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JUDY ENGLAND IS GRADUATING A HEROINE --HELPS THE INJURED AT MAJOR ACCIDENT SCENE

Just two weeks before graduation, 21-year-old Judy England underwent a trauma that most us never see in a lifetime.

On the cold, windy night of May 11, while returning from the Pacific Coast Rowing Championships near Sacramento, the University of San Diego senior spent two-and-a-half hours at the scene of a traffic accident that left three dead and ten with major injuries.

All 13 accident victims were also college rowing team members, including one of Judy's teammates. Their bodies were thrown from a van that had a tire blow while traveling at a high speed on Interstate 5 near Modesto, Ca.

Judy, along with six University of San Diego crew teammates and their coach, riding in another van, arrived at the bloody scene just minutes after it occurred.

At first, the girls couldn't tell who was dead or alive. Many of the young men were on their backs writhing in pain, still wearing the medals around their necks that they had won earlier that day.

The USD rowers covered the victims with blankets, gave them the sweatshirts off their backs and, most of all, kept

them company while waiting for rescue workers and transport to the nearest hospital, at least an hour's drive away.

"I was amazed how strong, and rational, I was throughout the whole time," Judy said. "We each took a victim and talked to them to keep their minds off the pain...We prayed with some of them."

She was also surprised that the paramedics, who arrived after the girls did, encouraged them to continue comforting the victims.

"It was real teamwork," Judy said.

Judy knows a lot about teamwork, this being her fourth year on the USD women's rowing team, which won the coveted California Cup earlier in the spring.

She plans to continue being part of a crew while working on a master's degree in physical education, perhaps on the east coast.

On May 25 Judy will be among an estimated 725 students receiving bachelor's degrees. Judy majored in political science with a communications minor.

She is the daughter of the Rev. Robert E. England, a Scottsdale, Ariz. elementary school teacher, and Anita R. England, who is self-employed. The family resides in Phoenix.

At USD, she was on the Dean's list, a scholarship winner, a Student Senate executive member, ASB secretary of communications and a member of the Sigma Pi Fraternity Little Sister executive board.