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An unexpected motorist 'stomps on the gas' to catch hit-and-run driver in Iowa

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Cynthia Fodor

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Ambassador Ken Quinn and his wife, Le Son, were driving along Interstate 80 near Iowa City on the evening of their wedding anniversary.

"Just going along and then and then out of nowhere, we were hit from behind by this incredible force," said Quinn, a former president of the World Food Prize Foundation. "The force we were hit with had to be 90-100 mph."

Quinn's car sustained serious damage to the bumper.

But a motorist behind them was not going to let the hit-and-run driver get away. When the officer arrived at the scene, he informed them another driver took off after the pickup, honking the horn to force her to pull over.

The Quinns could not believe it when they heard who it was that chased down the fleeing truck.

It was former Iowa governor and former U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad, and his wife, Chris.

"Chris was driving and she sees the drunk driver in the pickup truck take off. And she stomps on the gas and chases her down the interstate," Quinn said.

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After handing the offender over to police, the Branstads drove back to find the Quinns battered and bruised.

They have been friends for years and just attended the same event.

"There was a little fire in her eyes, this person has hit my friends and is taking off, she just had an instinctive response, you can't get away with that," Quinn said.

The Branstads went the extra mile and drove the Quinns to their destination.

"We're lucky to be here, this could have ended very differently, very differently," Quinn said.

At the moment of impact, the couple thought it might be their last anniversary, but instead, it was one they'll never forget.

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