

By: Bailes

H.C.R. No. 36

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Each February, Hit-and-Run Awareness Month is
2 observed throughout the nation to highlight the danger these
3 accidents pose to the public and the often tragic toll they can
4 exact on families and communities; and

5 WHEREAS, An average of 682,000 hit-and-run incidents have
6 taken place in the United States each year since 2006; a record-high
7 2,049 deaths occurred from these crashes in 2016, with pedestrians
8 and cyclists accounting for most of the fatalities; and

9 WHEREAS, In Texas, the state Transportation Code specifies
10 that drivers are legally obligated to stop if they are involved in
11 an accident of any kind, and failure to do so can result in a second
12 degree felony charge; nonetheless, Texas ranks eighth in the nation
13 in the number of hit-and-run crashes; and

14 WHEREAS, The heartbreaking loss of East Texas resident Josey
15 Lynn Scott offers an example of the terrible consequences that can
16 result from a hit-and-run; a 2013 graduate of Tarkington High
17 School, where she served as FFA president during her senior year,
18 Ms. Scott went on to enroll at Angelina College with the goal of
19 becoming a dental hygienist; this vibrant young woman relished
20 hunting, fishing, riding horses, and other outdoor activities, and
21 she was active in the Christian Cowboy Fellowship Church in
22 Cleveland, Texas; on February 10, 2015, while jogging along FM 2666
23 near Shepherd, she was struck from behind by a vehicle; the driver
24 fled without rendering assistance, and Ms. Scott died at the scene

1 at the age of 19; and

2 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the tragedy, Ms. Scott's family
3 started the "Justice for Josey" campaign, which has worked to focus
4 attention on the issue and to provide support for other victims and
5 their families; additionally, the organization has fought for
6 tougher laws for offenders who leave the scene of a crash; and

7 WHEREAS, Increased public awareness is key to reducing the
8 number of hit-and-run injuries and fatalities, and it is indeed
9 appropriate that February be officially designated as Hit-and-Run
10 Awareness Month and that all Texans be encouraged to affirm their
11 commitment to making our roadways safer for all; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby designate February as Hit-and-Run Awareness Month and pay
15 tribute to the memory of Josey Lynn Scott; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
17 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
18 until the 10th anniversary of the date that this resolution is
19 finally passed by the legislature.