

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 248

Condemning the brutal killing of Mr. James Byrd, Jr., and commending the Community of Jasper, Texas for the manner in which it has come together in response.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 1998

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. GRAMM, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Condemning the brutal killing of Mr. James Byrd, Jr., and
commending the Community of Jasper, Texas for the
manner in which it has come together in response.

Whereas Mr. James Byrd, Jr., of Jasper, Texas, was brutally
murdered on June 6, 1998;

Whereas since this heinous tragedy, the citizens of Jasper,
from all segments of the community, have come together
to condemn the killing and honor the memory of Mr.
Byrd;

Whereas the Sheriff of Jasper County, Billy Rowles, spoke
for the community when he appealed that the Nation not
“label us because of this random, brutal act”;

Whereas Mr. and Mrs. James Byrd, Sr., called for “justice and peace”, asking that “we . . . get this over and put this behind us”; and

Whereas the community’s response reflects the spirit that other communities across the Nation have shown in the face of recent incidents of random and senseless violence: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns the actions which occurred in
3 Jasper, Texas as horrific and intolerable, to be re-
4 jected by all Americans;

5 (2) expresses its deepest condolences to the
6 Byrd family for their loss and the pain it caused;

7 (3) notes the strong religious faith of the Byrd
8 family, under the inspired leadership of James Sr.,
9 and Stella Byrd, and the Reverend Kenneth Lyons,
10 Pastor of the Greater New Bethel Baptist Church,
11 that has helped the family through this most trying
12 time;

13 (4) sees in the Byrd family reaction to this
14 tragedy the inspiration for hope, peace, and justice
15 in Jasper and throughout the United States;

16 (5) commends the leadership shown by Jasper
17 County Sheriff Billy Rowles, City of Jasper Mayor
18 R.C. Horn, and other community leaders in respond-
19 ing to this tragedy;

1 (6) urges that law enforcement officials at all
2 appropriate levels continue with the full and fair in-
3 vestigation into all of the facts of the case; and

4 (7) urges prosecutors to proceed with a fair and
5 speedy trial to bring the perpetrators of this out-
6 rageous crime to justice.

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