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March 19, 2012

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Media Release

Fatality Victim in Mineral County Crash near Luning Last Thursday Identified

On the evening of March 15, 2012, at approximately 11:05 pm, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a head-on collision on US 95 in Mineral County, approximately 1 mile north of the community of Luning.

The details investigated so far indicate that **81-year-old David W. Hermansen of Luning** was traveling southbound on US 95 near mile marker 26 in a red 1976 Chevrolet Nova 2-door sedan. Traveling northbound on the two-lane highway was an eighteen-wheeled commercial motor vehicle, comprised of a white 1999 Freightliner towing an enclosed semi-trailer, driven by 41-year-old Mario H. Collazo of La Puente, California.

For reasons still unknown and being investigated, Mr. Hermansen allowed his sedan to travel into the opposing lane directly in the path of the big truck. In an effort to avoid a direct head-on collision, the driver of the big-rig steered his truck to the right. The front of the sedan struck the rear axles of the trailer before the vehicle rotated off the east edge of the pavement and caught fire. Mr. Hermansen was pronounced deceased at the scene and his next-of-kin have been notified. Mr. Collazo was not injured in the event.

As a result of the crash both directions of US 95 were closed for several hours while troopers completed their on-scene portion of the crash investigation.

The NHP-Major Accident Investigation Team is handling the case and anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Trooper Mike Stapledon at (775) 689-4623 or at mstapledon@dps.state.nv.us regarding case number NHP-120315580.

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