



State of New Mexico  
*Department of Public Safety*

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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## **NMSP and NMDOT** **Recognize Inspirational Compassion**

Santa Fe – On a day of tragedy and grief, there was also heroism. It was an act of heroism few of us could muster up enough courage to do. However, one man and his son did act.

In the early afternoon of July 30, 2009, Mr. Johnny Gardner and his eight-year old son, Cody Gardner, were stopped by flag person Vivian Williams, and within 10 feet of their vehicle they witnessed a horrific incident. A pickup truck speeding up the off ramp, running the stop sign then striking and killing 46 year old Vivian Williams of Grants. The shameful act of the drunken driver sped off without any regard to Vivian's condition.

Mr. Gardner followed the pick-up truck, while his son Cody called and relayed information about the pickup truck to 911 dispatchers. Amazingly, 8-year old Cody was able to maintain his composure, while providing crucial information for law enforcement officers to gain chase, just seconds after witnessing the tragic event.

Within seconds after the tragic incident, officers with the New Mexico State Police were able to make contact with the pickup truck. The driver was charged with homicide by motor vehicle and driving under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or drug.

Mr. Gardner and his son Cody know that emergency situations require quick and selfless action. Mr. Gardner and Cody chose to come to the aid of another, their level of concern and compassion should inspire us all.

Their selfless actions led to the arrest of a man who has taken Vivian Williams away from her family and co-workers; and another dangerous drunk driver off our roads.

Please join Secretary Gary L. J. Girón of the NMDOT and Chief Faron W. Segotta of the NMSP on commending Johnny and Cody Gardner for their selfless act.

When: Wednesday, September 9th, 2009 10:00 AM

Where: New Mexico Department of Transportation Headquarters  
1120 Cerrillos Road, Room 107 Santa Fe