninsured drunk driver on May 3, 1997. He didn't stand a chance. His car was sideswiped by a 100 mph moving vehicle and it fell on a California freeway killing him instantly. He also received a death sentence. We all received a lifetime sentence of grief that to this day is as hurtful as it was when our sister screamed and sobbed over the phone, "Ronnie is dead!"

Your Honor, we ask you to please consider the lifetime of sorrow that has befallen all those who loved and depended on Mary, Vincent, and Michael. We implore you to mete out what we believe is the only just punishment against serial offender unapologetic Mr. Vanderveere: the maximum sentence for each life taken. How dare he even plead not guilty?

We hope that this letter would somehow convince you that the ripple effect of one man's selfishness extends far beyond Wisconsin and would be long felt by everyone affected for at least one more generation.

Yours sincerely,


Steven Riesenber, DMD


Maria Riesenber

Dear Judge my cousins grandpa, grandma and uncle are dead. My uncle is sad he has no mom, dad or cousin. I can not imagine growing up like that. My cousins will be sad on grandparent's day who will they celebrate. They are probably not going to remember them. When they are toddlers I have never seen them.

From Lydia Stemo, Age 9

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

RECEIVEDNovember 3rd, 2019

NOV - 7

Dear Honorable Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

My name is Luisa Montemurro and I am writing you this letter with great disdain for Wisconsin's lax drunken driving laws. I find it absolutely horrifying that there are people who are allowed free to roam and live their lives while they have multiple drunken driving convictions. This is an embarrassing fact and what's even more disgusting is that this keeps happening over and over again – what kind of message are we sending to society if there are no consequences to these actions.

"Drunk driving kills someone every 48 minutes" – this is not only repulsive but is clearly condoned by Wisconsin's laws. It is hard to comprehend that people are still drinking and driving nowadays while there are such resources as Uber, taxis, buses and Lyft, to name a few.

SafeHome.org found there are 406.2 DUI arrests per 100,000 residents in Wisconsin. As of October of 2019, Wisconsin ranks in the top 9 states for drunken driving fatalities, not the statistics we should be making history with.

So now to the core of my letter to you, I'm sure you know the above-stated statistics but do you really know the impact of these statistics? On April 5th, 2019 a reckless, useless member of society senselessly murdered three members of the Rizzo family. I'm sure you've heard the details but just to put into perspective the veracity of the scenario: Dr. Vincent and Mary, along with Dr. Michael and Jerry, were driving home after a *family* dinner and were hit from behind by a driver (whom I will not give the respect to use his name) at over 100 miles per hour – this was not a teenager who made a 'stupid' choice, this was a grown man who not only knew better BUT had already been involved in an alcohol-related crash in his life. Due to loopholes and lax laws, this man was allowed to still have a license and in turn was allowed to murder three members of the same family. Shame on Wisconsin for allowing these things to happen and for everyone to have to listen to statistics on the news and radio, i.e. there is a Wisconsin resident who was free, about to be on trial for her 7th DUI and she caused an 8th DUI crash, why oh who was she free to begin with?

On November 22nd, 2019 you have the power to break the cycle and make an example of the useless, piece of garbage who committed numerous crimes and offenses on April 5th, 2019 – it is bad enough to make dumb choices and drive drunk, but what is even worse is the impact that this has had not only on the Rizzo family, but on the community. This act cost the city of Kenosha not only three respected, medical professionals their lives, but it robbed the city of three contributing members of society whom had an impact that cannot be touched. You have the power to speak up and set the standard for drunk drivers, we need to be a zero tolerance state and I feel like so many people think: What can I do? I'm just one person. Now is the time to speak up, step up and become the gold standard by which all other counties, regions and states should be measured. Instead of Wisconsin being in the statistics for lax drunken driving laws, let's start now and turn these statistics

around - it all starts with you, there are many people depending on you to make the right choice and I am holding you to an honorable standard to set an example of this drunken driver and make November 22nd, 2019 the beginning of a new regime in the state of Wisconsin where we follow our state motto of FORWARD.

Respectfully Yours,



Luisa Montemurro

P.S. You should also pursue pressing charges on the drunken driver's worthless brother whom the drunken driver was with all day AND who did not have any sense or brains to stop his brother, he is just as responsible.

September 9, 2019

RECEIVED

Judge Honorable Bruce E. Schroeder
Courtroom 209
Chamber 213
Kenosha, Wisconsin

SEP 27 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Judge Bruce Schroeder,

Thank you for not accepting the No Contest plea agreement for Timonthy Vandervere.

I am Mary (Fulmer) Rizzo's youngest sister Lori Fulmer Finnegan. I am deeply hurt by the actions of Timothy Vandervere. He took the life of my sister and my brother in law Vince Rizzo and His brother Mike Rizzo, while also hurting his other brother Jerry. I have known and loved all these people my whole life. Since I was born, Mary (Cathy we call her in our family, her middle name) had been dating My brother in law Vincent Rizzo when I was born. He was more than a brother in law. He was always in my life, my family. Vince and Cathy (Mary) have always been there for me and now they aren't here anymore because of the decision that Timothy Vandervere made on the day of April 5, 2019. He knowingly drank in excess and then drove his vehicle very drunk killing them. He has shown no remorse or even guilt on his own by trying to get the no contest plea. Cathy, Vince, Mike and Jerry would do anything for others. They were such good people and always giving of their talent and time to the community. They were very good to our family. Cathy would hold my hand any time I went to the dentist, Vince. They would always give me encouragement through the good times and the difficult times. She took such good care of my parents. She watched my dying cancer filled father on the night of my high school graduation so my mother could be with me. He died that night, but Cathy gave me one parent at my high school graduation. She would always be my second mom. Always so happy about my 10 kids and what they have done with their lives. She was always giving me confidence that I was also a good person, just like she was. Now her own children and grandchildren have no mother and no grandmother on this earth. My daughter Mary was born on my sister Mary's birthday, but My sister Mary cannot be around for her own granddaughter Mary's birth. Her daughter Janet is having her granddaughter Mary this October, but Vandervere stopped her life here on earth. That was not God's plan. Tim Vandervere killed my sister by his own choice. He could have just killed himself without taking others with him, but he wasn't even successful at killing himself. Not that I wanted him too, but it seems like that was his intention. I pray for him and I hope that he can on his own admit his guilt and repent. I hope he can see all these people in heaven someday by changing his life and working each day to stay sober and do good for others. He can do nothing now to bring my sister, my brother in law and Mike back to earth, but he can do good for others in prison. I hope that you do send him to prison for the rest of his life. I hope he can serve others in prison. I hope he can somehow help his wife in

prison, by giving her hope that he can change his horrible life around. This was not just one time of drinking and driving. This was his life and he never stopped not even after hurting someone 14 years ago. I hope he gets help in prison to become un-addicted to drugs(alcohol), but that he is never free to lie and drink alcohol and drive again to kill again. Please don't let him get out. Please keep him in and others safe on Wisconsin roads.

My hope also is that WI get stiffer laws against drunk driving and joins the Drivers License Compact.

Thank you for your time and for your service to others.

Sincerely,



Lori J. Fulmer Finnegan

23 Youmans Avenue

Washington, NJ 07882

Mary Fulmer Rizzo's sister

RECEIVED

OCT - 9 2019

October 5, 2019

Dear Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you on this six month anniversary of the horrific crash that claimed the lives of my beloved Father and Mother-in-law, Dr. Vincent and Mary Rizzo, and my beloved Uncle, Dr. Michael Rizzo. To say that the last six months have been a living nightmare for my family and me is a huge understatement. Please allow me to give you a glimpse of the wonderful people that are gone too soon as a result of the actions of the defendant, Timothy Vanderveere. All three of the victims have served the community as medical providers for the last forty plus years. Dad worked as a dentist, Mom as a registered nurse, and Uncle Mike as a Family Practice physician. The love and respect that their patients have for the three of them was clearly evident in the enormous outpouring of love and support that they have shown our family these past six months. To this day, when I run into a former patient, I still hear how much he/she has been positively impacted by his/her relationship with Dad, Mom, or Uncle Mike. At times, I find myself comforting the patients as they give me their condolences. The fact that the entire Kenosha community is mourning their lives brings me both great comfort and enormous sadness. However, I know that you are aware of all of this because of the vast amount of media coverage that their story has attracted.

