

The BOYK BULLETIN

Mother of Hero Who Died Saving A Drowning Boy: Boyk Law Helped Secure My Son's Legacy & Grandson's Future

By: Attorney Wes Merrillat



Russell Jenkins and his son, Kameron

For more than two years, that picture of Russell Jenkins holding his only child has been hanging in my office. For more than two years I have looked at that picture every day. For me, it became a picture of pain, pride, purpose, and most importantly, perspective. It helped me to never lose sight that this man heroically lost his life and this child tragically lost his father.

On February 7, 2013, James "Russell" Jenkins was driving through his apartment complex when he saw a crowd of people and heard frantic screaming. He immediately stopped his car and ran to the scene. A woman, was in hysteria – wailing "my baby, my baby". Russell fixed his eyes on the apartment complex's frozen pond. He saw a small child who had gone out onto the ice to play and broken through. The boy was barely hanging on to the edge of the ice. As the child's grip slipped, Russell immediately removed his coat and crawled out onto the ice. Just before a few feet before he reached the child, the ice broke beneath him and he went into the freezing water. He could have retreated, but he continued on – breaking the ice in front of him with his hand to get to the child. When he reached the boy, he lifted him up and tried to swim back to shore, but the ice was too thick and the water too paralyzing.

So he held the child up onto to a piece of broken ice in front of them – while he treaded water. Efforts to rescue them from shore were failing. Bystanders tried jumper cables, rake handles, and an extension cord. There was simply nothing anywhere they could find to reach them. Police arrived and immediately tried to enter the water, but a couple feet out onto the ice they broke through and were completely submerged. The water was so cold and deep they had to immediately get out. Russell then made the most heroic sacrifice a person can make. He knowingly committed his life in one last effort to save a child he didn't even know. Witnesses watched, stunned, as he announced he could not hold on anymore, took one last breath, submerged himself, and with all that he had left attempted to push the child up onto the ice. He never resurfaced alive.

That child he gave his life for was the same age as his son.

News of Mr. Jenkins' heroic sacrifice spread across the country. President Obama sent a personal letter to the family. His sacrifice was recognized with numerous awards, including the nation's highest award for civilian heroism, the Carnegie Medal. While many in the city, state, and country celebrated him – a family mourned. A mother lost her son and a son lost his father.

Barbara Meredith, Mr. Jenkins' mother, contacted our office for help. Following her son's death, news spread that there had been several other drowning deaths in the apartment complex's pond in just the past few years. Our firm launched an investigation and engaged some of the country's top experts. What we discovered was that the "slumlord owners" had a complete disregard for the safety of the tenants and the children that lived there. They neglected all safety measures, removed barriers to the pond that had previously kept children back, and kept the real dangers of the pond hidden from everyone.



The Carnegie Medal

"It was a sad, sad case, and it was totally and easily preventable," said Chuck Boyk. "This is a place that advertised and invited people to come live by and enjoy its lake. There have now been six drowning deaths in that pond. Most of their residents are young children who can't swim. Enough was enough. Something had to be done."

Our firm aggressively fought for Ms. Meredith and her grandson for more than two years - successfully challenging the defendant and longstanding law in Ohio.

Although devastated by her son's death, Barbara found solace in the fact that the tragic incident sparked change.

"They developed a rescue rope in light of what happened to Russell," Barbara said. "They can throw it out and the victims can wrap themselves in it and get pulled back to the shore. They adopted the name 'Russell Rescue Rope' which is awesome. So far as I know, there are 200 of them now in the City of Columbus."

Ms. Meredith was also adamant that these changes would not have happened without the help of Boyk Law.

"There are certain things in the laws that we just don't understand and the attorneys will help you with that," Barbara said. "Charles Boyk Law, and Wes in particular, have walked me through a lot of things. They stepped in and they handled the things that I wouldn't have been able to do on my own or think about doing. They found out as much as they could and they knew where to turn, where to go. With this information, that helps me pursue some of the things that I want to do on Russell's behalf. And without them, I don't think I could have gotten a secure future for Kameron. They helped me a great deal."

