

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 1938

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Sean Carter of Winnsboro has faced extraordinary  
2 challenges since being injured in an automobile accident in 2005,  
3 and through his work as founder of WhenSeanSpeaks, Inc., he has  
4 transformed his personal tragedy into a campaign to save lives; and

5           WHEREAS, At the time the incident occurred, Sean Carter was a  
6 22-year-old college student with plans to pursue a bachelor's  
7 degree in business administration and go to law school; on the  
8 evening of March 26, 2005, he was headed home with friends after  
9 visiting a few bars when the driver lost control of the vehicle and  
10 crashed; and

11           WHEREAS, In addition to the multiple fractures and internal  
12 injuries he suffered, Mr. Carter was diagnosed with a severe  
13 diffuse axonal injury, a type of brain trauma; after emerging from a  
14 coma that lasted 39 days, he found he was unable to speak or walk,  
15 and his mother, Jenny Carter, had to assume guardianship of him; and

16           WHEREAS, Refusing to abandon hope under these dire  
17 circumstances, Mr. Carter began using a tablet computer with "type  
18 to speech" software in an effort to reclaim his autonomy; he went on  
19 to embrace a new sense of purpose as well when he began sharing his  
20 story with others in 2007, as a participant in a Mothers Against  
21 Drunk Driving Victim Impact Panel in Dallas; three years later, he  
22 founded the nonprofit organization WhenSeanSpeaks; and

23           WHEREAS, Since that time, Mr. Carter and his mother have  
24 taken their message to tens of thousands of young people across the

1 nation; with funding from the Texas Department of Transportation,  
2 they partnered with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to  
3 deliver presentations at 15 venues in 2013 and at 50 venues in 2014;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, WhenSeanSpeaks is dedicated to educating youth on  
6 the devastating toll of drinking and driving, emphasizing that it  
7 is equally important, as a passenger, to be mindful of the condition  
8 of the driver of the vehicle; the organization is also dedicated to  
9 improving the lives of people affected by traumatic brain injuries  
10 through public awareness and research and to increasing the  
11 availability of exercise facilities that are equipped to serve  
12 persons with mobility needs; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout his ordeal, Mr. Carter has benefited  
14 greatly from the support of his mother, his brothers, Todd and Ben,  
15 and his father, Danny Carter, who passed away in 2012; Sean reached  
16 a major milestone in 2013, when his recovery was deemed sufficient  
17 to have his guardianship dismissed, and he continues to make  
18 important strides toward complete independence; and

19 WHEREAS, Although Sean Carter's fight is not yet over, he has  
20 made an inspiring contribution to the world through his example of  
21 resilience and perseverance, his determination to assist others who  
22 are enduring similar struggles, and his commitment to focus  
23 attention on the dangers of drunk driving; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
25 Legislature hereby commend Sean Carter for all that he has achieved  
26 in his work with WhenSeanSpeaks, Inc., and extend to him sincere  
27 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

H.R. No. 1938

1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for Mr. Carter as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
3 House of Representatives.