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Governor



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## **Media Release**

### **Wrong-Way Fatality in Head-on Collision on US 395 near Lemmon Valley has been Identified**

Last evening at approximately 10:13 pm, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a head-on collision on southbound US 395 between the Lemmon Valley and Stead Blvd interchanges. Evidence at the scene indicated that a blue 2007 Toyota Highlander SUV, driven by 53-year-old Sheryl S. Ross of Reno, was traveling northbound, the wrong way, in the left lane of the southbound freeway. Traveling south in the same travel lane was a black 2009 Kia Spectra 4-door sedan driven by 21-year-old Bonnie C. Gowan of Reno. The two vehicles collided head-on blocking both southbound lanes of the freeway. Both drivers had to be extricated from their vehicles. Ms. Ross sustained life-threatening injuries and was airlifted from the scene to Renown Regional Medical Center by Care Flight while Ms. Gowan was transported by ground ambulance for injuries reported as serious. Earlier this morning our agency was advised that Ms. Ross passed away from her injuries at approximately 3:24 am while Ms. Gowan remains hospitalized in fair condition.

The on-scene crash investigation caused both southbound lanes to be closed for approximately 3 hours. Deputies from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office assisted us with detouring southbound traffic onto N. Virginia Street at the Stead Blvd interchange. Alcohol is believed to be one of the leading contributing factors in this tragedy.

The crash is being investigated by Trooper Robert Haigney of the Major Accident Investigation Team (M.A.I.T.). Witnesses to the accident, to include those drivers who may have seen the wrong-way driver or swerved to miss her Toyota SUV, and anyone who may have seen which ramp this driver accessed the wrong way, should contact Trooper Haigney at (775) 689-4682 regarding case # NHP-1103281915.

*"On a side note, almost every single head-on collision involving a wrong way driver where alcohol is a significant factor happens in the left or fast lane of the highway. One theory as to why these horrific and unplanned events take place is the at-fault driver believes that he or she is driving the correct direction in his or her own right-hand lane. As a precaution to all motorists, especially during night time hours and when drivers do not have an extended line of sight, driving in the left lane should be avoided."*

**XXX**