

## Family uses child's driveway death to raise awareness

Monday, May 28, 2012 • [Kay Luna](#)



*Karen and Pat Pauly, holding 2-month-old daughter Charlotte Jack Pauly, and older daughter, Lily, stand in front of a display Monday in Westbrook Park in DeWitt, Iowa, in memory of 19-month-old Jack Pauly, who died last April in the family's driveway in a runaway accident.*

### **Jack's note**

*This note was attached to the balloons released Monday by 19-month-old Jack Pauly's family and friends:*

*"On April 17, 2011, Jack Pauly, a 19-month-old boy from DeWitt, Iowa, was run over in his driveway and passed away hours later. In the U.S., 50 children*

*are backed over each WEEK and at least two of those are fatally injured.*

*Today, on May 28, 2012, family and friends from the Quad-Cities gather at a park in DeWitt, where playground equipment has been placed in Jack's honor. You found one of 150 balloons that were released in order to raise awareness about backover accidents.*

*For more information about backovers and other accidents involving children and vehicles, please visit [kidsandcars.org](http://kidsandcars.org), and for more on Jack's story, visit [kidsandcars.org/jack-pauly.html](http://kidsandcars.org/jack-pauly.html). You can also reach Jack's mom, Karen, at [kpljpauly@gmail.com](mailto:kpljpauly@gmail.com).*

*Jack, we love you and miss you dearly. Until we meet again..."*

DeWITT, Iowa — Smiling baby photos of 19-month-old Jack Pauly filled the picnic shelter Monday at Westbrook Park, where the boy's little green boots, a plastic toy and teddy bear served as table centerpieces. They were bittersweet mementos of Jack's short life, which ended April 17, 2011, hours after an accident in his family's driveway.

In a different kind of Memorial Day service, family and friends of his parents, Pat and Karen Pauly of DeWitt, gathered near a new playground and granite memorial created in Jack's memory to raise awareness of vehicle accidents involving children.

"The tragedy that our family has suffered may help other people," Karen's mother, Bonnie Boehl of LeClaire, said. "That's how you get through. At least we're helping other kids."

Jack died after he was struck by his family's SUV, as Karen Pauly was backing out of their garage in rural DeWitt. She was taking daughter Lily with her, while Pat and Jack were going to stay home. The boy got out of the house and into the driveway without his parents realizing it. The SUV ran him over. He was pronounced dead at University Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

Since then, Karen Pauly has dealt with her mourning by trying to prevent other accidents like the one that claimed Jack's life. She wants people to realize how narrow their field of vision actually is behind their vehicles and wants every new car manufactured to include a rear camera to help drivers see behind them.

The family also wanted to use Monday's event to dedicate the new park equipment purchased with community donations, which also paid for the memorial stone in Jack's honor in the park where they used to take him to play.

The couple, who married in November 2005, said they couldn't have made it through such a heartbreaking tragedy without each other. In addition to Lily, they also recently added to their family: daughter Charlotte Jack Pauly is 2 months old.

"We deal with it in our own ways," Karen Pauly said. "He doesn't like to do (media interviews) like this, but I do. It's how I cope. I can go without telling my story, or I can tell it and hopefully it makes someone think twice."

She said they launched 150 balloons “to feel like we’re sending something to him,” adding notes to the strings with information about Jack and the website [kidsandcars.org](http://kidsandcars.org), which offers safety tips for drivers and families.

Pat’s sister, Maria Pauly, said she and her parents live next door to the family, and they all were very close to Jack. The Paulys built a memorial on the farm for Jack, but the boy’s parents also are using more public ways to remember him, “and I’m proud of them for doing that,” she said. The support of family and friends has made a huge difference, she added.

“I think what makes them special is they’re finding the strength to grow as a couple,” said Britney Goodding of Davenport, a close friend of the Paulys. “They realize that life does go on, and they’re finding ways to cherish Jack’s memory.”

[http://qctimes.com/news/local/family-uses-child-s-driveway-death-to-raise-awareness/article\\_48c05210-a93a-11e1-a67d-0019bb2963f4.html](http://qctimes.com/news/local/family-uses-child-s-driveway-death-to-raise-awareness/article_48c05210-a93a-11e1-a67d-0019bb2963f4.html)