



[News Search](#) [Web Search](#) [Classified Search](#) [Advertising](#) [Circulation](#) [Reader Services](#) [Traffic](#) [Stocks](#) [Weather](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Opinion](#) [Entertainment](#) [Features](#) [Columnists](#) [Community](#)

[Coastal](#) [Inland](#) [Californian](#) [State / West](#) [Nation / World](#) [Special Reports](#) [Military](#) [Letters](#) [Obituaries](#)

[Keyword Search](#)

go!

Archives

Last modified Monday, November 7, 2005 9:07 PM PST

NEWS ALERT
Sign Up To Receive Daily News Alerts Via Email

[Email this story](#) [Comment in our Blog](#) [Print this story](#)

Father's loss prompts him to action

By: *JENNIFER KABBANY - Staff Writer*

DE LUZ ---- Travis Roy loved planes. Stacked on his bed are portfolios with dozens of hand-drawn pictures of aircraft carriers with jets taking off and landing. His bedroom's walls are covered with much of the same.

"He could tell you every plane in the Navy's arsenal," said Bob Roy, Travis' father, at the family's De Luz home, his eyes beaming with pride and welling with tears. "'Top Gun' was his favorite movie."

Travis will never draw another airplane. He died June 25 in his bedroom at the age of 14. His father said he was holding his son's hand when he took his last breath.

About a month before Travis died, he had been playing outside at Thompson Middle School's basketball courts and suffered a heart attack due to a previously undiagnosed condition. Travis was also autistic.

In piecing together the events of that day in May, Roy said that although school officials and medical personnel responded to his son's collapse quickly, it was 23 minutes before Travis received an electric shock from a defibrillator that restarted his heart and brought him back to life, though in a coma.

That 23 minutes was the difference, Roy said. Had Travis been brought back to life sooner with the electric shock, he may have lived, but the delay left Travis in a coma until his death, Roy said.

With the aim of preventing such deaths, Roy said he has decided to start an effort to get legislation passed in Sacramento mandating the placement of automated external defibrillators in schools across the state. Had such a device been at Thompson that day, Roy believes Travis' outcome



Bob Roy of Deluz holds a picture of his son Travis, who died earlier this year at Thompson Middle School.

Staff Photo

[Order a copy of this photo](#)
[Visit our Photo Gallery](#)

HARD COPY
Order Back Issues of This Date's Newspaper



Arts & Entertainment Magazine

Own A Piece Of History A Thousand Miles To Baghdad

News Update

[...more AP news](#)

would have been different.

The devices can be used by a lay person to monitor a person's heartbeat and determine whether the rhythm is normal. If needed, the machines can deliver electric shocks to restart the heart or correct an irregular heartbeat.

Roy began his quest at the Murrieta Valley Unified School District, and it looks as though he will be successful. Trustees, at their meeting next week, are scheduled to vote on whether to purchase automated external defibrillators for their middle and high schools for about \$25,000. When the idea was first proposed recently, trustees said they were in favor of the purchase.

John Preston, the district's director of risk management, said Roy was the catalyst in bringing the issue to the forefront of the district's agenda.

"He is clearly passionate about the topic," Preston said. "And he is very helpful with providing information to the district."

As he begins his fight on a statewide level, Roy said he doesn't expect a "quick, easy" fight.

"I expect resistance," Roy said. "But I expected resistance from the school district and they have been totally supportive."

No matter what hurdles Roy may face, he said he is ready.

"Parents of special education kids just learn not to take 'no' for an answer," Roy said.

He added that he also is taking a cue from former President Abraham Lincoln, who experienced several big failures over the course of his lifetime on the way to the White House.

As Roy works to find a legislator who will agree to sponsor a bill in Sacramento, he is also collecting names and phone numbers of people willing to help him along the way, he said.

So far, he said he is in contact with a woman who helped lead an effort to mandate the devices in New York schools, as well as a Pamela Foster, a nurse from Brea who also wants automated external defibrillators in schools.

"I need a support system," Roy said. "I am putting together a team."

Meanwhile, Roy said, he has his good and bad moments.

"I miss him everyday; I think about him everyday; I cry everyday," Roy said. "But I know he is in a better place and I know I will see him again."

Roy may be reached at broy@firstam.com.

Contact staff writer Jennifer Kabbany at (951) 676-4315, Ext. 2625, or jkabbany@californian.com.

Comments On This Story

Annette wrote on **November 09, 2005 8:04 AM**: "Dear Mr. Roy, It saddens me to hear about the lost of your son. I wish I had words that would help you to heal, but I can't begin to imagine the heartache of losing a child. I wish you all the best in your fight, and if you get up a petition please send it to me for signing. May God give you the strength and courage to endure. I also wanted to add that I am a Navy mom and my son also wanted to be a pilot during

all his young years of growing up. He is currently stationed in Japan aboard the USS Kitty Hawk. He's not pursuing his dream to be a pilot for now, but his bedroom walls are still filled with photos of Jets and carriers. I also have drawings of Jets he drew when he was young, and these I will cherish for a life time. God Bless Annette "

Add Your Comments

First name only. Comments including last names, contact addresses, email addresses or phone numbers will be deleted. All comments are screened before they appear online. [Click here to view additional comment policies.](#)

Name:

Comments:

Post Comment

To begin a discussion on this topic visit our [Online Forums](#).

[Click here for daily newspaper delivery](#)

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

[Click here for daily online news alerts](#)

THE CALIFORNIAN

[Click here to send a Letter to the Editor](#)

[Click here to send an Announcement](#)

Recent Top Stories

- [The day after: Democrats rejoice, Republicans regroup](#)
- [North County results lag because of distance to tally point](#)
- [County: 2020 plan to be finished in '07](#)
- [Group prepares to reopen shelter](#)
- [San Diego and Riverside counties buck state vote](#)
- [Ex-police chief Sanders elected mayor of San Diego](#)
- [Encinitas's Prop. A likely defeated](#)
- [Schwarzenegger defeated on key reforms](#)
- [TransNet II places emphasis on sidewalks, bikeways](#)
- [State agency lists Gregory Mountain as historical site](#)
- [Highway 76 price tag jumps to \\$371 million](#)
- [Video debuts about human trafficking](#)
- [MiraCosta exploring options for third campus in Carlsbad or Encinitas](#)
- [Marshals: Death row inmate who walked out of prison captured in Louisiana](#)

- **Wildfire recovery missing the 'why'**
- **Election is an unpredictable proposition**
- **Vista City Council to decide fate of homeless shelter**
- **New scandals help lower Cunningham's damaged profile**
- **Aide: Cunningham focusing on congressional work**

 [Print this story](#)  [Email this story](#)