What you may not know is what beautiful people these victims were both inside and out. Mom, Dad, and Uncle Mike absolutely loved their family. Holidays were filled with laughter and joy as we would celebrate together. Just the week before the crash, we celebrated Dad's birthday with a party at my house. Dad was in his glory because he was surrounded by his children and grandchildren. I will forever fondly remember how he looked at my 19 year old son that evening and commented that he was getting older, but he would still plan on being at my son's wedding some day. Sadly, that is never going to be a possibility. Since their passing, we have welcomed two new grandchildren, Gianni Michael Rizzo and Mary Jean Duemke, that will never know their grandparents, nor their Uncle Mike.

Mike was always very close to us, too. He never had children of his own, but he treated all of us as if we were his children. He took my husband, Vince, under his wing when Vince began his career as a Family Practice Physician. For 19 years, Mike served Vince as a wonderful mentor, colleague, and friend.

Sadly, because of the poor choices on behalf of the defendant, my life will never be the same. The holidays will come and go with three seats at my Christmas table forever vacant. Dad, Mom, and Mike will never see my son get married or graduate from

Marquette University, which was Dad's Alma Mater. They will never see their younger grandchildren grow up and never get to sit in the stands at their basketball and baseball games which they loved to do, as they watched my son play sports for many years.

I could go on and on about the wonderful people they were, but sadly, no amount of words or tears will bring them back. So, this is where I turn to you. I trust that you will weigh all of your options carefully and examine all angles of this tragic story when deciding on the defendant's fate. I also trust that you will be mindful of the fact that this was not the defendant's first offense. At 40 years old, I would have hoped he would have had the maturity and common sense to not get behind the wheel after having a Blood Alcohol Content of .316, almost four times the legal limit. However, that did not happen. Please keep this in mind as you decide his sentencing. I am not looking for revenge or vengeance. Instead, I am hoping for a sentence that will prevent him from getting behind the wheel and making this extremely poor choice again in the future, and quite possibly shattering another family's lives, as he did to my family. I will be sitting in the courtroom on Friday, November 22nd, when the sentencing is taking place. I am hopeful that justice will be served that day because that is the least anyone can do for Vincent, Mary, and Michael Rizzo, three beautiful souls, gone too soon. Thank you very much for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,



Louisa R. Rizzo

RECEIVED

Judge Schroeder

NOV 12 2019

Case Number 2019CF000375

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Honorable Judge Schroeder,

Thank you for your years of service to our fine community and for taking your precious time to read this letter. I do not envy the burden that must come with the sentencing of criminals, and I know you do not take the great responsibility lightly. Therefore, it is not my place to tell you how you should proceed with the sentencing of Timothy Vanderveere, but I will reinforce some concerns.

As confirmed by his plead of guilty, the fateful events of April 5th this year were not an accident. Having a suspended Wisconsin license did not deter him from driving, but instead, had him skirt the system and get an Illinois license. His blood alcohol level of 0.316 attests to years of misuse and tolerance. If it was a random act of overconsumption, he would not have been able to even reach such a level and still be upright. It was his choice to break the law, get annihilated, not to use the readily available Uber/Lyft/taxi, and kill 3 people. These were the choices of a grown man, and now he needs to be accountable for those actions.

On the brink of Illinois legalizing recreational marijuana, this sentence is paramount in letting everyone know the importance of not driving impaired. Please let everyone locally know they will be protected by the law, and consequences for breaking it will be severe. Let the state of Illinois know, no impaired drivers are welcome.

A prolonged sentence may ruin the life of Timothy Vanderveere, but that was his choice. The lives of Dr. Vincent, Mary, and Dr. Michael Rizzo are gone. The lives of Gerry, Kathy, Vince, Janet and John Rizzo ruined forever. The countless lives of siblings, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, patients, friends, forever changed for the negative, all at the expense of Timothy Vanderveere's choices.

Sincerely,


Leonardo Montemurro

RECEIVED

Kara Pierce

NOV 18 2019

9610 28th Avenue North
Plymouth, MN 55441REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

November 13, 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th Street
Kenosha, WI
53140

To The Honorable Bruce Schroeder,

I'm writing to share a victim impact statement regarding the loss of Mary Rizzo, Vince Rizzo, and Michael Rizzo in a senseless alcohol-related vehicular tragedy in April 2019.

Mary was my mom's older sister, making Mary & Vince my Aunt & Uncle. I have many fond memories of them hosting family picnics and big Christmas celebrations. You see, we have a large family with many aunts & uncles, cousins, and now kids of cousins. The number of relatives still alive does not make the impact of losing Mary, Vince, and Mike any less tragic. They were full of love and life. Always a smile and a hug to be given. And because of a senseless act, we will never see them again.

The part that is so heart-braking is that it could have been avoided. The lack of cooperation across WI/IL state lines is something that needs to be prioritized and fixed so that other families won't have to experience the mourning and loss we are going through.

Please consider the sentencing carefully. The arrogance of the defendant is narcissistic and avoidable. He does not belong in society.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Kara Pierce
(Niece of Mary & Vince Rizzo)

RECEIVED

NOV 13 2019

Your Honorable Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
My name is John Rizzo and I'm the third in line of the four siblings who lost their ~~parents~~ OF CIRCUIT COURT
Vincent C. Rizzo & Mary C. Rizzo, and uncle, Michael J. Rizzo, on the night of April 5th and into
the morning of April 6th of this year due to a completely preventable vehicular accident caused
by the irresponsible and selfish choices of defendant Timothy Vandervere.

The defendant is a man I've never met. He is a man that I had never even heard of prior to April 5th. But on that evening, he drastically altered my entire family.

He hurt my uncle Jerry not only physically, but also emotionally and mentally by taking away the only family he had. He killed my uncle Mike, one of the friendliest persons anyone could meet. He killed my parents, BOTH parents, who I love so dearly and who were so outwardly blatant with their love for their surviving family, a close family that will never again be able to see or speak to their mother and father again.

Timothy Vandervere broke one of the most tender families to ever reside in the city of Kenosha. He took away my parents, who I relied on for love and support, guidance and wisdom. He eliminated the laughter from uncle Mike which was so often heard. He made the enormous smile that my mother had on her face at almost all times disappear forever. He, took away the opportunity to enjoyably argue with my father, challenging each other with differing approaches and viewpoints to life as we had done for the past 40 years.

These current circumstances all came about due to the defendant choosing to consume alcohol at a quantity so great, that it increased his BAC to a level of nearly four times the legal limit. While most individuals would not only be unable to have any manageable motor control with a BAC level equivalent to his, most would actually find this level of intoxication to be extremely life threatening, leading to little, if any, comprehension of where one is with the possibility of unconsciousness becoming onset. Yet at a BAC level such as this, the defendant was able to operate a vehicle. I find this very evident to the familiarity he must have to consumption of this level. Subsequent to excessive drinking, the defendant then proceeded to enter into a vehicle and drive at a speed nearing 100 miles per hour, a speed of double the posted speed limit.

This action is not merely a mistake. This action is not bad judgement. This scenario is not descriptive of a one-time error in judgement. This event is expressive of an individual whose intentional and dangerous choice has been legally documented in multiple states. This scenario parallels events that the defendant has historically acted in and has previously forced the revocation of his driver's license here in Wisconsin. I'll repeat that portion again; the defendant committed this crime while driving a vehicle in a state in which he is not allowed to hold a valid driver's license. As I just previously stated, that action was not a mistake. This was a conscious decision, known by the individual to be inappropriate and yet still chosen. While I do not know his history for driving in Wisconsin since his license revocation, I would caution anyone to believe this was merely his first time.

