

Kentucky motorcyclist dies in one-vehicle crash near county fairgrounds

Written by Marty Randall

Thursday, 12 June 2014 00:00 -

A Kentucky motorcyclist died in a one-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 31 South near the Scott County Fairgrounds early Thursday morning, June 5.

Joseph A. Schmidt, 30, Vine Grove, Ky., was pronounced dead at the scene by Deputy Coroner Chris Fugate shortly after 1:30 a.m. The mishap occurred at 1:06 a.m. 100 feet north of the U.S. 31 intersection with Lee Street, the entrance to a small subdivision.

Scottsburg Patrolmen James Vires and Troy Ford were dispatched to the scene along with Indiana State Police Trooper Tracy Spencer. Deputies Joe Guarneri and Jac Sanders soon joined them. Officers took statements from eyewitnesses, who told them that the southbound motorcycle, a 2003 Suzuki, was traveling at "...a high rate of speed..." as it entered a slight curve in the highway. The Suzuki left the roadway, crossing a driveway at 1229 South Gardner (U.S. 31) and hit a phone box, a utility pole and, finally, a tree.

One witness said in her statement that she had followed the motorcycle from the intersection of U.S. 31 and Lovers Lane. The cycle was "...all over the road," she related.

Residents in the area said they heard the motorcycle and the crash. Schmidt was found by a resident in the back yard of a home on Joshua Court.

Schmidt apparently died of massive head injuries received in the mishap when he was ejected from the motorcycle.

Property damage was estimated at up to \$25,000, the report filed by Ptl. Vires stated.

Schmidt was a veteran of the U.S. Army. His survivors include a wife, Laura Schmidt; and three young sons.

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The funeral was conducted at the Stewart & Hoagland Funeral Home in Scottsburg on Monday afternoon, June 9. Bishop Sonny Fugate officiated.

Burial was in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Madison following military graveside rites.

Memorial donations may be made to an educational fund for his children through the staff of the funeral home.

On-line condolences may be expressed by visiting the funeral home's website at www.stewart-hoaglandfuneralhome.com.