

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 254

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives condemning recent hate crimes in Illinois and Indiana.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. HOSTETTLER, and Mr. PORTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives condemning recent hate crimes in Illinois and Indiana.

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

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the senseless violence that oc-

3 curred in Illinois and Indiana over the Fourth of

4 July weekend;

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

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

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

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

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

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