

SHORT TITLE: Commending Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Denny Hokit  
for bravery; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 051

By: Easley of the Senate

and

Rice of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution commending Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Denny Hokit for bravery, courage, dedication and professionalism; congratulating him on his selection as a Trooper of the Year by the Oklahoma Highway Users Federation; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Denny Hokit #606 has been a State Trooper for fifteen and one-half years and is presently stationed on the Cherokee Turnpike with Troop XD. While assigned to Turnpike duty, the 43-year-old trooper has maintained an excellent record, always willing to go the extra mile; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 1993, Trooper Hokit was requested by the Chouteau Police Department to assist with an incident at the Chouteau High School. The incident involved a student armed with a shotgun, holding twenty-four students as hostage. A 16-year-old student had ordered the teacher out of the room and held his English class hostage with a 12-gauge, pump-action shotgun. The school was immediately evacuated. Trooper Hokit along with additional patrol and sheriff's units proceeded to the high school. Upon his arrival, Trooper Hokit proceeded to the classroom where the student was holding the hostages. Trooper Hokit contacted the school principal, Joe Straw, who was talking with the armed student. Trooper Hokit exchanged places with the principal and began negotiations. While he was unable to negotiate the exchange of adults for hostages, he

was able to negotiate Coach Thorman into the room. Trooper Hokit was also able to convince the armed student to point the shotgun at the ceiling, rather than at the hostages; and

WHEREAS, the armed student requested a radio be brought to the classroom so he could listen to music. While obtaining the radio, it was decided that Trooper Hokit would gain access to the room by delivering the radio and if the opportunity became available, he would gain control of the shotgun. Trooper Hokit took the radio into the room and, pretending not to know where the radio was to be plugged in, he distracted the student and grabbed the barrel of the shotgun. With the assistance of Mayes County Undersheriff Bob Green and Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Clay Chapman, Trooper Hokit was able to subdue the student and take him into custody. It was later learned that the student was deeply depressed and school officials had planned on meeting with him that morning to assist him with his difficulties; and

WHEREAS, due to Trooper Hokit's actions during this incident, a highly perilous situation was terminated without any injuries to any of the parties involved. Trooper Hokit placed his life on the line, far exceeding the normal call of duty. Not only were the hostages' lives spared with no injuries because of Trooper Hokit's professionalism and dedication, but the hostage-taker was disarmed and subdued without injury; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Denny Hokit was selected as a Trooper of the Year by the Oklahoma Highway Users Federation and honored at a luncheon. The Highway Safety Recognition award luncheon is a 25-year tradition of the organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Denny Hokit #606 for his bravery, dedication, courage, and professionalism.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature congratulates Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Denny Hokit for his selection as a Trooper of the Year by the Oklahoma Highway Users Federation.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Denny Hokit, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, and the Oklahoma Highway Users Federation.

44-2-2309

THC