Visit www.therusselljenkinsstory.com for videos on this amazing hero's story.

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Local Business Owner Scott Lirot's Fight For Lick Creek Proves He's Perfect For Williams County Commissioner

By: Attorney Wes Merrill



Scott Lirot with his dog Zeb at Lick Creek

I will not forget getting a call from Scott Lirot back in July of 2009 telling me he wanted to take on the Williams-Defiance Joint Board of County Commissioners and stop the Lick Creek Ditch Project. Now a "ditch case" doesn't mean a lot to most attorneys, but my roots are from a farm in Fulton, County, Ohio. I knew exactly what he was talking about. As a kid, I watched my dad, without an attorney, take on the County Commissioners and fight tooth and nail to stop them from clearing all the trees on the creek that ran through our property. To this day, those trees still stand. My Dad's fight inspired me to the

practice of law and to help others fight "wrongs".

One of the most important things for me as an attorney is that with every case I accept, I need to believe in the case. I need to see an injustice. So when Scott's call came in, all I needed to know was "why" he wanted to take this huge fight on. His answer was perfect - "because it's wrong. It's wrong what they are doing to the taxpayers and the landowners of Williams and Defiance Counties". I will not forget that.

After more than three years of an intensive legal battle, the Court agreed with Scott and the

thousands that came along and supported him—the project and its proposed costs were not in the interest of the citizens of Williams and Defiance. Victory. Many people were upset and angry when that project was first announced. But one man felt that "wrong" so strongly he was moved to action to stop it.

A few weeks ago, I was driving through Bryan, Ohio and saw a hand-painted "Scott Lirot for County Commissioner" sign. I told Scott it looked like my first grade son painted it. He said, "Wes, that sign cost me \$4.00 to make. That is called fiscal responsibility." It absolutely is.

Scott is one of the most effective and determined "advocates" I have ever worked with. He is absolutely passionate about Williams County and dedicated to those who live there. He is a terrific and authentic individual, an amazing down-to-earth public servant, and he would make an outstanding Commissioner.

We loved his election sign, but thought we would offer a little help. Learn a little more about Scott and the work he has done in Williams County by checking out videos on our YouTube page, www.youtube.com/ceboyk. We even included a bloopers reel – because he has a sense of humor. If you have any questions about Scott, his campaign, or platform, or just want to show him your support – I'll give you his personal cell-phone number 419-551-7443 – you call him, anytime. Make sure you get out and vote on March 15th.

RECIPE:

Chicken Salad Croissants with Candied Pecans

This traditional favorite is perfect for all of the bridal and baby showers happening in the spring and can easily be doubled or tripled to serve a crowd.

INGREDIENTS:

Chicken salad:

- 5-6 chicken breasts, cooked and cubed
- 1 cup grapes, sliced in half
- 1 medium sweet Vidalia onion, finely diced
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup creamy Poppyseed dressing (bottled or recipe can be found in Boyk Bulletin Cookbook)
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- Pinch of salt & pinch of pepper

Candied pecans:

- 12oz pecans, whole or pieces
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sea salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, mix together mayonnaise, poppyseed dressing, lemon juice, and pinches

of salt and pepper.

2. Add chopped chicken, grapes, onions, and celery. Refrigerate until serving. May be made up to 48 hours in advanced if stored in airtight container.

3. Serve on croissants, with Ritz crackers, or on beds of bib lettuce. Makes approximately 10 servings of 4 oz. each.

4. Optional: just before serving chicken salad, mix in candied pecans.

For pecans:

1. Place pecans in a single layer in a large frying pan and sprinkle them with sugar and one teaspoon of salt. Turn on heat to medium low and allow pecans to toast and sugar to melt, approximately 3-4 minutes. Do not stir pecans and do not leave them unattended – they can burn very easily and very quickly!

2. As soon as the sugar starts to caramelize, continuously stir pecans until evenly coated and sticky, about two more minutes. Remove from heat while still hot and sticky and scrape them onto a plate in an even layer. Sprinkle on remaining sea salt before they harden. Allow to cool before adding to chicken salad.



