

My sister Kristen was my best friend and an amazing person who loved Maine and the Maine way of life as much as anyone. She was not vengeful and neither am I. She had a tremendous capacity for forgiveness. Part of the lesson from all of this and from her short life is most certainly to live like Kristen. There has been one comfort in her death and that is that she lived to help others and to enjoy her life here and now with the people and animals that came into her circle.

But Kristen also had a strong sense of right and wrong and justice. She relentlessly cheered for the underdog and for the least powerful and I ask that the court remember it's obligation to do the same. In Maine, we do not require that a person have a license in order to drive a boat and we don't have traffic lanes crisscrossing our lakes but we have laws that require boaters to act prudently. We have an expectation and a normal standard of care that demands you be able to see what's in front of you and travel no faster than your ability to avoid obstacles such as moorings, floats, boats, kayakers, loons, logs, lobster pots, or swimmers.

Operating a boat on the hottest night of the year at dusk with children and another person in need of some special assistance was perhaps a manageable risk if Mr. Roberts had been willing to slow down to a speed that would keep his own family safe and enable him to hear the screams of my sister and her friend Nate or to see the neon yellow flipper that she waved frantically in the air.

The swimmers and kayakers on the lake that night posed no threat to anyone. My sister was breaking no laws. She chose to enjoy this shared natural resource owned by the State of Maine in a way that put no one at risk.

The lakes of Maine belong to everyone and the greater the capacity to do harm to that lake or to the people and animals who use it, the greater the expectation of care. The same is true for our roads.

What happened to my sister was not just a crime against her. It was a crime against the peace and tranquility of all Maine residents who use our shared public spaces, and those shared public spaces include our roads, our sidewalks, our public parks, even our courtrooms.

On the roads, as well as the lakes, the State must be a voice for the most vulnerable users, for those who use our shared public spaces responsibly.

The most recent behavior of Mr. Roberts reinforces that there is a pattern of recklessness and disregard for the lives of others when he is operating a motorized vehicle and that even when there are clear rules like the ones regarding speed and sobriety while driving a car, he is either unable or chooses not to follow them.

August 2nd, the weekend that Mr. Roberts was stopped speeding and intoxicated, was the 3 year anniversary of the death of my sister and we are missing her as much as ever.

Mr. Roberts apparently decided to remember the anniversary by spending another weekend in Maine recklessly operating a vehicle. I am grateful that he was stopped before someone else was killed or injured but it seems clear that he was not nearly as remorseful about taking Kristen's life as he wanted everyone to believe.

I would have hoped the anniversary of this tragedy would inspire him to do something positive for others. That's likely how Kristen would have been spending her weekend. She would have likely been cleaning up trash on the side of the road, rescuing an animal, playing with my kids, or helping my parents with something.

In Maine, we love our freedom and our open spaces, but in order for us to continue to enjoy those freedoms, we also need a high level of individual responsibility and accountability when people demonstrate they are unwilling to take this responsibility seriously.

I ask that the state take seriously its obligation to keep our shared public spaces safe for law abiding Mainers and the most vulnerable among us.