



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Traffic fatalities needlessly claimed the lives  
3 of more than 42,636 people, almost all of whom are someone's  
4 friend, family, and most beloved in 2004; and

5 WHEREAS, Traffic crashes have claimed 421,779 lives in the  
6 last ten years, January 1, 1995 through December 31, 2004; and

7 WHEREAS, Fifty-six percent of passenger vehicle occupants  
8 killed in traffic crashes are not wearing safety belts; and

9 WHEREAS, Roadside hazards, substandard road conditions,  
10 and obsolete roadway designs contribute to more than 15,000  
11 highway deaths annually, which represents more than 35 percent  
12 of all fatal crashes; and

13 WHEREAS, An estimated 1,925,000 people are injured in  
14 traffic crashes in the United States each year; and

15 WHEREAS, There are more than 6,000,000 nonfatal traffic  
16 crashes in the United States each year; and

17 WHEREAS, Deaths and injuries on highways in the United  
18 States cost more than \$230,000,000,000 annually; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2004, 4,641 pedestrians and 725 bicyclists were  
20 killed in traffic-related crashes; and

21 WHEREAS, Roadway safety improvements can reduce the number  
22 and severity of crashes; and

23 WHEREAS, Continued development of safer vehicles and  
24 protective equipment can reduce traffic-related fatalities and  
25 injuries; and

1           WHEREAS, Cooperation between federal, State, and local  
2 governments, private entities, and associations is essential  
3 to increasing highway safety; and

4           WHEREAS, Congress overwhelmingly approved H.R. 3, "Safe,  
5 Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A  
6 Legacy for Users", legislation reauthorizing highway, transit,  
7 and safety programs; and

8           WHEREAS, Safe driving behaviors such as:

9           Before you put yourself behind the wheel:

- 10           1.     Ensuring your vehicle is safe, e.g., clean and  
11 properly maintained,  
12           2.     Allowing yourself enough time to arrive safely,  
13           3.     Being physically sound and mentally sharp,

14           Before you start the ignition:

- 15           4.     Always buckling your safety belt,  
16           5.     Maintaining clear sight picture,

17           While driving:

- 18           6.     Paying complete attention to driving,  
19           7.     Following signals, signs, and striping,  
20           8.     Maintaining safe speed for conditions and safe  
21 following distance,  
22           9.     Being a courteous and conscientious driver,  
23           10.    Being a defensive driver can reduce  
24 traffic-related fatalities and injuries; and

25           WHEREAS, The establishment of a Put the Brakes on  
26 Fatalities Day would encourage safer drivers, safer vehicles,  
27 and safer roads; therefore, be it

28           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
29 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
30 we recognize October 10, 2005 as Put the Brakes on Fatalities  
31 Day in Illinois; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge the people of Illinois and  
2 interested groups to observe the day by practicing and  
3 promoting safe driving behaviors and with appropriate programs  
4 and activities.