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Man gets 80 years for four crashes, two deaths in drug-fueled binge

Three years after a drug-fueled Blaine Boudreaux crashed his pick-up truck four times in two hours, taking the lives of a young boy and a Vietnam veteran, the Houston man was sentenced to 80 years in prison, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced.

Boudreaux, 38, was sentenced late Tuesday by a jury that convicted him of felony murder during a week-long trial in the 177th District Court.

“He should spend every day of it behind bars thinking about the people he killed,” Ogg said. “Hit and run murder is an especially cowardly crime.”

Boudreaux was convicted for a string of daytime crashes that occurred in April 2015.

He plowed into Leonard Batiste, 61, who was pushing a shopping cart along Texas Spur 5 while looking for scrap metal. Batiste’s mangled body landed in a ditch, where the former Air Force sergeant, was guarded by a stray dog until his body, along with Boudreaux’s front license plate, was discovered a day later.

Boudreaux was buried in a pauper’s grave after his body went unclaimed.

Joshua Medrano, 6, was belted into the backseat of his mother’s Honda Civic and headed to his home in Pasadena after having spent the weekend celebrating his grandmother’s birthday. He was a first grader at Williams Elementary School and loved math and the Sponge Bob Square Pants cartoon character.

Boudreaux crashed into the Civic while fleeing the scene of Batiste’s killing.

At trial, Joshua’s parents looked on, as Vehicular Crimes Chief Sean Teare told jurors about Boudreaux’s history of driving while drugged or drunk and urged them to ensure that the people of Harris County were forever safe from Boudreaux’s wrath.

“This little boy deserves justice,” said Teare as he held up a photo of a smiling Joshua wearing a blue and white striped polo shirt. “He never got to grow up. Angel and Cynthia never got to see him have a girlfriend or go to prom or have children – it got taken away from him, just snatched away.”

The case was prosecuted by Teare and Assistant District Attorney Lynn Nguyen. The case was investigated by the Houston Police Department's Vehicular Crimes Division and DWI Task Force.

Boudreaux faced five to 99 years, or life in prison. In addition to the prison term, he was fined \$5,000 by the jury.

"He is a prosecutor's worst nightmare and we know that," Nguyen told jurors. "How many more people are we going to let him hurt before we say that enough is enough?"

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