TPS Teacher To Receive Award For Dedication To Improving School District's Grades; Getting Kids On To College



Small School Initiative Director Treva Jeffries, Kenyan Modisett, and Meighan Richardson

Recent news of Toledo Public Schools' poor Ohio report card is not stopping teachers from encouraging their students to pursue higher education. And the students are recognizing their efforts and stepping up to the plate.

Boyk Law's TPS Proud program went to Scott High School to recognize January's Student and Teacher of the Month winners and also to thank the students for creating 35 videos on why they appreciate their teachers.

Meighan Richardson was named TPS Proud's Teacher of the Month and was awarded a \$150 Visa gift card for going above and beyond to help her kids apply to college, research schools, and even offer to arrange college visits. She was nominated by her student, Kenyan Modisett, whom she helped apply to Ohio State University's Lima campus.

"When I met Ms. Richardson my Junior year, she was a teacher who cared about me getting into college, not just passing her class," Kenyan said. "She helped me apply to college the first time I ever did it and I'm actually getting mail from this college to this



Arnone Belmon and Leah Hudson

day. I'm a Senior now and she's still helping me and she said she even wants to take me out there to visit."

Student of the Month Arnone Belmon was recognized for everything he has done to work toward graduation, all while staying respectful and mindful of his peers.

It was Arnone's teacher Leah Hudson, daughter of Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, who nominated him to win a \$150 gift card and title of TPS Proud Student of the Month.

"Arnone is a very respectful outgoing young man," Ms. Hudson said. "He is actively involved in school as well as extracurricular activities such as wrestling and boxing. He is nice to everyone and is well liked by both peers and adults in the building."

The TPS Proud Student and Teacher of the Month contest is a joint effort between Toledo Public Schools and Charles E. Boyk Law Offices, LLC. Each month, one teacher and one student from one of TPS's high schools will be awarded with a \$150 Visa gift card. Stay tuned for winners from next month's school, Jones Leadership Academy.

CASES OF INTEREST: MARCH 2016

Elderly Woman Hospitalized For A Week After Contracting Salmonella Poisoning At Bowling Green Nursing Home

Our client was transported by ambulance to Wood County Hospital where she stayed for a week due to complications from salmonella poisoning at Heritage Corner Health Care last summer. According to a press release from the Wood County Health District, there were 18 illnesses and two deaths reported from the salmonella outbreak and we are still investigating the source of the contamination.

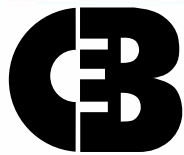
Previous Client Returns To Boyk Law After Surgery To Repair Broken Femur From Car Accident

After helping him with an accident years prior, our client returned to Boyk Law for help with a car accident that caused a nearly month-long hospital stay for a broken femur and facial lacerations. Our client was transported by ambulance to a local hospital after striking a car that pulled out in front of him, leaving him with the need for surgery. He will be non-weight bearing for at least three months as he recovers under the care of home health nurses.

Worker Hospitalized In ICU After Tire Explodes At Work

Our client was checking on a tire's pressure while on the job when it exploded, causing six fractures of two ribs. The trauma punctured his left lung, causing him to spend three days in intensive care. We are helping him navigate the process of his worker's compensation claim since he was required to go back to work while still recovering and he is still facing back problems.





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Open it! Read it! Share it!

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March's Raving Fan of the Month



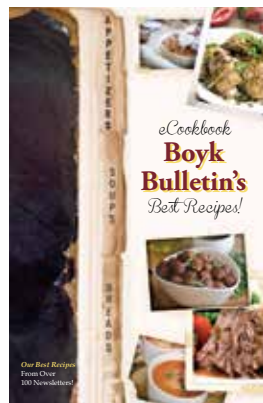
"Chuck Boyk and his staff are awesome and they did everything they could to get me a successful settlement. The customer service was outstanding and I would highly recommend them to anyone. You won't be disappointed." - Steve Slandzicki

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