Your Honor, I'd like you to know that since the moment that I found out of this incident, unlike my siblings, I've never once had anger towards the defendant. I've never once felt hatred towards him. I've honestly spent very little time thinking about him. Rather, I've only had the desire to not know anything about him other than the legal facts that exist and to hope that in

the future very little time will be taken out of my life thinking about him again. At this time, however, it is important that I do take a moment to request that you look at all this individual has done. Look at all that he has taken away. Look at his history and record not only in Wisconsin, but elsewhere (Illinois) regarding dozens of documented bad decisions relating to vehicular use. Please think about how little he has learned over his life regarding how his actions can negatively affect others. Please take into consideration all these items when imposing your sentence. Please think about all the lives that my parents and uncle have touched and helped over their years in the medical industry and how the ripple effect of there caring for patients had been cut short. Understand that the defendant's actions not only affect the occupants of the car, the family of those individuals, but also the hundreds and hundreds of patients who are also affected. Please provide a sentence that represents the severity of the impact that he has created with his irresponsible actions. Please provide a sentence that will allow me to never have to think about him again over the course of my lifetime.

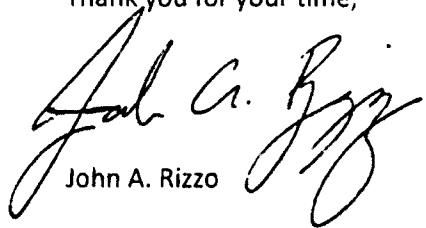
There are a few images that continuously cross my mind when I think about my parents that I want to share with you. While I wouldn't say these images haunt me, they are what run through my mind at some point every day.

- The voice message on my phone from my brother (who've I've always viewed as an emotionally strong individual) which was left with an obviously crying voice stating "John you need to call me back right now, you need to call me back!!". This message was followed up with direct call shortly after where he indicated "we lost our **daddy** tonight". My brother had never referred to our father as daddy. This has since been such an obvious indication to me of how broke he was that evening through the chaos of not knowing the status of our mother, our uncle Mike (or even where he was at that time) and our uncle Jerry.
- Sitting in the post-op hospital room with my mothers lifeless body, my hand under her gown holding her ankle where it was obvious there were multiple breaks in her leg which at that time were intentionally ignored from medical attention, as the surgeon explained to my family that he had done everything he could, but that the accident was so sever that everything within her body had just been completely crushed. Her chest was crushed. Her pelvis was crushed, her internal organs were crushed, and the excessive amount of internal bleeding was just so highly problematic. It was at this time that he indicated that there would be no positive life option in her future. All of this as I just continued to hold her leg feeling all the mis-shaped bones which were not even on the scale of her physical concerns.
- Stopping at the police impound to collect my parents belongings that were left in the car and seeing how the back end of the car was touching the back side of the driver seat. Not understanding how six or seven feet of car is able to disappear (condense) in such a way. There was no longer any back-seat area, which is where my parents were sitting. I just can not understand what happened to their bodies, or how any of the first responders were able to extricate their bodies. While all three of my siblings were present with me, I was the only one that approached the vehicle, and I'm so thankful of the fact that none of them had to experience what I did.

- I think about how my baby daughter showed affection to my father like no other grandchild had. How all children loved my mother, but how there was a special relationship with her and her grandpa. Images of her running into their house, asking for him and grabbing his legs with her tiny arms, offering him hugs before anyone else are all the first to come to mind. I also reflect on the images of her sitting on his lap and playing the organ in their house, away from all others congregating in the house, just her and grandpa.
- One of the last times my daughter saw her grandfather, we visited him at his office the Sunday morning just prior. After so many conversations with her on what a dentist is and what he does, she was so excited to practice sitting in his "**UP-DOWN Chair**", mouth wide open with napkin pinned around her neck and the bright light shining in her mouth. I know it meant so much to him to have the opportunity to help her feel comfortable with that process even if it was just for fun.
- Regret of not ever telling Uncle Mike that Gianni Michael was named after him. I wanted him to know how much we loved and respected him. I wanted to surprise him with naming our baby boy after him.
- My wife was 8 months pregnant with Gianni Michael at the time of the accident. My mother would touch my wife's belly and tell her how much the baby boy is loved and how she could not wait to meet him. It hurts so much that they never got the opportunity to hold him and how he never got the opportunity to experience their love.
- I think about all the buildings that I've designed or built in my career that even at the age of 40, I would walk my parents through, impressing them with their beauty and size and feeling so comforted by their obvious pride in me and my accomplishments.
- While my mother aged and teased me about her how her memory was not as good as it used to be, I'd respond with "do you know my name, my wife's, my daughter's?". She was certainly able to answer positively to each, to which I would respond. You have no memory issues that I'm concerned with.
- I think about how much my parents were against alcohol. Neither one drank. When I say neither drank, I mean that with only the slightest caveat. My father would blend slow-gin fizz drinks on Christmas eve for attendees. In it, he would include 1 shot alcohol in an entire carafe, not per glass, but in the entire blender carafe. My mother would only have one as she was cautious to never have too much alcohol. As for my father, I recall being 12 years old and seeing him cut the grass one day where it was over 100-degrees out. Dripping in sweat after finishing, he looked in the refrigerator and saw there was only a few beer cans from a previous party and no soda. Reluctantly, he took a few sips from the ice-cold drink and threw it out telling me how he couldn't drink a can a beer as he dislikes alcohol so much. Over the course of my life, the only other alcohol I've seen him drink was in a frozen grasshopper ice-cream drink, where he wanted the drink "so thick his spoon would stand up in it and if that means leaving the alcohol out, so be it". He really just wanted mint ice-cream. On the date they were killed, Mom, Dad, Mike and Jerry were drinking chocolate milk at the church fish boil. It is so heart breaking to know that they were killed by a drunk driver when they were so adamant against drinking alcohol at any level in the first place.

In closing, Your Honor, I just want you to know how much my parents and uncle were loved by their family and by the community. Please keep in mind how important it is that you and the State of Wisconsin take drunk-driving seriously. Drinking and driving is not a mistake, it is a conscious dangerous act that our state needs to recognize is an epidemic that needs to be truly addressed. The repercussions need to align with the severity of the act. I ask that you keep the impacts of not only the Rizzo family, but the entire Kenosha community in mind as you impose your sentencing.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Rizzo".

John A. Rizzo

RECEIVED

11-06-2019 - 6:27 AM

To the Honorable Bruce Schroeder,

November 2, 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

To be read and considered for the sentencing of Timothy Vandervere.

Today on my husbands 41st birthday, we would typically be driving to Kenosha to spend the weekend with his family. His parents (Vince and Mary Rizzo) would always cook one of Johns favorite meals, pasta! Instead we are headed to MY parents' home where we will try to fill the void of not having his parents (Vincent and Mary Rizzo) and his Uncle Mike Rizzo with us for another special occasion.

Over the last 7 months I have had to celebrate numerous moments without our entire family. The most significant being the birth of my son, who was to be named after Uncle Mike. As with our previous child we were keeping the name a secret. In retrospect I greatly regret this, as Uncle Mike never knew that I was 8 months pregnant with our very own Gianni Michael Rizzo, when his and my in-laws lives were cut tragically short by a horrendous and 100% preventable accident. I missed mom (Mary) touching my pregnant belly and telling me how happy she was that John and I found each other and how excited she was for another grandchild. She was the most the most giving and selfless woman, who from the first moment I met her told me she loved me and made me feel as if I was one of her children and part of the family already.

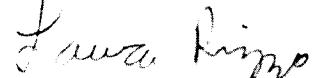
Through all the monumental moments our family has endured without Vince, Mary and Mike the hardest moments are the little ones. Those are the moments that happen several times a day, every day. For instance, when my 3-year-old daughter gets super excited when we pull into grandma and grandpas' driveway, because she gets to see them and sit on grandpa's lap and play the organ. When she starts to cry because we tell her, once again, that they are not home as they are in heaven now and her guarding angels. Trying to find the right words to explain to her when she asks through tears, "why", "why are they in heaven", "why can't I see them anymore", and the hardest... when my baby girl says through a 3-year-olds tear stained face... "I miss them". Oh, we miss them too. More than anyone can imagine.

