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Metro

**Pedestrian Death on I-95 Ruled Accidental; Brother of Clinton's Secretary
Darted Into Traffic After Crash**
Mike Allen
Washington Post Staff Writer

Virginia State Police have concluded that Theodore R. Williams Jr. of Fort Washington -- the brother of President Clinton's personal secretary, Betty Currie -- did not intend to commit suicide when he ran onto Interstate 95 north of Richmond after a traffic accident and was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer.

But they say there is no explanation for why Williams bolted from the highway shoulder after talking to a trooper who was investigating the crash with another truck, which Williams had escaped without injury.

"This has been ruled an 'accidental death/motor-vehicle crash,' said Mary S. Evans, a state police spokeswoman.

Williams, a 52-year-old building mechanic for the Postal Service, died Dec. 15, weeks before Currie was called before a federal grand jury investigating former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky. President Clinton attended his funeral Dec. 20.

Evans said investigators thought Williams's death "might have been suicide," but ruled that out after learning that Williams was on his way to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to pick up his daughter.

"That's not usually when people commit suicide -- when they have an errand to run," Evans said. She said family members said Williams had not seemed depressed.

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She said officials were not aware of Williams's connection to Currie initially but did interview more friends and relatives than they usually would in a traffic case because of the possibility of suicide.

Evans said investigators concluded that "this is a traffic accident, a non-story story."

According to Evans, investigators found 5.2 grams of marijuana under the floor mat on the driver's side of Williams's Chevrolet pickup. In the glove box, police found a pipe and rolling papers, she said.

The state medical examiner's report found no illegal substances in his body. But the report found that Williams had a blood-alcohol level of .07 percent -- just below the legal limit for drunken driving, .08 percent.

Williams was headed south on I-95 in Hanover County about noon Dec. 15 when his pickup hit the back of a tractor-trailer. The tractor-trailer driver said he didn't feel a thing and continued down the road until he was flagged down by motorists who had seen the crash.

Williams ran off the left shoulder of the highway and down an embankment but was not hurt, according to the accident report.

Evans said that as Williams walked up the hill, state police Sgt. Jessie Roberts arrived on the scene and asked, "Are you okay?" When Williams said he was, the sergeant turned to speak to two witnesses to the accident who had stopped.

In that instant, Williams started walking toward the fast lane, Evans said.

"Get back! You're going to get hit," Roberts remembers telling him.

Then to the shock of bystanders, Williams rushed into traffic and was hit by another tractor-trailer, according to Evans.

"Nobody knows why he ran across the road," Evans said.

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