

# Drinking While Driving Becoming A Major Problem For North Carolinians

By: Jeffrey W. Winslow  
Driving while drinking is a major problem throughout the United States. Many people think that the alcohol content in one beer is less than that in a mixed drink. Both are the same. This misconception is reinforced by the split drinking age in North Carolina. Many people claim that they can drive better drunk than they can sober. That's like saying they can drive better asleep than they can awake.

Consider this. Approximately 50 per cent of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related, and almost 67 per cent of these fatalities are caused by problem drinkers.

National percentages probably don't mean as much to you as North Carolina-based averages. Over 700 North Carolinians were killed last year in alcohol-related accidents; more than the total number of people murdered during

that same period. Another 20,000 North Carolinians were injured in alcohol-related accidents.

Don't think this couldn't happen to you or your family. The leading cause of death among young people 16-19 years old is motor vehicle accidents. The principal factor in those accidents is drunk driving. DUI arrest rates are high, also. The N.Y. Task Force on Driving While Intoxicated has estimated that the probability of being arrested for DUI at 1 in 200 to 1 in 2,000 violations, depending on the level of impairment and the time of day.

Over 500,000 North Carolinians are heavy drinkers, having two or more drinks a day. This figure includes 200,000 "heavy escape drinkers" who frequently drink to the point of intoxication. An additional 65,000 "heavy" juvenile drinkers imbibe at least once a week, and on

each occasion have between five and twelve drinks or beers.

The next question is, "Well how many of these problem drinkers are arrested?" Of the 50 states in America, North Carolina ranks third in arrests for DUI, behind Texas and California. The arrest rate for DUI in North Carolina is 1,400 arrests per 100,000 population, more than twice the national average of 600 arrests per 100,000 population. These DUI arrests have increased by over 15 per cent between 1977-80. The 82,000 DUI arrests in 1980 was more than any other single criminal violation. Half of those arrests were of individuals in the 18-25 age group.

While the DUI arrest rate has risen, the conviction rate on the original charge for all DUI arrests has fallen from over 60 per cent to under 53 per cent between 1977-80. Convictions from

charges with the defendant having a blood-alcohol content of .10 or more result in 87 per cent of the cases. In 1980, guilty as charged were 68 per cent and guilty of the reduced charge of reckless driving was 20 per cent. Approximately 12 per cent were found not guilty. There are, however, approximately 9,000 North Carolinians who have five or more DUI convictions on their record and almost 200 who have 10 or more DUI convictions on their record.

A recent study sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that most efforts to modify laws aimed at drunken drivers have centered on manipulating the severity of legal punishment without changing the certainty of such punishment. This approach does not work, in fact it appears that increased severity of the legislated punishment results in changes in the

criminal justice procedure that lessen the certainty of its application. This may in turn reduce the deterrent effectiveness of the law.

Another study sponsored by the Insurance Institute For Highway Safety found that in states that had raised their legal drinking age there was an average 28 per cent reduction in nighttime fatalities involving individuals in the affected age group.

The Governor's Crime Commission has several proposals to help stop the growing drinking problem. The first four fall under the category of increasing public awareness. They are: increase emphasis on hazards and penalties of driving under the influence in driver's education classes; increase education on alcohol abuse in statewide health education programs; increase education and media programs for the general public concerning the ef-

fects of alcohol and the hazards and penalties of driving under the influence; and raise the drinking age for malt beverages and wine to 21, phased in over three years.