As on the evening of April 5, 2019 Timothy Vandervere didn't only change and impact his life and his families lives he impacted an entire community, in fact communities throughout two States and destroyed our family. Through the strength that Vince and Mary instilled in their children I watched my husband (John Rizzo) and his three siblings; Cathy Koessl, Vince Rizzo and Janet Duemke hold themselves together as they planned not one but THREE funerals, as well as provide the much needed support to the last living elder of the Rizzo family, Gerry Rizzo, who was still hospitalized and in shock to learn his entire immediate family were killed.

When I think back to Friday, April 5, 2019 I remember how beautiful the day was and how prior to receiving a call at 10:06pm, I had been attending a Brewer game and how excited I was to get home to show my daughter I had caught a homerun ball from the game. Now whenever I drive by the Brewer stadium or walk past that homerun ball or even see the Brewer logo I am overcome with an immediate and sometimes debilitating sadness. I have an immediate repeat of the phone call I received and saying over and over again "dad is gone, dad is gone", followed by the recall of the next 8 hours, where we sat at the hospital hoping that mom would pull through and waiting to hear the news about Uncle Mike and Uncle Gerry. This happens EVERY time a reference to the Brewers comes up and I can only pray that with over time this response will dull.

Above all else the biggest influence Timothy Vandervere's action has had on me and my children is the direct impact on my ability to bond with my newborn Gianni Michael and my continued fear that a routine outing or activity will result in his or his sister's death. As how could the choice of our family going out to a church fish fry on a beautiful Friday afternoon end so tragically. I'm terrified to connect to closely with Gianni in fear that I will lose him too. Over the last 6 months I have routinely met with individuals to help me cope with the loss of Dad, Mom and Uncle Mike but I fear that my trust in others and their actions has impacted me irreversibly. Therefore, I plead with you as you consider your sentencing on November 22, 2019 you take into consideration not the three lives that were taken from us all, but of those who hadn't even been born and how one man's actions on a beautiful Friday afternoon destroyed so much. This is an individual that had children of his own and was old enough to know that the actions he made have consequences and that he NEEDS to spend the rest of his life incarcerated with no chance of parole so that he CANNOT be released to have the opportunity to destroy anyone else's family.

Laura Rizzo



Enclosed: are three pictures for you so that you can see some of the memories my daughter and I have with her grandparents. The first of many times that they played the organ together and one of several outings mom and dad had with our family.







RECEIVED

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th street
Kenosha, WI 53140

NOV - 6

November 6, 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Judge Schroeder,

I am writing as a first cousin to Vince, Cathy, John and Janet Rizzo, and on behalf of the greater Fulmer family, who are still reeling from the loss of my Aunt Mary Rizzo, Uncle Vince Rizzo, and Uncle Vince's brother, Uncle Mike Rizzo. Their senseless deaths, at the reckless hands of a drunk driver, have irrevocably changed the lives of my family and have left an absence that will darken every family holiday, wedding, baptism, funeral, and gathering for the rest of our lives.

In the wake of such profound loss, it is hard to make sense of daily life. Memories flood my senses, and I see the backs of my mother, my Aunt Mary (she went by "Aunt Cathy" to us), and my Aunt Jody peeling potatoes and carrots over the kitchen sink at the old house; I can hear their conversation, their laughter, the slice of the metal peeler on the hard vegetable edge, and the soft drop of the skins in the sink. The years of their lives roll out in front of them and behind them, connecting their sons and daughters in the same thin spiral they shake into the kitchen sink.

My Aunt Cathy was my mom's eldest sister, and the second of nine children. When I close my eyes, I can still hear her voice, her laugh, in my head. As a child, I remember baking Christmas cookies with Aunt Cathy at Grandma's house and sharing hot fudge sundaes (extra fancy) with her from The Spot. I remember riding in the backseat of her station wagon with my cousins and playing in their backyard during long summer afternoons.

Many of our family Christmases were at Aunt Cathy and Uncle Vince's home, but they did more than merely host: Aunt Cathy made the costumes for our family Christmas pageant: she sewed the angel gowns and fashioned the wings and halos out of tinsel and tissue paper; she gathered bath towels and canes for the shepherd cloaks and staves; she led the singing of *Silent Night* and, when my grandma passed, carried the torch of reading the story itself from the family Bible. Of all my aunts, she reminded me most of our grandma, and she cared for us in the same, loving way.

The terrible, horrific accident that killed my family members could have been prevented. Life will never be the same for my family without them, and I ask that you consider this profound loss as you determine the sentence for the drunk driver. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Katie Houlihan Belanger



RECEIVED

10/11 - 2

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

11/16/19

DEAR SIR,

I CANNOT IMAGINE THE
Sorrow THAT OVERCAME
my former coworker,
Janet Dumke, when
she lost her parents and
uncle in a horrible
accident... Her father -
her kids' grandparents -
her uncle - all gone in
ONE DAY. As a mom I
CAN'T IMAGINE TRYING TO
WEAR MY MIND AROUND SUCH
AN INCIDENT.

Yours job must put you



IN A WORLD ON A DAILY
BASIS, WHAT STORIES
OF TRAGIC HAPPENINGS,
AFFECTING SO MANY, MUST
COME ACROSS YOUR DESK.
MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU,
SIR. I KNOW YOU WILL DO
YOUR BEST TO HELP HEAL
SUCH OPEN WOUNDS.

most sincerely,

Ja-Ja Howe

November 2, 2019

RECEIVED

RCP - 7

Honorable Bruce Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

The day Mr. Vandervere chose to drink and drive, he stole three very important people in my life. My oldest sister, Mary (we call her Cathy) was my role model from day 1. When I was 4 years old, she was 18 and left for college to become an RN. I idolized her and from that moment, I knew that I would follow in her footsteps and become an RN one day as well. And I did. She also was my godmother and I couldn't have asked for a better one. She always had a positive attitude and a beautiful smile. She was such a caring person, taking care of her family and her patients as well. Her husband, Vince, I've known almost my whole life.

When I was a child of maybe 5 or 6, I was sucking on a piece of candy, a butterscotch disc, when I began to choke. I remember him turning me upside down and hitting me on the back to dislodge it. It worked and I've been forever grateful. He's been helping others his whole life as a dentist in Kenosha. His patients loved him. His brother, Mike was also an amazing person who was very involved in his community. As a physician, his patients also loved him. As far as their church community, they all contributed so much. Mary was in the church choir and all 3 of them helped out at their annual church festival.

The community is missing all 3 of them so much but our family is missing them even more. I can't believe I'll never see Mary's smiling face again. My hero, my rolemodel is gone forever and through no fault of her own.

Please, as you sentence Mr. Vandervere, keep in mind that he took 3 very active, important members of our community away from us. We will never be the same.

Thank you,



RECEIVED

November 12, 2019

NOV 12 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

I'm writing this letter on behalf of the Vincent, Mike, and Mary Rizzo family. My sister, Laura Rizzo, is the daughter-in-law to Vince and Mary Rizzo.

I can still remember receiving the phone call from my sister just after midnight on the morning of Saturday April 6th. My sister was barely able to keep her emotions in check as she described to me what had happened to her family. She struggled to describe how a seemingly normal Friday night fish fry, could turn into such a devastating night for the Rizzo family. A night in which she lost three family members in such a reckless manner. She told me that her husband, John Rizzo, was in shock and was roaming around the hospital trying to make sense of the loss of his parents and uncle. She told me that he seemed withdrawn and lost.

Later that day I started to hear more information about that night. The Rizzo family was driving home after a fish fry and were rear-ended by a drunk driver. I have struggled to understand why a person could make such a careless decision to drive at an extremely high rate of speed when they are excessively intoxicated. I'm sure he did not consider how his careless actions could cause such a tragedy to the Rizzo family. However, I can tell you what the consequences of his actions were. He killed three people, destroyed a family, and prevented children and grandchildren from ever seeing their parents and grandparents again.

