

## Seatbelt Survivor

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 it was dark and rainy as Cpl. Alex Argo headed to his job at the Millsboro Police Department to work a night shift. He was southbound on Rt. 113 in his 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix at around 7:15 p.m.

Just south of Georgetown - near the racetrack, at the intersection of Rt. 113 and County Route 321, an elderly female driver pulled out in front of Corporal Argo...he had nowhere to go.

Cpl. Argo said his defensive driving training kicked in and as he slammed on his brakes, he cut his wheel hard to the left. He hit the woman's vehicle on its left side, just in front of the driver's door.

"All I could think of was how can I avoid hitting her directly in the door," said Cpl. Argo. "I knew if I didn't do something, she wouldn't stand a chance."

Although the woman's car began to spin, finally coming to rest in the middle of the south lanes of Rt. 113, the Corporal's car "stopped almost immediately." He said the 50-mph impact essentially pushed his front end back into his motor, and caused both of his frontal airbags to deploy. His car was totaled.

But Cpl. Argo's body was not. He was wearing his seatbelt. In the end, he suffered a bruised knee, a wrenched lower back, and a sore left shoulder from the force of his seatbelt holding him in place.

The Corporal knows that an airbag alone wouldn't have saved him, and credits both his seatbelt and his airbag with preventing serious injury in his crash.

"Even with the seatbelt on, my face still hit the airbag pretty hard. If I hadn't been wearing my belt, I believe I would have suffered severe facial injuries, a broken nose, and a broken collarbone at the very least. I definitely would not have been able to return to work as quickly as I did."

As for the other driver, she too was wearing a seatbelt and suffered little more than bruises on her body.

"I believe people should always wear their seatbelts," says Cpl. Argo. He is a living testimony to the fact that seatbelts do save lives.