Public Law 100-682
100th Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate the period commencing December 11, 1988, and ending December 17, 1988, as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week".

Nov. 17, 1988
[S.J. Res. 332]

Whereas traffic accidents cause more violent deaths in the United States than any other cause, approximately 46,000 in 1986;
Whereas traffic accidents cause thousands of serious injuries in the United States each year;
Whereas almost 50 percent of all drivers killed in single vehicle collisions and over 38.7 percent of all drivers fatally injured in 1986 had blood alcohol concentrations above the legal limit of .10;
Whereas the United States Surgeon General has reported that life expectancy has risen for every age group over the past 75 years except for Americans 15 to 24 years old, whose death rate, the leading cause of which is drunk driving, is higher now than it was 20 years ago;
Whereas the total societal cost of drunk driving has been estimated at more than $26,000,000,000 per year, which does not include the human suffering that can never be measured;
Whereas there are increasing reports of driving after drug use and accidents involving drivers who have used marijuana or other illegal drugs;
Whereas driving after the use of therapeutic drugs, either alone or in combination with alcohol, contrary to the advice of physician, pharmacist, or manufacturer, may create a safety hazard on the roads;
Whereas more research is needed on the effect of drugs either alone or in combination with alcohol, on driving ability and the incidence of traffic accidents;
Whereas an increased public awareness of the gravity of the problem of drugged driving may warn drug users to refrain from driving and may stimulate interest in increasing necessary research on the effect of drugs on driving ability and the incidence of traffic accidents;
Whereas the public, particularly through the work of citizens groups, is demanding a solution to the problem of drunk and drugged driving;
Whereas the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving, appointed to heighten public awareness and stimulate the pursuit of solutions, provided vital recommendations for remedies for the problem of drunk driving;
Whereas the National Commission Against Drunk Driving was established to assist State and local governments and the private sector to implement these recommendations;
Whereas most States have appointed task forces to examine existing drunk driving programs and make recommendations for a renewed, comprehensive approach, and in many cases, their recommendations are leading to enactment of new laws, along with strict enforcement;

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Whereas the best defense against the drunk or drugged driver is the use of safety belts and consistent safety belt usage by all drivers and passengers would save as many as 10,000 lives each year;

Whereas an increase in the public awareness of the problem of drunk and drugged driving may contribute to a change in society's attitude toward the drunk or drugged driver and help sustain current efforts to develop comprehensive solutions at the State and local levels;

Whereas the Christmas and New Year holiday period, with more drivers on the roads and an increased number of social functions, is a particularly appropriate time to focus national attention on this critical problem;

Whereas designation of National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week in each of the last 6 years stimulated many activities and programs by groups in both the private and public sectors aimed at curbing drunk and drugged driving in the high-risk Christmas and New Year holiday period and thereafter; and

Whereas the activities and programs during National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week have heightened the awareness of the American public to the danger of drunk and drugged driving: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the period commencing December 11, 1988, through December 17, 1988, is designated as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week" and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved November 17, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 332:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):
July 26, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 21, considered and passed House.