When you consider sentencing on November 22nd, please think of the pain all four Rizzo children have experienced, the agony their spouses are going through, and the tragedy that six grandchildren will have to live through. The stories their grandparents never will be able to share and the embrace of their hugs that will never occur again.

Best Regards,

Jayson Stemo



RECEIVED

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder

912 56th Street

Kenosha, WI

53140

NU 12 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Judge Schroeder,

I am the oldest son of Lori (Fulmer) Finnegan, and a nephew of Vince and Cathy Rizzo. I am a CPA working for Fannie Mae in Washington, D.C. I was born on April 5 – the same day Timothy Vandevere killed my Aunt and Uncle.

For the past six months, my family has been shattered by the terrible loss of Vince and Cathy. My mother – a strong, independent woman who raised and homeschooled 10 children – has suffered dreadfully from the sudden and horrific loss of her sister. She is prone to depression and is extremely anxious about travelling anywhere by car. She is frequently overwhelmed by grief and is often inconsolable. We used to have a happy home, but Timothy took that from us. I personally have not been able to fully process the loss of my aunt and uncle – it will likely be years before I come to terms with it.

I do not hate Timothy; I feel sorry for him, and especially for his family. I ask that you impose a just sentence, commensurate with his crimes. But I also ask that, when it is your time to declare a sentence, that you implore Timothy not to waste what is left of his life – he has already stolen three. Please ask him to reflect deeply on the pain he has caused – not just to my family, but to his own as well. Ask him to repent – to apologize to his victims, and to live out his incarceration as a model prisoner. No one is beyond the love of God, if he is humble enough to ask for it.

Timothy's actions deprived four families of their loved ones, killed 3 innocent upstanding persons, and made my birthday a perpetual memorial day. I hope he takes time to consider that, and in time, to repent for his transgressions.

Thank you for reading what I had to say.

Sincerely,

James J. Finnegan, CPA

RECEIVED

OCT 30

Judge Bruce Schroeder,

I never thought I would have to write a letter on behalf of a friend who was killed by a drunk driver, Doctor Michael Rizzo. Michael was my BEST friend for many years, He would come down on weekends and holidays, we would spend time going out to eat going to the show and just have fun with each others company.

It's very hard and I think of Michael everyday, missing all the fun we had with. All his friends in Chicago miss him very much and he was still here having fun with us all. Michael used to drink when

he was down here, but always took a cab home, I know that for I watched him always get into one, he never drove.

I'm writing to you just to let you know how much I miss him, he was a good man and always would help his friends out with a good

laugh or medical advise. His smile will always be missed.

Thank you for reading my letter, I just wanted to let you know this has been very hard for a lot of us family and friends.

I know he pleaded guilty, but that's not enough, I'm sure he has sorrow but that won't bring back the Rizzo's.

Missing my Best Friend
James E. Wurley

RECEIVED

OCT 16 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

10/19/19

your honor,

I am writing to you on behalf of my family members, Mary C. Rizzo, Vincent C. Rizzo & Michael Rizzo. They were killed in a car crash in Keweenaw County on April 5, 2019.

I am Jo Anne Smith, sister of Mary Rizzo. Much has been written about the lives of Mary, Vickie & Mike. I am proud of the lives they lived and the love they have given to their families and their community.

In support of my sister and brother-in-law's children, Vickie Rizzo, Cindy Kessel, John Rizzo & Justin Duarke, I ask for justice in the sentencing of their parents' killer.

Vickie, Mary & Mike, were loved members of our family. They are missed every day. They will never be forgotten.

Thank you for your service to the people of Keweenaw.

Jo Anne Smith

11-10-19

RECEIVED

The Honorable Judge Schroeder
912 – 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

Nov 14 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Re: Case 2019CF000375

Dear Judge Schroeder,

Thank you for considering this letter in the upcoming sentencing of Timothy Vandevere. My sister is Louisa Rizzo the daughter in law of the late Dr. Vincent and Mary Rizzo. I have known the Rizzo family for many years and can say first hand that you would have to search a long time and still not find a finer family. Dr. Vincent, Dr. Michael and Mary Rizzo would still be with us today had it not been for the terrible choice Mr. Vandevere made on April 5, 2019. The loss of these three special people has been felt by our entire community. The pain that the immediate family has been dealing with no one should ever have to go through. I think Mr. Vandevere should be sent away for a very, very long time for this terrible crime he committed. Once again I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Giuseppe (Joe) Montemurro
5222 25th Street
Kenosha, WI 53144
262-496-2300

11/13/2019

RECEIVED

DEAR Judge SHREEDER:

NOV 13 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

I am writing today to try and convey the impact of the loss of the Rizzo family on both my family and the community at large.

Dr. Vincent Rizzo provided dental services for our family for over 40 years. Both he and his wife Mary, a registered nurse, also became close personal friends. My wife and I are both nurses and so we also knew Mary through our work environment as well. I had also worked with Dr. Mike Rizzo at Aurora Hospital in Kenosha.

The tragic and senseless loss of this family who gave so much of themselves to the community is unfathomable. Our grief is profound. It is our fervent hope that justice may prevail for the Rizzo Family within the confines of your courtroom.

Howard & Sue Geissman

RECEIVED

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder

912 56th St

Kenosha, WI 53140

Honorable Judge,

NOV 12 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

It is with deep appreciation of your consideration that these few words are being submitted. Doctors and Mrs. Rizzo were the very representation of goodness. All three of these wonderful individuals showed the very basic rewards of hard work, of putting family first, and of being a part of God's community here on Earth and in Kenosha.

They spent their youth working toward honorable goals in the good manner their families taught them. They were taught to use the opportunity of education, that they were fortunate enough to receive, to serve the public. As their 100 plus years of service has shown, they took their responsibilities seriously. Many told them to retire and enjoy themselves throughout the years. However, what people may not have realized was that serving their beloved community was their enjoyment.

This tragic, senseless loss of a doctor, dentist, and nurse by a reckless individual with no regard for the well-being of others can never be understood or explained away. Now, as we all suffer this enormous loss of three valued individuals, all we can focus on is our faith in our justice system. We need to see this tragedy punished to the fullest extent of the law.

The *past* cannot be changed, but the *present* can reflect the proper punishment for such an unforgivable crime. Perhaps someone in the *future* would be frightened enough of the deserved legal consequences not to get behind the wheel in such an unbelievably homicidal state.

Yours Truly,

Filomena L. Swartz

5500 24th Place

Kenosha, WI 53144

*Filomena
L. Swartz*

Dear Judge Schneider,

My name is Elizabeth Culver Molitor. I am one of four younger sisters of Mary Culver Rizzo, a sister-in-law of Vincent C. Rizzo.

On April 5 2019 our families lives drastically changed forever. We lost our sister, brother-in-law & family friend (Michael Rizzo).

Actually, they were taken...
was taken is a better word than lost.

Taken in a way that was so atrocious I think everyone's hearts stopped beating for a brief period of time - which actually felt like a lifetime.

I have thought of my sister everyday but I try not to think of how she died, is how the accident happened. I can't. I am sick to my stomach, I need help. I can't imagine what her kids go thru daily.

My sister & her husband did an amazing "job" together in raising fun, wonderful, loving, happy, smart, caring children. who grew into fantastic adults.

As a whole, this family was a loving family unit. They did everything together - laughed, played, prayed, traveled, gardened, They always celebrated LIFE!

None of them deserved this. Nor do I find more caring people for Versilia Community. They were giving of their time, their knowledge & their love.

My last visit with her was just a couple hours before the accident. She came to our home on Lingle Blvd. the home she grew up in. We had

sold our home and I had invited
all my brothers & sisters over to see
the house one last time. She
was so happy to walk thru. Kinda
feeling like childhood as we
talked about growing up there & things
that had happened over the years.