The remaining proposals fall in the category of addressing the problem of the reckless drinking driver, and include: require that anyone caught driving with a blood alcohol content of .20 or more, or anyone arrested for a second or more DUI offense, be reverted to the local alcohol treatment facility; expand use of alternatives to incarceration in dealing with the habitual DUI offender, especially using community service restitution; stress the need to build DUI cases on evidence of "appreciable impairment" and not rely only on breathalyzers in basic law enforcement training; support the efforts of the alcohol and drug

abuse section in coordinating the efforts of the various agencies that deal with alcohol and substance abuse programs; increase the level of follow-up action on individuals that do not successfully complete the DUI school; eliminate the law of careless and reckless driving after drinking and set up a gradation of DUI offenses based on severity of infraction with commensurate punishments; support an increase in funding for breathalyzer training from the highway fund; an annual report shall be published by the Division of Motor Vehicles listing the disposition of DUI charges by B.A.C. level for each county in the state with the presiding judge and prosecuting attorney also identified; and individuals arrested for DUI may be held for a maximum of four hours if magistrate finds probable cause that the

individual is under the influence.

So next time you see an intoxicated person trying to start his or her car and drive home, stop them. The life you save may be your own.

## Pfc. Riddick Is Promoted

Marine Pfc. Edward L. Riddick, son of James E. and Dorothy V. Riddick, Route 2, Edenton, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune.

He joined the Marine Corps in June, 1981.

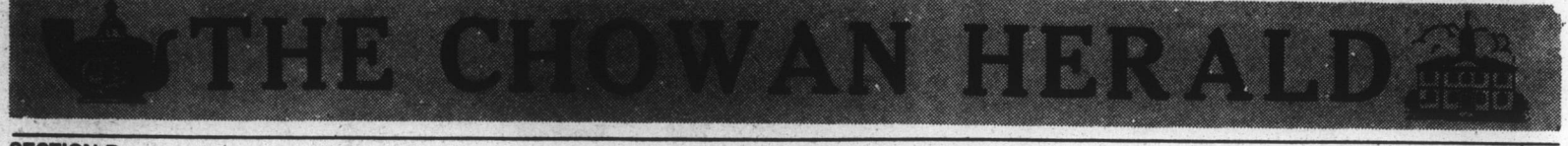
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SECTION B Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, April 22, 1982 SECTION B

## Volunteer Week Proclaimed

RALEIGH-- President Ronald Reagan and Gov. Jim Hunt have each proclaimed the week of April 18-24, as National Volunteer Week. This special observance is designed to recognize and pay tribute to the many dedicated volunteers in North Carolina and across the nation who give generously of themselves to those in need.

The volunteer program administered by the N.C. Department of Human Resources is recognized as one of the best in the nation. According to Mary Mac Bradshaw, director of Volunteer Services, "we have an excellent group of volunteer directors and coordinators in our institutions and in local human services agencies

across North Carolina. But, for volunteer programs to really be successful, they have to have the full support from top management. In North Carolina we are very fortunate. Gov. Hunt is a very strong volunteer advocate as is Human Resources Secretary Dr. Sarah Morrow. And, institutional and local agency top management strongly support the use of volunteers to help provide government services to people."

During fiscal year 1981, over 221,000 volunteers gave almost 25-million hours of service to DHR agencies and institutions. The volume of volunteer services was the equivalent of 12,476 full time employees and represents a dollar value savings to the state of over \$124-million.

Bradshaw says that the Department of Human Resources will use National Volunteer Week to locally recognize the efforts of volunteers and to recruit new volunteers to help meet the human needs that still exist through North Carolina.

DHR has scheduled its annual Volunteer Recognition event for June 10, at 2 P.M. in the Kerr Scott Pavilion of the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Both Gov. Hunt and Dr. Sarah Morrow will be present to thank several thousand volunteers from across the state expected to attend.

"The volunteer effort is here to stay and should continue to grow in the future," says Bradshaw.

"A bad neighbor is a misfortune, as much as a good one is a great blessing."  
Hesiod

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**OLD COUNTRY HOME** — Needs moving and restoring. \$7,500. Or, leave it where it is for \$19,500. Three miles from town.

**ONE MILE FROM TOWN** — This handsome two story brick home has a rural atmosphere, yet is less than one mile from town. Features LR, den (fireplace), dining room, kitchen, four BR, 2 1/2 baths, and garage. Located on an acre of land. More acreage available. 9 per cent assumable. \$69,500.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT** — Lovely two story colonial home on corner lot. Features living room, den, dining room, kitchen, five bedrooms, garage. Easy walking distance of downtown.

