

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 117

Condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured in the attack, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

Mr. GARRETT (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BRAT, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. WITTMAN) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured in the attack, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists,

White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups.

Whereas, on the night of Friday, August 11, 2017, a day before a White nationalist demonstration was scheduled to occur in Charlottesville, Virginia, hundreds of torch-bearing White nationalists, White supremacists, Klansmen, and neo-Nazis chanted racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant slogans and violently engaged with counter-demonstrators on and around the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville;

Whereas, on Saturday, August 12, 2017, ahead of the scheduled start time of the planned march, protestors and counter-demonstrators gathered at Emancipation Park in Charlottesville;

Whereas the extremist demonstration turned violent, culminating in the death of peaceful counter-demonstrator Heather Heyer and injuries to 19 other individuals after a neo-Nazi sympathizer allegedly drove a vehicle into a crowd, an act that resulted in a charge of second degree murder, 3 counts of malicious wounding, and 1 count of hit and run;

Whereas 2 Virginia State Police officers, Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Pilot Berke M.M. Bates, died in a helicopter crash as they patrolled the events occurring below them;

Whereas the Charlottesville community is engaged in a healing process following this horrific and violent display of bigotry; and

Whereas White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups reportedly are organizing similar events in other cities in the United States and communities everywhere are concerned about the growing and open display of hate and violence being perpetrated by those groups: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That Congress—

4 (1) condemns the racist violence and domestic
 5 terrorist attack that took place between August 11
 6 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia;

7 (2) recognizes—

8 (A) Heather Heyer, who was killed, and 19
 9 other individuals who were injured in the re-
 10 ported domestic terrorist attack; and

11 (B) several other individuals who were in-
 12 jured in separate attacks while standing up to
 13 hate and intolerance;

14 (3) recognizes the public service and heroism of
 15 Virginia State Police officers Lieutenant H. Jay
 16 Cullen and Trooper Pilot Berke M.M. Bates, who
 17 lost their lives while responding to the events from
 18 the air;

19 (4) offers—

1 (A) condolences to the families and friends
2 of Heather Heyer, Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen,
3 and Trooper Pilot Berke M.M. Bates; and

4 (B) sympathy and support to those individ-
5 uals who are recovering from injuries sustained
6 during the attacks;

7 (5) expresses support for the Charlottesville
8 community as the community heals following this
9 demonstration of violent bigotry;

10 (6) rejects White nationalism, White suprem-
11 acy, and neo-Nazism as hateful expressions of intoler-
12 erance that are contradictory to the values that de-
13 fine the people of the United States; and

14 (7) urges—

15 (A) the President and his administration
16 to—

17 (i) speak out against hate groups that
18 espouse racism, extremism, xenophobia,
19 anti-Semitism, and White supremacy; and

20 (ii) use all resources available to the
21 President and the President's Cabinet to
22 address the growing prevalence of those
23 hate groups in the United States; and

24 (B) the Attorney General to work with—

1 (i) the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
2 rity to investigate thoroughly all acts of vi-
3 olence, intimidation, and domestic ter-
4 rorism by White supremacists, White na-
5 tionalists, neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan,
6 and associated groups in order to deter-
7 mine if any criminal laws have been vio-
8 lated and to prevent those groups from fo-
9 menting and facilitating additional vio-
10 lence; and

11 (ii) the heads of other Federal agen-
12 cies to improve the reporting of hate
13 crimes and to emphasize the importance of
14 the collection, and the reporting to the
15 Federal Bureau of Investigation, of hate
16 crime data by State and local agencies.

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