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JURY CONVICTS MAN OF MURDER & SENTENCES HIM TO LIFE AND A \$10,000 FINE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Monday, December 18, 2017 after thirty minutes of deliberation a Victoria County jury convicted Rodolpho Alvarez of the murder of Paris Sophia Loraine Calhoun. He committed this murder during his commission of the Aggravated assault of Yvonne Calhoun, the mother of Sophia, while his conduct was an act clearly dangerous to human life. He was driving 90-95 mph in the 4400 block of the Houston Highway, between "2-Step" and Wal-Mart. He was legally intoxicated, a 0.188 grams/100ml of blood alcohol concentration, and he failed to control his speed, failed to yield the right-of-way and failed to avoid this collision.

When Victoria Police Officer Maresh approached his vehicle at the intersection of Teakwood and Hwy 59, he turned-off the ignition and asked Mr. Alvarez if he had hit anything, to which Mr. Alvarez indicated he didn't know. After failing a battery of three standardized field



CSU Sebby Damage Comparison

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sobriety test Officer Maresh arrested Mr. Alvarez and requested a sample of his blood, to which Mr. Alvarez refused stating "that he probably had too much to drive." Officer Maresh obtained a warrant for Mr. Alvarez' blood.

Trooper Villarreal obtained a warrant to search the Air Bag Control Module of Mr. Alvarez' F-350 pickup truck. That data revealed that Mr. Alvarez was traveling at 94 mph 5 seconds before impact and 89 mph at impact, that he never used his brakes, never attempted to swerve and only took his foot off the

accelerator 3 seconds before impact. Trooper Villarreal also analyzed the surveillance video provided by Wal-Mart that confirmed these speeds. The video also showed that after the F-350 struck the Expedition, the Expedition barrel rolled then flipped end over end over landing between the East and West entrances of "2-Step."

Victoria Police Officers Houser and Cerny extracted Sophia from her mother's crushed vehicle when they discovered her pulse and breathing had stopped. Regrettably the impact force of 1.8 to 1.2 million foot-pounds of energy devastated her brain, brain stem and spinal cord. After her mother Yvonne was stabilized at Citizen's Medical Center, she and her husband Hal were moved to Sophia's bedside where they shared their final good-byes.

Analysis of the collision scene by Victoria Police Office Brendan Allen demonstrated that had Mr. Alvarez been traveling the speed limit Sophia would have survived; that had he turned to the open turn lane or outside lane Sophia would have survived; that had he used “hard braking” at 3 ½ seconds instead of simply taking his foot off the accelerator, Sophia would have survived.

The Calhoun family described Sophia as a contagiously happy and energetic girl who loved drawing, dancing, singing and chasing butterflies. She was described as every person’s friend and a stranger to none; a girly tom-boy bold enough as to play baseball in a Tutu. She dreamed of being a ballerina, a princess, and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Friends and family agreed Sophia will always be missed and this world is dimmer after her loss.

In closing during the guilt phase Mr. Tyler quoted Adam Smith in saying: “mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent” and at punishment paraphrased Thomas Paine: “it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article [*as a daughter and her love*] should not be highly rated.”

Rest in Peace Princess Sophia.

