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# 'Katie's Law' Protects All Drivers, Family Says



Bud Gillett ([http://cbs11tv.com/bios/local\\_bio\\_282191222.html](http://cbs11tv.com/bios/local_bio_282191222.html))  
Reporting

*(CBS 11 News) DALLAS* Like any proud parents, Rick & Johna Bolka's display their child's artwork.

Her mother and father call her fiery. Katie Bolka's dad called her a tomboy. Her mother once described her as 'cute as a Barbie doll.' Tangible memories -- like Katie Bolka's paintings -- are what fill the Bolkas' lives now.

In May 2006, the 17-year-old Katie Bolka was headed westbound toward school, when her car was broadsided by a 90-year-old driver who allegedly ran a red light at the intersection of Preston and Royal in North Dallas.

The Ursuline Academy student died five days after the accident.

On Saturday, flowers marks the crash location. It also is the day Katie's Law hits the books. It requires drivers 79 and older to renew their licenses in person. At age 85, renewal period drops from every six years to every two years.

The Bolkas have made it their mission to force elderly drivers to routinely ask themselves about their driving competency.

"Katie's law is targeted at seniors. It's to make everyone safe -- including older drivers," Rick Bolka explained.

The law passed during the 80th Legislative session.

The parents say they are fulfilling a promise they made to Katie in her final hours.

"She loved causes and and as mother I can almost hear her spirit like she says, 'Mom, do something about this,' " Johna Bolka says.

The 90-year-old driver who was involved in the crash died earlier this year from causes not related to the accident.

Meanwhile, the Bolkas are moving on as a family. Another daughter, Nina, just received her driver's license.



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