

## Bicycle ride memorializes father, son, and raises awareness of bike safety

By Erin Zureick

[Erin.Zureick@StarNewsOnline.com](mailto:Erin.Zureick@StarNewsOnline.com)



As bicyclists streamed onto Halyburton Memorial Parkway on Sunday, Joy Doolittle said the scene reminded her of the Tour de France.

"I used the word 'overwhelmed' I don't know how many times this week," said Doolittle, who gathered at Murray Middle School with hundreds of others for a memorial bike ride in honor of her son and ex-husband.

David Doolittle, 46, and his 17-year-old son, Trey Doolittle, were killed after being struck by a car last week while cycling nearby

River Road. The two were avid athletes and training for a triathlon.

Those who knew the Doolittles best and those who had only heard of the tragedy attended Sunday's ride to raise awareness of bicycling safety and support the family. "It's phenomenal. Watching all the cyclists come in just shows how this community cares," said Tom Clifford, a local triathlete who organized the event. Clifford said he would have been happy with 100 people showing up, but nearly 1,000 people had RSVPd for the event on Facebook. Participants donned racing bibs that said "In memory of Doolittle" and April 3, 2011 -- the date the crash happened. They also signed a large, white banner that read "Doolittle Memorial Ride."

Donations were accepted for the family.

Thomas Howard Grooms Jr., 63, was arrested at the scene of the wreck and charged on several counts, including felony death by motor vehicle, felony DWI and possession of cocaine.

Joy Doolittle said she hopes the wreck helps people to make good choices and to think about sharing the road. She said she was proud of her son and happy to meet those who knew him. "I've met so many wonderful people this week," she said. "I know the friends you have are a reflection of who you are."