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First DUI Roadside Memorial Marker to be unveiled

The first DUI Roadside Memorial Marker in the state will be unveiled on Monday, April 9, at 11 a.m. at the KDOT office in Ellsworth (202 W. 15th). The new Lost to DUI memorial markers are a part of the Kyle Thornburg and Kylie Jobe Believe Act that was approved by the Kansas Legislature and signed by former Gov. Sam Brownback in 2016.

The Kyle Thornburg and Kylie Jobe Believe Act honors these two former Maize High School students from Wichita who were killed on March 23, 2011. Jobe (20) and Thornburg (22) were returning to Wichita from a Colorado ski trip during spring break. They were both killed in a crash on I-70 when a 27-year-old man entered the interstate going in the wrong direction and hit them head on. He was also killed and was later found to have a blood alcohol level of .23, almost three times the legal limit.

At the request of Barby Jobe Myers (Kylie's mother), former Rep. Mark Hutton brought forth legislation to create and install roadside signs to memorialize victims of drunk/impaired driving. "We hope the memorial markers encourage people to reflect on the innocent lives lost to someone driving under the influence. We also believe the signs will create an awareness about personal responsibility and an understanding that some choices have consequences that affect more people than just themselves," said Jobe Myers.

The legislation established and implemented a DUI memorial signage program on highways under the Secretary of Transportation's jurisdiction that are not city connecting links. A memorial marker was designed with a unique logo symbolizing the cycle of life and an individual thumbprint with the title, Lost to DUI. Below that, the names and ages of victims lost to a drunk driver are listed. The marker for Jobe and Thornburg will be placed at the scene of the crash at mile marker 210 on eastbound I-70.

To also honor Jobe and Thornburg and remind everyone to not drink and drive, the Run2Believe 5k memorial run has taken place in Wichita since March 2012. Run2Believe was

established as a nonprofit in March 2013 providing scholarships, after prom support and alcohol awareness in Wichita high schools.

For more information about the memorial marker program, please visit:

<https://kdotapp.ksdot.org/MemorialMarker/index.aspx>

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