World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

By the authority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the following resolution is hereby issued:

WHEREAS, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims falls on the third Sunday of November each year, and communities across the globe gather on this day to honor those killed or injured on our roadways; and

WHEREAS, roadway crashes claimed an estimated 36,640 lives across the United States in 2025, including 6,529 pedestrians and 1,148 people biking, and speeding contributed to an estimated 10,035 of these deaths, roughly 27 percent of all traffic fatalities, a toll that remains far too high; and

WHEREAS, each of these figures represents a parent, child, sibling, or neighbor whose loss remains preventable, and their families and survivors carry the impact of these crashes far beyond a single day; and

WHEREAS, Rosenda "Rose" Elizabeth Smiley, a 14-year-old Newport Beach resident, lost her life on May 25, 2024, when a repeat drunk driving offender struck her as she walked through a crosswalk with friends on Balboa Peninsula, and her family has since transformed profound grief into action, securing the California Legislature's designation of May 25th as Rosenda Smiley Day and founding Rosenda's Gift to advocate for safer streets and stronger drunk driving laws in her honor; and

WHEREAS, the County of Orange joins advocates, survivors, and grieving families in calling for safer street design, reduced speed limits, and stronger vehicle safety standards to end preventable traffic deaths on our roads;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS proclaims November 15, 2026, as "World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims" in the County of Orange, honors the memory of Rosenda "Rose" Smiley and all victims of traffic violence, and calls on residents, agencies, and community partners to renew our shared commitment to safer streets for everyone who walks, bikes, rolls, and drives in our communities.