NEVER did I think that would be
the last time I would see her.

She loved her family dearly. She was
excited to be a grandma - to a
little girl! She knew the planned
to name her Mary - after her.

Everybody hurts, everyday.
I'm sad for the grandchildren that
won't get to celebrate life with their
grandparents & Uncle Mike Rizzo.

Thankyou for your time.

Yours truly,
F. Franklin Esteban

RECEIVED
November 4, 2019

NOV - 6

Dear Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

On the evening of April 5th of this year, my life changed dramatically. My mom, my dad, and my Uncle Mike were killed by the drunk driver that you will be sentencing on Friday, November 22nd. I have relived the events of that day over and over. I have thought about the fact that I arrived to St. Alphonsus first and got in line for all of us. I have thought about our conversations at dinner that evening, how they all drank chocolate milk, and we all laughed as we discussed recent events. I have thought about the fact that if I had gone back up to the buffet line for second helpings, told a longer story, or just done anything to alter the timing of events that evening, then my loved ones would not have been in the deadly path of the defendant's vehicle. If I would have known what I could have done differently, I would have.

However, I have come to realize that it was not my responsibility to have altered that fatal evening's events, nor did I have a choice as to how the night unfolded. My Uncle Jerry did not have a choice, nor did my parents or my Uncle Mike. No, none of us did. That evening, some of our lives ended while others were changed forever. The person that did have a choice is being sentenced on November 22nd. However, I would argue that his bad choices were not just made on April 5th. An adult does not just get to a point where he cannot even properly function due to the Blood Alcohol Content of .316 unless he has built up a significant tolerance to alcohol over his lifetime. I, as well as many others, would be too impaired to stand, let alone travel with a BAC that high. He chose to get into a monster of a truck, not a moped, a zip car, or a Mini Cooper. No, he got into a deadly weapon - a GMC Sierra weighing over 5,000 pounds. He drove erratically through Paddock Lake that fateful evening. He may not have planned to kill my family that evening, but he damn well put himself in a ridiculously impaired frame of mind and proceeded to drive a monster of a vehicle which sadly made the events of that evening very probable. He chose to get into this weapon, and he killed my parents and my uncle.

He killed my father, a respected Dentist and a veteran of the U.S. Army. He killed my mother, a well-loved Registered Nurse. He killed my uncle, a talented and admired Family Practice Physician. Combined, these three beautiful souls have served the Kenosha Community in health care for over 130 years. Please consider the gravity of my words for a moment. The number of lives that these three individuals have positively impacted over the years is astronomical. They spent their adult years healing

and helping the community. Uncle Mike had a medical practice with over 2.000 patients. In fact, he cared for his last patient just a few hours before this tragedy. Now, those patients need to find a new Doctor that they love and trust as much as they loved and trusted Uncle Mike.

My parents also served their community in other ways, as well. My mom sang in the church choir, and my dad volunteered his time on his parish council for many years. They both also served their church by volunteering at their church's festival for several years. My mom was also a member of the Riverport Chorus for many years.

None of us had a choice that evening except for the defendant. It was his devastating decision to operate a deadly weapon of a vehicle while severely impaired that evening. The gravity of his actions that evening were inevitable. Not only was he driving while intoxicated, he was driving with a revoked Wisconsin license. He chose to drive in such an impaired state that most adults would have not even been standing, let alone driving with a BAC of that enormity. These were all his poor choices, one after the next, that caused the tragic crash that claimed the lives of three remarkable people.

When a crime of such severity is committed, there needs to be severe consequences. Consequences that prevent the defendant from being able to get behind the wheel in the future and possibly kill someone else. It is that simple, he needs and deserves to be punished for breaking the law. So, please, Judge Schroeder, consider all of these facts as you make your decision. Ultimately, I am counting on you to make the right choice because all of these bad choices that the defendant made has left my life shattered. Heaven has gained three angels, and my life is forever changed because of the tragic events of April 5th.



Dr. Vincent M. Rizzo



James C. Fulmer, D.D.S.

Family & Restorative Dentistry

2909 Roosevelt Rd.
Kenosha, WI 53142
P. 262.657.5408

7317 - 236th Ave., Suite 108
Paddock Lake, WI 53168
P. 262.843.4643

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

**The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 - 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140**

Dear Judge Schroeder:

Please consider the following when determining the fate of the man that killed three prominent Kenoshans:

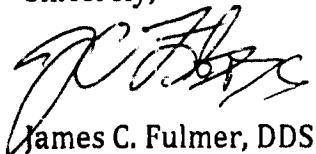
Mary C. Rizzo:

My beautiful and loving sister was taken from us by a senseless act of drunken driving. The grief caused by Vanderveer, when he chose to get extremely intoxicated and drive erratically in excess of 100 mph is incalculable. Mary was a wonderful person that had the ability to make people feel as the most important person in the world. Her heart lit up with joy whenever she would see me. She also was the only person in the world who knew how to make fudge exactly how I liked it, and she was sure to make some for me every Christmas. Her loving, giving heart will be missed greatly.

Vincent C. Rizzo, DDS:

My brother-in-law, Vince, was important to me. Besides as a friend, he was also a mentor to me. He was also a central reason that I became a dentist. His likable, reserved, and care-giving attitude was an example that I always strived for. He not only affected all of the lives in his dental practice, but all of the patients I have served as well. I see his patients now and commiserate daily with his sad, sad friends.

Sincerely,



James C. Fulmer, DDS

Healthy Mouth. Healthy Body. **Make the Connection!**

RECEIVED

REC'D - 7 - 19

November 3, 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Honorable Bruce Schroeder,

On April 5th, 2019, many lives changed for the worse with the passing of Michael Rizzo MD, Vincent Rizzo DDS and Mary Rizzo ,when they were killed in a horrific accident.

No one can even begin to imagine what the surviving members of the Rizzo family is going thru or will encounter over the years to come. The Kenosha community has been affected as well. Doctor Mike, Doctor Vince and Nurse Mary have served the Kenosha Community for DECADES! Countless lives have been affected. Numerous patients were treated during their time of need. They were selfless, caring, generous and so well respected. Their care can never be measured or quantified. They were pillars in this community and will forever be missed. However, a selfish act, by an individual, not thinking or caring about anyone else took them away. At times, it seems incomprehensible on so many levels.

As a partner of Dr. Michael Rizzo for the last 18 years, I have had the pleasure and the privilege to get to know him on a personal and a professional level. Words cannot describe his work ethic, his love for his patients and for Kenosha. He will be missed. The stories and memories that his patients have told me recently, have been so endearing and enlightening.

This was an absolutely a horrific tragedy! A tragedy that was avoidable, preventable and they will forever be a giant hole in the hearts of the community.

I do appreciate the opportunity to give my thoughts. I do hope that justice will be served, as now the Rizzo family has to trust the process of the court system. As, no sentence can ever replace these three great people, but hopefully the sentence will fit the crime.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,



Gregory Rocco M.D.

November 1, 2019

Dear Honorable Judge Bruce Schroeder,

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my thoughts on the sentencing of ~~RECEIVE~~ Timothy Vanderwerf. Nov. 1 - 4 '19

Considering his blatant disregard for ~~RECEIVE~~ <sup>REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT</sup> laws several times over the years, resulting in the tragic loss of three innocent peoples lives, one seriously injured and changing the lives of their family, friends and patients forever -- I truly feel and hope you consider at the minimum a 40 year sentence. The Rizzo family will be impacted for life.

Hopefully this tragic event will also result in a nationwide mandatory data share system that all state DMV's must use. With advanced technology there is no reason not to have this check point.

I respect your denial of reducing his bond and refusal of accepting a no contest plea. Please consider a strong stance when sentencing him.

