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Media Release

Both Victims in Single-Vehicle Rollover Crash near Lovelock Identified

The husband and wife from Sacramento, California, who were involved in the single-vehicle rollover accident near Lovelock two days ago, have both been identified and their next of kin have been notified. **66-year-old Rita N. Kovalev**, who was riding in the right front seat, died at the accident scene while her husband, **73 year-old Viktor P. Kovalev**, remains in the Intensive Care Unit at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno. Both had been wearing seat belts.

The crash happened on Wednesday afternoon at approximately 1:45 pm on Interstate 80 near mile marker 90, approximately 15 miles west of Lovelock. Viktor was driving his green 2005 Honda civic 4-door sedan eastbound on the freeway when his vehicle veered toward the center median. He steered the vehicle toward the right and re-entered his original travel lane before the vehicle veered to the left one more time where it struck a small metal mile marker post. He over-corrected the vehicle's steering to the right when the Honda rotated and skidded in a clock-wise direction and traveled across both eastbound travel lanes. As the vehicle departed the south or right edge of the highway, it rolled over several times before coming to rest on its roof.

Rita sustained fatal injuries in the crash and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Her husband sustained life-threatening injuries and was unconscious before being airlifted from the crash site by Care Flight and flown to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno. Both lanes of eastbound Interstate 80 were temporarily closed for approximately 25 minutes to stage the helicopter and load the patient.

Trooper Kris Satterwhite of the NHP-Major Accident Investigation Team or M.A.I.T. is investigating this crash. Witnesses to the event are encouraged to contact him at (775) 689-4682, or by e-mail at ksatterwhite@dps.state.nv.us, regarding case number NHP-120425527.

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