

2017 -- H 6384

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

DENOUNCING THE BIGOTRY, PREJUDICE, AND ANTI-SEMITISM OF THE "UNITE
THE RIGHT" RALLY HELD IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, Mattiello, Shekarchi, Morgan, and Filippi

Date Introduced: September 19, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On Friday, August 11, 2017, at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville,
2 Virginia, several hundred White supremacists, neo-Nazis, and members of the KKK, marched
3 through the streets with torches, yelling bigoted, racist and anti-Semitic chants as part of a "Unite
4 the Right" rally; and

5 WHEREAS, Filled with rage and bigotry, professing the goal to "take America back" and
6 protesting the removal of a Confederate monument, many of the extremists carried shields, clubs,
7 and guns; and

8 WHEREAS, By the following day, violence had inevitably erupted, and ultimately, three
9 innocent lives were lost; and

10 WHEREAS, On Saturday, a group had gathered to demonstrate against the social
11 injustice and hatred being promoted by the rally. After numerous confrontations and multiple
12 injuries, the rally was declared an unlawful assembly. As both sides were leaving, a car driven by
13 one of the rallygoers, rammed into a crowd of counterdemonstrators, killing Heather Heyer, and
14 injuring nineteen others; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition, two Virginia State Police troopers Lt. H. Jay Cullen, and
16 Trooper Berke M.M. Bates, who were monitoring and providing video of the events from a
17 helicopter crashed, killing both men; and

18 WHEREAS, The racial divides and hatred that fueled these violent events cannot be
19 tolerated. As individuals, as a state, and as a nation, Americans of all races, creeds and colors

1 must unite against the vile bigotry, rage, and anti-Semitism that continues to plague our world;
2 now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby comprehensively and completely denounces the bigotry, prejudice,
5 and anti-Semitism of the "Unite the Right" rally and condemns the ideologies of all hate groups
6 who systematically judge, minimize, persecute, or obstruct individuals based on skin color,
7 gender, or religion and moreover urges all Americans to unite against those who espouse hatred,
8 discrimination, and violence; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this House hereby extends its deepest sympathy to the families of
10 Heather Heyer, Lt. H. Jay Cullen, and Trooper Berke M.M. Bates; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Mayor of Charlottesville, VA, and members
13 of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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