

**BROTHER BLUE KNIGHT, CHRIS WHITTINGTON INVOLVED IN FATAL MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1996.**

It is with a very sad heart that I report to you that Chris Whittington passed away. Chris was riding his motorcycle on Sunday evening, December 8, 1996, when a car turned left in front of him. Chris was ejected from the motorcycle and landed in an adjoining ditch. At this time, no charges have been filed. This occurred at Canino and Sweetwater in North Harris County. The accident was investigated by the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Chris' funeral was on Wednesday, December 11, 1996 at 1:00PM at Earthman Resthaven and was buried there as well. Newly appointed Chief Bradford along with Mayor Lanier and his wife Elyse along with Assistant Chief Contreras were in attendance. HPD Chaplain Edwin Davis officiated at the service. There were approximately 100 police officers in uniform attending. The chapel was full of people.

Chris was a patrol officer working out of North Shepherd sub-station with the Houston Police Department. He had been with the department for approx. 13 years. He leaves behind his two sons and his wife, Billie Whittington.

Chris joined the Blue Knights Texas VII in March of this year. He was sponsored by Jim Smelley. Gene Adolph told me the ironic tragedy was that the motorcycle only had a broken reflector with hardly any other damage to report. Your board of directors agreed to give the family \$200.00 from the Blue Knights. Stefanie ordered a huge poinsettia in which we placed a Blue Knights Texas VII flag with a Blue Knight International patch on the ribbon in front of the plant.

I contacted International and informed them of the tragedy. They told me to then call the Board of directors to inform them. I did. Bartholomew called me back and told me that Chris did not qualify for the death and accident benefit. He explained to me that a Blue Knight has to be on their way to or from an International or another chapter's event in order to qualify.

I talked with Chris' mom at the funeral. She told me that Chris loved his motorcycle and that he died doing what he enjoyed. She told me that she really appreciated the Blue Knights and all officers for their support. Although Chris did not make many rides or meetings, we were told by family members that he really enjoyed being a Blue Knight. We will certainly miss him.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, DECEMBER 10, 1996 7:00PM.**

Myself along with Bruce Westbrook, David Barnett, June Daniel, David Lynn and Bruce Johnson met at our house to discuss the committee's for the 1999 International Convention. We read over the convention package and discovered the committee's we formed paralleled what international was suggesting. The deadline for committee reports