

By: Moody

H.C.R. No. 55

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has borne sorrowful witness to
2 some of the nation's worst mass shootings; and

3 WHEREAS, In August 1966, a sniper killed 15 people on The
4 University of Texas at Austin campus; the unprecedented carnage
5 shocked the nation, and the Associated Press and United Press
6 International ranked it as the second most important story of the
7 year, after the Vietnam War; and

8 WHEREAS, Tragically, mass shootings have become almost
9 commonplace; over the past decade, dozens of Texans have been
10 killed in such massacres, including two that occurred back-to-back
11 in 2019; the slaughter at an El Paso Walmart in August claimed 23
12 lives, and a murderous spree across Midland-Odessa took seven more
13 later that month; and

14 WHEREAS, Santa Fe High School lost eight students and two
15 teachers in a 2018 shooting; the year before, a gunman opened fire
16 at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, slaying 25
17 worshippers; and

18 WHEREAS, The victims of these savage attacks deserve to be
19 remembered; under Chapter [443](#), Government Code, and rules of the
20 State Preservation Board, a portion of the north Capitol grounds is
21 available for new monuments, subject to legislative approval,
22 specified procedural requirements, the provision of funding from
23 private donors, conformity to certain size and design limitations
24 and parameters, and completion on a timely basis; and

1 WHEREAS, A memorial on the Capitol grounds would provide a
2 communal place for Texans to honor the innocent lives cut short by
3 mass gun violence, and many citizens stand ready to donate funds for
4 such a project; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby authorize the State Preservation Board, subject to state law
7 and rules of the board, to approve and permit the construction of a
8 monument at the state Capitol Complex, at a site outside the
9 historic Capitol grounds, honoring victims of mass shootings; and,
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an
12 official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the
13 State Preservation Board.