

H. Res. 254

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

November 18, 1999.

Whereas diversity and tolerance are essential principles of an open and free society;

Whereas all people deserve to be safe within their communities, free to live, work and worship without fear of violence and bigotry;

Whereas crimes motivated by hatred against African-Americans, Jews, Asian-Americans, or other groups undermine the fundamental values of our Nation;

Whereas the communities of Skokie, the West Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, Northbrook, and Urbana, Illinois, and Bloomington, Indiana, were terrorized by hate crimes over the Fourth of July weekend, a time when our Nation celebrates its commitment to freedom and liberty;

Whereas hate crimes tear at the fabric of American society, leave scars on victims and their families, and weaken our sense of community and purpose;

Whereas Ricky Byrdsong, at age 43, was a loving husband and father, an inspiring community leader, and a former basketball coach at Northwestern University;

Whereas Ricky Byrdsong was a man of deep religious faith who touched the lives of countless people and whose

death is mourned by his family, friends, and community, and by the Nation;

Whereas Won-Joon Yoon, at age 26, was the only son in a family of 6, and was soon to become a doctoral student in Economics at Indiana University;

Whereas Won-Joon Yoon was a man who, through his demeanor and firmly-held Christian beliefs, positively influenced those who knew him, and whose death is mourned by his family, friends, and community, and by the citizens of the United States and Korea; and

Whereas individuals who commit crimes based on hate and bigotry must be held responsible for their actions and must be stopped from spreading violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the senseless violence that occurred in Illinois and Indiana over the Fourth of July weekend;

(2) conveys its deepest sympathy to the victims and their families;

(3) condemns the culture of hate and the hate groups that foster such violent acts;

(4) commends the communities of Illinois and Indiana for uniting to condemn these acts of hate in their neighborhoods;

(5) commends the efforts of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials; and

(6) reaffirms its commitment to a society that fully respects and protects all people, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

Attest:

Clerk.