



HOME NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE TRAVEL BLOGS JOBS REAL ESTATE CARS SHOPPING

SEARCH

IN Chron.com

Go

Discuss this in the
Houston & Texas Forum

MORE

- Warming bays a hot issue for Texas coast
- Apartment leasing agent found in tub
- 18 Houston ZIPs see rise in lung cancer rates
- Abandoned newborn girl found near apartments
- Crash kills cyclist on training ride
- Nobel laureate, Iranian activist lectures at Rice
- 'Texas eye candy' to be sold off
- Fort Worth rodeo won't buck traditions
- Former aide to Doggett admits to embezzling
- Goodfellows aids 74,000 children
- Man brings tabloid journalism to East Texas
- Q&A: Kubiak relishing his homecoming
- New Orleans failures brought crime to Houston
- Travis County deals with graves underfoot
- Actor Hopkins spreads kindness in Alamo City
- CRIME & COURTS

Houston & Texas

EMAIL THIS STORY PRINTER FRIENDLY FORMAT

Feb. 4, 2006, 11:46PM

Crash kills cyclist on training ride

An SUV hits NASA engineer as his group prepares for the MS 150

By ANNE MARIE KILDAY
Copyright 2006 Houston Chronicle

A 39-year-old NASA engineer was killed Saturday while leading members of the Pearland Cycling Club on a training ride for the MS 150 charity fundraiser.

Aerospace engineer Tony Dao was involved in a collision with a Chevrolet Trailblazer while riding eastbound on County Road 190 near Alvin. The driver of the SUV was passing the group of cyclists when Dao began to turn left onto a private road, said a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safety in Texas City. The SUV, driven by a 25-year-old woman, hit Dao about 8:45 a.m., the DPS spokeswoman said.

Dao was transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast, where he was pronounced dead at 10:15 a.m., according to DPS.

Dao was a designer of exercise equipment for NASA astronauts to use in zero gravity to keep muscle tone and maintain cardiopulmonary efficiency.

"He was an aerospace engineer. He always loved that," said his wife, Dianne. "Cycling was his passion."

A native of Vietnam, Dao immigrated to Wichita, Kan., with his parents in 1977. He was a graduate of Wichita State University.

Dianne Dao, who immigrated with her family to the Houston area from Vietnam when she was 4 years old, met her husband-to-be while attending the University of Houston's College of Optometry. A classmate who had been a NASA engineer introduced them, she said.

She is now an optometrist in Pearland. The couple have two children, 4-year-old Matthew and 2-year-old Michael.

They were married nearly nine years ago at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral and are members of St. Helen Catholic Church in Pearland.

"He was full of life. We had so much to do, so much to do," Dianne Dao said Saturday afternoon, weeping softly. "He was

such a devoted father. He loved life, and always thought about family and religion."

Members of the Pearland Cycling Club circulated e-mail messages Saturday praising Dao's dedication to cycling and to his work at NASA.

Club members participate in bike rides to raise funds for a variety of charitable organizations, including the annual 150-mile ride from Houston to Austin, which benefits research into multiple sclerosis. The club regularly rides trains for the charity events on Saturday mornings.

A portion of the Pearland Cycling Club's annual fundraiser, The Great Escape, will be set aside to help the Dao family.

In addition to his wife and two sons, Dao is survived by his parents, Dieau and John Dao; a brother, Tu Dao; sister Tram and her husband, Rocky Walker; and sister Teresa Dao and her husband, Khanh Nguyen.

Funeral services are pending.

anne.kilday@chron.com

Subscribe to the paper for less than thirty cents a day!



EMAIL THIS STORY



PRINTER FRIENDLY FORMAT



Copyright Notice & Privacy Policy | Help | Report a Problem | Site Map | Advertise | Place an ad