

Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:**

Civic Leader Changes His Plea to "Guilty"

Tavares, FL, September 20, 2011 – While riding back home from Biketoberfest on October 17, 2009, Herbert "Steve" Muller was hit and killed by Lake County civic leader Bruce Duncan. Duncan's Blood Alcohol was twice the legal limit in addition to the ½ empty bottle of vodka FHP found in his truck. In court today, Duncan did not dispute these facts.

After many hearings in this case, on September 19 & 20, 2011 Mr. Duncan changed his plea to Guilty of DUI Manslaughter. This case took on a life of its own when Duncan's defense team began lining up figures such as Florida State Representative H. Marlene O'Toole (R-Lady Lake), two Circuit Court Judges, President of Lake-Sumter Community College Dr. Charles Mojock, Tavares City Administrator John Drury, as well as fifteen other community leaders to be defense witnesses in Duncan's hearing. Although there were several hours of testimony from family and friends on both sides, not all the defense witnesses had the opportunity to testify.

ABATE of Florida, Inc. State President, James "Doc" Reichenbach II, did testify for the prosecution, asking that the Court not depart from the recommended sentencing guidelines, and how drivers killing motorcyclists are getting away with insignificant fines. Asst. State Attorney Sue Purdy recommended that Circuit Judge Michael Takac impose a 12 ½ year prison sentence and a permanent license suspension. The state sentencing guidelines recommend a sentence of 10 years and a few months, but the defense attorneys have asked the Court to depart from these guidelines and sentence Duncan to only 4 years, the absolute minimum sentence allowed by law. The defense also motioned to suppress the testimony of "Doc" Reichenbach, claiming prejudice and that ABATE is not an affiliate. Judge Takac denied this motion, stating that he allowed numerous testimonies from defense witnesses that could very well be deemed prejudice as well.

On September 30, 2011 at 8:30 am Judge Takac will sentence Bruce Duncan at the Fifth Judicial Courthouse, Lake County, on 550 W Main St. Tavares, FL. Members from at least six ABATE of Florida chapters attended the Sept. 19th hearing. Motorcyclists are asked to show support for Steve Muller's family and let the public know that we won't stand idly by while we're getting killed on Florida's roadways.

Contact Lake County Chapter President Casey Staley at 407-469-2455 or president@lake.abateflorida.com for additional information on the September 30, 2011 Sentencing Hearing.

ABATE of Florida, Inc. is Florida's largest Motorcyclists' Rights Organization, and one of the top four largest nationwide. ABATE of Florida members come from all walks of life and include many elected officials. Our missions are to educate the public about motorcycle awareness and continuing to fight in Tallahassee for the rights of every motorcyclist and the public in general. To aid in these ends, we have an exclusive lobbyist and have founded the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program, both with the intentions to help make the roads safer for everyone.

A print copy of this and past ABATE of Florida, Inc. Press Releases may be found here: www.abateflorida.com/pr.htm.

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