

Press Release



Contact:

David "Lockdown" Rich
Public Relations Trustee, ABATE of Florida, Inc.
386.490.4821 FAX: 396.490.4482
statepr@abateflorida.com
www.ABATEFlorida.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:**

ABATE of Florida, Inc. Invites all Motorcyclists to Bikers' Killer's Arraignment

Deland, FL, June 2, 2010 – On March 13, 2010, four motorcyclists were riding down County Road 476 in Sumter County. The two bikes, each with a passenger, were traveling along, not doing anything wrong. Along came Paul Sermons in his GMC truck. The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) reports that as he was passing a slower moving vehicle, Sermon's truck struck both motorcycles, ejecting all riders; with one rider being launched into the windshield of the truck being passed. Three of the motorcyclists were pronounced dead at the scene; the fourth died at the hospital. FHP states that not only was Sermons driving on a suspended driver's license, he was drunk at the time of the crash.

On June 16th, the Florida Highway Patrol and the Sumter County Sheriff's Office executed an Arrest Warrant for Sermons. He was taken into custody under a total of nine charges including DUI Manslaughter and Vehicular Homicide. He is being held at the Sumter County Jail under a \$202,500 bond.

When contacted by ABATE of Florida Sumter County Chapter President Nancy Painter & State Asst. Sgt-At-Arms T.J. Painter, the prosecutor assigned to this case, Bill Catto, stated that "doing these type [sic] of cases is a majority portion of my job". Attorney Catto further stated that "I am obviously aware of what the position of ABATE [sic]", and welcomed ABATE members and other motorcyclists to attend the arraignment and other hearings as this case progresses.

Although State Attorney's Office Prosecutor Catto seems to have the proper intentions when it comes to trying this case and recommending appropriate sentencing, we all have seen how many judges in our judicial system simply are not aware of sentencing available to them, and thus, many drivers whom should be behind bars remain free.

Sermons' arraignment is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at the Sumter County Courthouse, 209 N. Florida St., Bushnell FL 33513. We ask that all make time to be present in the courtroom on July 13th to show the Court how many lives negligent drivers can impact. Contact Sumter County Chapter President Nancy Painter at (352) 457-4677 for more information.

With over 7,500 members, ABATE of Florida, Inc. is Florida's largest Motorcyclists' Rights Organization, and the fourth largest nationwide. ABATE of Florida members consist of all types of motorcyclists. Our missions include educating 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.

###