**MORGAN PARK** — 1/2 acre attractive wooded lot, \$11,500.

**BASE RD.** — Brick, LR, kitchen, 3 BR, bath, carport, fenced back yard. \$35,000.

**CHOWAN RIVER** — This riverfront home features LR, kitchen, 3 BR, nice bulkheaded lot. \$48,000.

**ON CHOWAN RIVER** — Two story brick home, featuring 4 BR, 3 baths, LR, kitchen, den with fireplace plus family room. Deck overlooking the water. \$80,000 with owner financing available.

**W. HICKS STREET** — Lot for sale. \$2,900. Owner financing possible.

**ARROWHEAD BEACH** — This home is located on three lots. Features LR, kitchen, DR, 3 BR, 2 baths. \$19,950.

**BEAUTIFUL WATERFRONT LOTS ON ALBEMARLE SOUND** — One half acre in size. Hornblow Pt. \$26,500.

**MORGAN PARK** — Beautiful brick home on an acre lot. Includes LR, DR, den, library (fireplace), rec. rm., solarium, kitchen, three BR, two baths, double garage and workshop, temp. controlled hothouse. \$98,500.

**MEXICO RD. - FOR SALE** This three bedroom brick home features large living room, den (fireplace), kitchen, two baths, and garage. \$49,000.

**MORGAN PARK - FOR SALE** Attractive brick home on larger corner lot featuring LR, den, kitchen, 3 BR, 2 baths, garage. \$61,900.

**FOREST PARK** — 3 BR, 2 baths, LR, den w-fireplace, kitchen, hardwood floors, screened back porch. Attractive assumable mortgage at 9 per cent. \$54,000

**HWY 17** — Brand new! 1750 sq. ft. brick construction. Features great room with fireplace, kitchen-dining combination, 3 BR, 2 baths, utility room, deck. \$69,500.

**HWY. 17** — Owner financing. 12 year old home on large wooded lot; features LR, den, dining area, kitchen, 3 BR, 1 1/2 baths. \$42,000

**RIVERTON** — 8 yr. old home on 1/2 acre lot featuring LR, den, kitchen, 3 BR, 2 baths. \$55,900.

**BERTIE COUNTY** — Only 12 mi. **SOLD** on, 8 acres including fish pond; country home. \$40,000, owner financing or \$35,000 cash.

**SWIMMING POOL** — 2700 sq. ft. brick home with LR, family room w-fireplace, kitchen, 4 BR, 2 1/2 baths plus a sewing room. Patio area. OWNER FINANCING. \$85,000.

**CAPE COLONY** — Shingle home on canal features LR, kitchen, 3 BR, bath, garage. Private boat ramp. \$39,000.

**BUILDING LOTS FOR SALE** — Commercial & Residential.

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<p><b>Stripearama</b> <b>Prints</b> \$1.27 yd. Reg. 2.29</p>	<p><b>Mens Jordache</b> <b>Jeans</b> \$35.88 Reg. 45.97</p>	<p><b>Juvenile</b> <b>Prints</b> \$1.00 yd. Reg. 1.98</p>
<p><b>Crayon</b> <b>Plaids &amp; Plains</b> \$1.50 yd. Reg. 2.79</p>	<p><b>Ladies Jordache &amp; Calvin Klein</b> <b>Jeans</b> \$29.88 Reg. 45.97</p>	<p><b>Patcharama</b> <b>Quilts</b> \$2.27 yd. Reg. 3.98</p>
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<p><b>Famous Brand</b> <b>Watches</b> \$39.97 Values to 69.95 Elgin, Jules Jergensen, Benrus</p>	<p><b>Mens Banlon</b> <b>Shirts</b> \$3.97 Reg. 7.97</p>	<p><b>Slightly irregular</b> <b>Bath Towels</b> 2 / \$5.00</p>