

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 55

Recognizing the contributions of the late Zhao Ziyang to the people of
China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 16, 2005

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DORGAN, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 2, 2005

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the contributions of the late Zhao Ziyang to
the people of China.

Whereas leading reformist and former Chinese Communist Party Secretary General, Zhao Ziyang, died under house arrest in China on January 17, 2005, at the age of 85;

Whereas Zhao implemented important agricultural, industrial, and economic reforms in China and rose to the prominent positions of premier and Secretary General within the Communist Party despite criticisms of his capitalist ideals;

Whereas, in the early summer of 1989, students gathered in Tiananmen Square to voice their support for democracy

and to protest the Communist government that continues to deny them that democracy;

Whereas Secretary General Zhao advised against the use of military force to end the pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square;

Whereas, on May 19, 1989, in Tiananmen Square, Zhao warned the tens of thousands of students clamoring for democracy that the authorities were approaching and urged them to return to their homes; an action that illustrated his sympathy for their cause;

Whereas Zhao was consequently relieved of all leadership responsibilities following his actions in Tiananmen Square that summer and was placed under house arrest for the remaining years of his life;

Whereas the Government of China remained indecisive regarding a ceremony for Zhao for several days before allowing a relatively modest ceremony at the Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery in Beijing, where Zhao was cremated on January 29, 2005;

Whereas the Government of China's fear of civil unrest resulted in the prohibition of political dissidents and others from the funeral, and the thousands who were in attendance were surrounded in an intimidating environment without adequate time to mourn and grieve;

Whereas news of Zhao's death was announced only in a brief notice by the Communist government and was forbidden to be covered by the radio or national television, while eulogies were erased by censors from memorial websites;

Whereas, upon the announcement of Zhao's death, Chinese news agencies were certain to reference the "serious mis-

take” committed by Zhao at what they refer to as a political incident in 1989;

Whereas mourning the death of Zhao in the Hong Kong Legislative Council was deemed unconstitutional and lawmakers in Hong Kong were refused the opportunity to observe a moment of silence in honor of his life;

Whereas the death of Zhao has renewed the desire of certain Chinese people for a reassessment of the crackdown in 1989 in order to acknowledge the merit of pro-democracy student demonstrations and complaints of government corruption; and

Whereas Zhao will continue to serve as a symbol of the dreams and purpose of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstration, which survived the Tiananmen massacre but which have still not been realized for the people of China: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes that Zhao Ziyang made an im-
3 portant contribution to the people of China by pro-
4 viding assistance to the students in Tiananmen
5 Square in 1989, and that through this contribution
6 and his decisions to actively seek reform, Zhao re-
7 mains a symbol of hope for reform and human
8 rights for the people of China;

9 (2) expresses sympathy for Zhao’s family and
10 to the people of China who were unable to appro-
11 priately mourn his death or to celebrate his life;

12 (3) calls on the Government of China—

1 (A) to release all prisoners of conscience,
2 including those persons still in prison as a re-
3 sult of their participation in the peaceful pro-
4 democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in
5 1989; and

6 (B) to allow those people exiled on account
7 of their activities to return to live in freedom in
8 China; and

9 (4) stands with the people of China as they
10 strive to improve their way of life and create a gov-
11 ernment that is truly democratic and respectful of
12 international norms in the area of human rights.

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