

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 411

By Smith

A RESOLUTION to honor the victims of the Taiwan Taroko Express train crash.

WHEREAS, a tragedy befell Taiwan at 9:30 a.m. on April 2, 2021, in a train tunnel just north of the city of Hualien near Qingshui Cliff; and

WHEREAS, the Taroko Express train, which typically travels around eighty miles per hour, was headed down Taiwan's east coast from near Taipei toward its final destination in Taitung; and

WHEREAS, it was a Friday and the annual Tomb Sweeping Day holiday, also known as Qingming, a time when the living pay respect to their ancestors by tidying their graves and burning paper offerings; and

WHEREAS, the eight-car, 374-seat train was near capacity as passengers made their way to their destinations, cruising in and out of mountain tunnels along the coast; according to survivors' accounts, the train was jolted by a heavy crash, flew off the rails, and slammed into the walls of a tunnel; and

WHEREAS, though the exact cause of the crash is yet unknown, initial reports indicate that the train had either collided with a construction vehicle that rolled down the slope onto the track or was hit by the falling truck just as it passed; and

WHEREAS, the crash is the worst such disaster in Taiwan in four decades, injuring around 150 individuals and killing at least fifty others, among them two train drivers and a six-year-old girl; and

WHEREAS, many survivors were able to emerge from the tunnel walking on the roofs of the train's cars, while the more seriously injured were rescued and carried out on stretchers; and

WHEREAS, by Saturday morning, workers had rescued all survivors known to have been trapped in the wreckage and had brought excavators to try to pull out several train cars stuck inside the tunnel; and

WHEREAS, our deepest sympathies are with those victims of the recent Taroko Express train crash, their loved ones, and Taiwan as its citizens collectively mourn this unimaginable loss; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the victims of the Taiwan Taroko Express train crash on the morning of April 2, 2021, and stand with the people of Taiwan in this time of tragedy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.