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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 424 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, LEWIS, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS,  
SCHMITT, LONGIETTI, BARRAR, BIZZARRO, BERNSTINE, MILLARD,  
KAUFFMAN, PICKETT, MURT, KINSEY, JOZWIAK, JAMES, STAATS,  
CALTAGIRONE AND YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 25, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 25, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square  
2 protests that began on June 4, 1989, and the events that  
3 occurred that day, along with the heroism of the  
4 participants.

5 WHEREAS, On June 4, 1989, a violent crackdown on peaceful  
6 demonstrations held in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square was  
7 carried out by the People's Liberation Army following orders  
8 from the communist government of the People's Republic of China;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 1 million people joined in the  
11 protests at Tiananmen Square, as well as citizens in more than  
12 400 cities across China, calling for democratic reform,  
13 including not only students, but also government employees,  
14 journalists, workers, police officers, members of the armed  
15 forces and other citizens; and

16 WHEREAS, These peaceful protestors called upon the communist  
17 government of the People's Republic of China to eliminate

1 corruption, accelerate economic and political reform and protect  
2 human rights, particularly the freedoms of expression and  
3 assembly; and

4 WHEREAS, On May 20, 1989, martial law was declared in  
5 Beijing, China, after authorities failed to persuade  
6 demonstrators to leave Tiananmen Square; and

7 WHEREAS, During the late afternoon and early evening hours of  
8 June 3, 1989, thousands of armed troops from the People's  
9 Liberation Army, supported by tanks and other armor, moved into  
10 Beijing and the surrounding streets; and

11 WHEREAS, On the night of June 3, 1989, and continuing into  
12 the morning of June 4, 1989, the soldiers fired on the crowds  
13 and inflicted a high number of casualties on the demonstrators;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The soldiers injured many unarmed citizens and tanks  
16 crushed some protestors and onlookers to death; and

17 WHEREAS, Independent observers reported that hundreds, maybe  
18 even thousands of individuals, were wounded or killed by the  
19 People's Liberation Army and other security forces in Beijing  
20 and other Chinese cities; and

21 WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of individuals were detained,  
22 imprisoned and faced reeducation through labor, often without  
23 trial, and many others were tortured and imprisoned for decades;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Despite the communist government of the People's  
26 Republic of China's integration into the international economic  
27 system and the country's obligations under international  
28 treaties and covenants, the political reforms and the protection  
29 of universally recognized rights sought by the Tiananmen  
30 demonstrators have not been realized during the last 30 years;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The communist government of the People's Republic of  
3 China continues to actively suppress universally recognized  
4 rights by imprisoning or restricting the activities of pro-  
5 democracy activists, human rights lawyers, citizen journalists,  
6 labor union leaders, religious believers, members of ethnic  
7 minorities and individuals who seek to express their political  
8 or religious views or their ethnic identity in a peaceful  
9 manner; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the political prisoner database  
11 maintained by the United States Congressional-Executive  
12 Commission on China, the communist government of the People's  
13 Republic of China continues to detain more than 1,500 political  
14 and religious prisoners, yet the number of political and  
15 religious prisoners is presumed to be much higher; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 1 million other ethnic and religious  
17 minorities are interned in political reeducation camps in China  
18 and are subjected to forced renunciation of faith, torture and  
19 forced assimilation of their language and culture through  
20 actions that constitute crimes against humanity; and

21 WHEREAS, The protection of universally recognized human  
22 rights, in law and practice, would allow the communist  
23 government of the People's Republic of China to establish more  
24 stable economic, political and security relations with its  
25 neighbors and the United States; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
27 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests that began on  
28 June 4, 1989, and the events that occurred on that day, along  
29 with the heroism of the participants; and it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express sympathy

1 and solidarity to the families of those killed, tortured and  
2 imprisoned for their participation in the pro-democracy  
3 demonstrations during the spring of 1989 in Beijing and in other  
4 cities across the People's Republic of China, including those  
5 who peacefully sought political reform, democratic transparency,  
6 the rule of law and protections for universally recognized human  
7 rights in China.