By:  Moody H.C.R. No. 55

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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