Sincerely,

Denise Borchardt Slinger, WI

RECEIVED

NOV 12 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURTDeborah J Schrank
W2809 County Road E
Neshkoro, WI 54960
(920)293-4467

November 5, 2019

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder
912 56th street
Kenosha, WI 53140

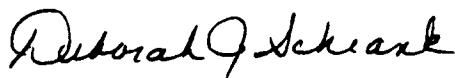
Dear Judge Schroeder;

Mary Rizzo's death touched us deeply. She was more than a friend; she was a mentor and inspiration. After Mary, each of us served as presidents to the Alliance of the Wisconsin Dental Association, an organization for spouses of WDA members. Mary took on the challenge, while working in husband Vince's dental office and raising her family. She gave us the courage to follow her lead. And, she did not retire after her term, but served on the board of countless succeeding presidents in whatever position necessary including dental health chair.

Mary was dedicated to dental health education which was one of the cornerstone focuses of our organization. Mary's efforts to educate children and families on the importance proper dental health practices started in her husband's dental office and expanded to the schools in Kenosha where she played the tooth fairy for countless children and throughout the state of Wisconsin and even to the state fair's smile contest. It is hard to calculate the impact one person has on a child or a community. Teachers frequently hear from former students that, years after their time together, the student had a revelation. Mary's efforts are like that. The children of Kenosha and the state have lost a caring teacher.

One of the intangible benefits to membership in the dental alliance was the unique friendships that we forged. For those of us married to and working for single or small practice dentists, our situations were unique being, as we laughingly referred to it, the only employees sleeping with the boss. We could not totally interact with the other employees as an equal/friend; sharing secrets and venting complaints. The Alliance allowed us to not only do projects together, but to share information from child care to retirement planning to employee relations. Mary was someone who was easy to talk to, who cared. Our organization disbanded years ago, but the sisterhood remained and annual luncheons are still held to reconnect with lifelong friends. Mary was mourned at this past summer's gathering. She was taken much too soon from us, never again will we see her infectious smile or feel the warmth of her friendship.

Respectfully submitted;



Deborah J Schrank

Co-signers listed with permission: Kasey Bruch Nenn, Judy Swanson, Carol Scheder, Melodi Duwell

RECEIVED

12-11-19

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Please do not even think of granting parole to the drunk driver that took the lives of three family members last spring. Dr. Mike Risso. This tragedy will haunt so many people for the rest of their lives. The one brother that survived the horrific crash on Hwy 50 will now have to live with survivors guilt for the rest of his life.

Sincerely,



Charles Eiden

RECEIVED

11/11/19

Dear Honorable Bruce Shroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

We are writing this letter in honor of Vince, Mary, and Mike Rizzo. We knew the Rizzo family very well, Janet Rizzo is my Sister in Law. The Rizzo family was always the most caring of people, were always at all special occasions for their family even my wedding. This family deserves that the defendant goes to prison for a lifetime.

Thank you, Casie and Ross Duemke

RECEIVED

November 5, 2019

Honorable Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

My name is Antonio Montemurro and I am writing this letter on behalf of the Rizzo family.

I have known them for almost 30 years and I will say that they are a very close knit, community-based and loving family.

Words cannot begin to describe the senseless and total disregard for human life that was committed on April 5th, 2019.

If someone is going 100 mph on Hwy 50 the only way it will end is in tragedy. Three brothers and a sister-in-law go to a fish fry on a Friday night and are literally killed on their way home because someone decided to be 4 times the legal limit and get behind the wheel. The Rizzo Family will never and can never be the same again because of someone's actions. Vince and Mary didn't get to see their new grandson or granddaughter and they never will. The community also lost a Primary Care Physician and a Dentist.

I don't understand all of the laws regarding drunk driving but I will say this that if the legal limit is .08 and he was nearly 4 times that there is something wrong with the whole tragedy. First of all, anyone that was with him and let him get behind the wheel should also be charged for not stopping him. It's not like he was at .09, a normal person couldn't even walk if they were at 4 times the legal limit so obviously he was a heavy drinker and the people with him should have seen how much he had to drink and did something, instead he got behind the wheel and killed 3 people and destroyed a family, and his family, too.

I also believe that if he took 3 lives than he should serve 3 life sentences.

Thank you for your time,



Antonio Montemurro

11-04-19

RECEIVED

HON BRUCE SCHNEIDER
912 56TH ST
KENOSHA WI 53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

DEAR JUDGE SCHNEIDER,

"DR MIKE" AKA DR MICHAEL J RIZZO
WAS A DEAR FRIEND, THAT I MISS
EACH DAY.

DR MIKE RARELY SAID ANYTHING
BAD ABOUT ANYONE. ODDLY ENOUGH
DR MIKE WOULD PROBABLY TELL ME
TO FORGIVE TIMOTHY VANDERVERE.

FORGIVE AND FORGET IS SOMETHING
I FIND HARD TO DO.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING "DR MIKE'S"
FRIENDS & FAMILY TO SEND WORDS
ON DR MIKE'S BEHALF.

RYAN PORTMAN
NEW BUFFALO MI

RECEIVED

November 4, 2019

Your Honorable Judge Schroeder,

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you. There hasn't been a day since April 5th that I haven't thought of the loss and love we have for my Aunt Cathy (Mary) and Uncle Vince. My uncle Vince wasn't only my dentist for 40 years, but he was my Godfather. My aunt Kathy wasn't only the aunt I was named after, my mom's big sister, my aunt who loved to make fudge and sneak RC Cola when we were kids, but she was my Godmother. The love and respect I felt for my aunt and uncle, my Godparents, growing up cannot be described. We had a big family growing up – big family get-togethers: holidays, watching Brewers and Packers on TV, and regular visits. My cousins Vince, Cathy, Johnny and Janet weren't only my cousins, but my favorite playmates. We laughed a lot – heard our moms tell stories of their childhood – and became friends. Even though we were a big family – we were close. The Fulmer family loved and celebrated together. That was never more true than after the morning of April 6th.

The entire weekend seemed unreal – our "family" home that our mothers grew up in was being sold after 60+ years. My Aunt Cathy stopped by to do a walk-thru (as we all did) and she reminisced about all the memories growing up in that house. That brought my aunt the most joy – family and memories. We all spent time together that night before she and my uncle had dinner with Mike, Vince, and Louisa. Little did we all know the pain that was in store for our family.

The Rizzo family is strong. They are intelligent. They are funny. And they love each other deeply. I cannot begin to know how they've stood tall each and every day – losing their parents and uncle. Not only is this such a personal and painful loss to our family – but the community, as well. We have all felt the loss in such a tragic manner.

I've had terrible guilt feeling the pain for how they tragically died. I hit a rock bottom point in my life in February 2018, and was arrested for an OWI. That night – and every day since – changed my life. Fortunately, I didn't hurt anyone but myself and my property in my accident. Although friends/family said "you didn't hurt anyone." In my gut – I felt like I did. It hit me so hard that I could've caused a terrible tragedy like Vandevere did. I live every day to be better than I was that day – even more now than ever. With the spirit of my Aunt Cathy, Uncle Vince, and Mike. I understand that it was an accident, but he took 3 amazing people from my cousins – from us. He needs to pay the ultimate consequence for his actions.

Thank you for hearing our words of loss and pain. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Catherine Serpe

RECEIVED

NOV - 7 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder,
regarding the sentencing of the man
that killed Mary, Vincent and
Michael Rizzo.

Nov. 2, 2019

I'm writing to you as a Grandparent. When you experience such joy from your Grandchildren. Infants all have a special smell, when you snuggle with warm bodies, hard to get enough of them. The recognition in the child's eyes when they see you. as they get older, they do so enjoy hearing stories about themselves, events and special holidays. The unbelievable time when they tastes something for the first time is ice cream.

As a Grandparent experiencing the joy of a Grandchild is the best role there is. What sadness from a Grandchild's point of view. When at Grandparents day the Rizzo Grandparents will not be attending. Two less cards to make to give on that special day. While classmates have 2 sets of Grandpa

- 2 -

The Loving embrace to your grandchild
The comments made by parents
be careful, don't squeeze to hard
they are "fragile" means the
Grandparent, As the Grand child
gets older to always know that
your Grandparents will always,
be there for you.

I know that you didn't know
Mary & Vincent Rizzo as Grandparents
I was fortunate too, Mary so adored
her Grand children, Vincent and Mary
were religious people and instilled
family values and morals to their
family.

I realize forgiveness should be
included in my letter, it just is a
tragedy that my Grandchildren
Bianca and Gianni Rizzo will
miss out on not knowing their
Grandparents Mary & Vincent Rizzo
as well as Great Uncle Michael Rizzo

Sincerely
Ann Marie Stemo

RECEIVE

Honorable Bruce Schroeder
Chamber 213
912 56th Street
Kenosha, WI

NOV 15 2019

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTIN
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Dear Judge Schroeder,

I didn't realize this letter would be as difficult to compose as it has been for me. After several drafts, I have found a few words to describe how the loss of our Vince and Mary Rizzo our closest friends, our neighbors, has dramatically impacted my family and I.

"Office is closed due to family emergency" are the words I read as I tried to open the closed dental office door on the morning of April 6th, 2019. The door had never been closed at the office, or the Rizzo's home for nearly 30 years of them being our neighbors, dentist, our closest friends, and most of all, our family.

Although that morning after hearing what had happened to the Rizzo's, we lost a major part of our lives. In an instant, our favorite people in this world people had been tragically taken from us due to the ruthless act of drinking and driving.

Vince and Mary Rizzo had been a major part of mine, and my families' life ever since my parents moved next door to them in 1993. My dad and Vince became best of friends as they spent every day together from going to the YMCA, grocery shopping all the deals, and of course evening tea almost every single night. My dad describes Vince as his best friend, his brother, and father figure. The day we heard the news, my father who always keeps his emotions inside said the words that I will never forget. He said " today I feel like an orphan for the second time in my life."

Heartbreak is the feeling we felt the day of April 6th, and still feel each and every single day. Its almost as if half of our home collapsed, the sense of security knowing we had the Rizzo's there for everything we ever needed, is forever gone.

I still look over at their house every morning thinking Vince will be outside saying "Andrrrraa" as he always did checking in on my daily agenda, and making sure I am coming out to dinner with them that week. Unfortunately he isn't there anymore. Not Vince, not Mary, not even a their kitchen light.

Drinking and driving, is a ruthless and selfish act that has destroyed the Rizzo's lives, our lives, and the lives of many people almost every day. This needs to stop, and the man who took our friends away from us deserves the maximum punishment in this life, as he will in his next. We need to make sure our state realizes the severity the crime of drinking and driving. This man took three precious lives at once, and affected numerous amounts of people. The Rizzo's were loved throughout Kenosha, and the city wont ever be the same without their love.

Sincerely,



Andra Sylejmani

(Vince & Mary Rizzo's Neighbor)

4612-83rd St.
Kenosha, WI

RECEIVED

November 12, 2019

NOV 14 2019

912 56th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

The Honorable Bruce Schroeder

I'm writing this letter on behalf of the Vincent, Mike, and Mary Rizzo family. My sister, Laura Stemo met, fell in love and married John Rizzo, Vince and Mary's son. From very early in their courtship you could see and feel what family meant to John and his siblings; Italian traditions from making spaghetti sauce, sausage, Friday night fish fries and just being together as a group aligned so eloquently with the values of the Stemo family.

On April 5, 2019 the Rizzo family's lives changed forever. Laura was pregnant with their second child, a boy, who would take the middle name of Uncle Mike. Over the next seven months, I have watched John mourn the loss of his mother, father and uncle daily. Significant events like birthdays, Mother's Day, and Father's Day are especially hard on him and his 3 siblings. Christmas is going to be a celebration of life, but also a painful reminder that Vince and Mary are not able to see the joy in their grandchildren's eyes when they open gifts or see snow for the first time.

This tragedy has also resurfaced an emotionally painful experience for me in a way I never thought. On a crisp June night in 1997 I was 19 and driving home from work around 10pm. On that night, was struck by Fredrico Hernandez, an intoxicated and high driver coming down Old Middleton Road in Middleton, WI. Hernandez hit the left front of my car, sending the car into a fire hydrant before driving off, just to rear-end another car which totaled his vehicle. The front of my car wrapped around the hydrant, only to be stopped by the engine block. I remember vividly what my dad's blue Dodge station wagon looked like that night. Luckily, I was able to walk away from the accident unharmed. The part of this story I didn't fully understand until becoming a parent was the pain in my mom's eyes after my dad brought me back home. I can't imagine how my dad felt when he answered the call of his youngest daughter in tears (screaming in shock actually) saying she just got hit by a drunk driver and he needed to come get me. That 20-minute drive to the accident was probably the longest drive for this Navy-veteran's life. When we got back to my parent's house, I knew my mom had been crying. She embraced me with a hug, told me she loved me, and then I went to bed. 22 years later, I'm a mom and now understand the love of a child. I never want to get that call. Unfortunately for John, he got that call about his mom, dad, and uncle. That moment will ring in his ears and be stuck in his mind and heart for the rest of his life.

When you consider sentencing on November 22, please think of the pain all 4 Rizzo kids have experienced, the agony their spouses are going through, and the tragedy that 6 grandkids will have to live through the stories of their grandparents but will never feel the embrace of their hugs again.

Sincerely,



Angela Stemo

MY NAME IS ALEXIS. I WORKED WITH DR. RIZZO FOR ALMOST 2 YEARS AS HIS MEDICAL ASSISTANT. I LEFT HIS PRACTICE BECAUSE I MOVED TO NORTH CAROLINA FOR A SHORT TIME. IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT DECISION TO LEAVE AS I ABSOLUTELY LOVED WORKING WITH DR. MIKE, AND DR. VINCE TOO, AS THEY WERE IN THE SAME PRACTICE. WHENEVER I HAD THE CHANCE, I WENT TO GO VISIT BOTH OF THEM AT THE CLINIC. DR. MIKE TAUGHT ME SO MUCH. THEY INSPIRED ME TO CONTINUE ON WITH MY EDUCATION IN NURSING. WHENEVER I'M FEELING EXHAUSTED WITH SCHOOL, I THINK OF THE RIZZOS, AND ALL OF THE CONFIDENCE THEY HAVE GIVEN ME, AND I PUSH ON. DR. MIKE WAS AN ABSOLUTELY AMAZING PHYSICIAN TEACHER, AND FRIEND. WHAT HAPPENED TO DR. MIKE AND THE RIZZO FAMILY HAS CRUSHED ME. HAS CRUSHED THE COMMUNITY. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HOW MANY PEOPLE ATTENDED THE WAKES. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS LETTER WILL DO, BUT I JUST WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT TO LET YOU KNOW HOW AMAZING AND FUNNY DR. MIKE WAS. AND HOW AMAZING DR. VINCE RIZZO IS. DR. VINCE STILL WORKED AND SAW PATIENTS WHILE IN THE THICK OF THIS TRAGEDY. I THINK OF DR. MIKE OFTEN, AND HOW THIS WORLD IS NOT THE SAME WITHOUT HIM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND

Judge Brice Schroeder,

I am writing in regards to the man who took 3 innocent people from this world in a tragic + sense accident, the Rizzo family. I do not personally know the Rizzos, and I dont have any ties or connection to them. However I do work for the funeral home that served the Rizzo family, caring for Mr & Mrs R and Michael Rizzo. I will never forget the phone call I received Saturday April 6th. An emotional & sickened daughter calling requesting a meeting to plan the funeral of her 3 beloved family members. My heart dropped as I transferred her to one of our funeral directors. Later that week the cards & letters poured in, people stopping in & sharing stories of their own. Their families so caring and so tightly gathered, I could feel their love for their parents, uncle, grandparents & friends. I pray justice is served and this family is at peace, but most of all, I pray no family has to ever bury three living family members at one time. I pray no family ever has to experience this unexplained tragedy. Please help prevent this from happening to someone else.

RECEIVED

Respectfully
wishing to remain
anonymous

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT