

Youth Hall of Fame. Joe continues to be a member of the Hall of Fame Board of Electors, which is charged with recognizing Lakewood's young high school and collegiate standout athletes.

Throughout his time on the City Council and as Mayor, Joe made it his priority to ensure that Lakewood remains a safe, family friendly, and a thriving community. Joe was instrumental in bringing together the resources needed to make Lakewood's state-of-art Sheriff's Station a reality and was integral in developing several crime prevention programs that have made our community safer.

Over the past two decades, Joe has worked tirelessly to make certain Lakewood operates on firm financial footing and never outside of its fiscal means. While the struggling economy has impacted many cities throughout southern California, Lakewood has managed to maintain funding for all city services and capital improvement projects. In addition, Lakewood has managed to be a leading destination for businesses and new business development.

Joe's involvement in public service reaches far beyond the confines of the City's Council Chamber. Joe is a dedicated member of Lakewood's Rotary Club, having served for many years as the coordinator of the Rotary Club's annual Project Shepherd holiday assistance program for families in need. Under his leadership, Project Shepherd aided hundreds of families each year with the help of volunteers of all ages from Lakewood schools, churches, and youth organizations. He was named Rotarian of the Year in 1995. One of his joys as a Lakewood resident was serving as a volunteer coach of 8- and 9-year-old youngsters in basketball and football at Bolivar Park. He received the Mayor's Award for 11 consecutive seasons of volunteer coaching.

He has held various leadership positions, including president of the California Contract Cities Association, president of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, and president of the Private Industry Council of Southeast Los Angeles County. Joe sits on the Lakewood Regional Medical Center and Lakewood Weingart Family YMCA Board of Directors. As a Navy veteran, Joe has been a proud member of American Legion Post 496 for the past 19 years.

From one public servant to another, I praise Mayor Joseph Esquivel for his service and dedication to the city of Lakewood and to the community. Lakewood would not be the community it is today without him. I want to thank him for his years of service and wish him the best of luck as he moves forward in new endeavors.

EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI THAT HIT JAPAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, 4 days ago, a huge earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. I was sort of surprised last night when we came in and there was no resolution recognizing the problems of the Japanese people and the terror and the difficulties they are dealing with at this time. So I want to come today to rise in support of them as they cope with this tremendous tragedy and the challenges that both the earthquake and the tsunami have created for them.

For the last 10 years or so, I have been the chair of the Japanese American exchange between the Diet and the Congress, and I've gotten to know many Japanese members of the Diet very well. I was a member of this commission some years ago when Kobe had a huge earthquake and devastation that took a hundred billion dollars to recover from.

So I was sort of brought up short by what happened when I saw it on television, and thought of my friends. And I immediately started trying to call them. I couldn't find them. I only this morning got in touch with a friend of mine named Matsuda San. We've been friends for a long time. In fact, I have been to his home a very few miles from Sendai City, where the earthquake—the center of this whole event was. He's well. His family is well. He said his friends are also safe and his house is still standing. So for many people, they have escaped the terror of this. But there are thousands and thousands of people who are struggling with this.

The Japanese people have shown a resilience that is amazing. When the government said there's going to be rolling blackouts in Tokyo, we need to conserve electricity, the Japanese conserved electricity so quickly that they didn't have the rolling blackouts. That's how they came together in the interest of the common good in Japan.

Washington State, where I come from, has the third largest Japanese population in the United States. Only California and Hawaii have more. As I said, we have a sister city with Kobe. When that hit, it was shock for everyone in Seattle because we also live on the ring of fire around the Pacific Ocean that we've seen strike so recently not only in Japan, but in New Zealand. Sometimes you can't believe that you live in a place like that; you know it can happen any time, but you still go on with your life, sort of denying that it's real.

After the Japanese earthquake in Kobe some years ago, there was a lot of criticism of the government: you didn't plan enough. Well, they have been planning for this for the last 10 years. But nobody can plan for an 8.9 Richter scale earthquake. That's just too much. I think that it is important to remember the Japanese are not just good allies. They're good friends. To many of us, they are brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers. Some of them are among my very best friends.

This tragedy, as it continues to unfold, just think of what life is like for

those people who are alive and under the rubble, or the homeless. Imagine, you have a life; it's a nice life. You're working, going to school, you're kids are growing up. And, suddenly, you have no food, no heat, no water, and you're in the freezing cold.

The United States has responded. We have had military bases in Japan for a long time. Luckily, they were close by so they could immediately move some of the aircraft carriers and other ships in to deliver relief aid. It is at that time when you realize—in fact, their government has actually realized—that fighting about some of the things politically they fight about are not so important. What is really important is the basics of life being provided to everyone in the country.

This is a national disaster that has been complicated by another factor that we have to consider in the United States, and that's the whole question of nuclear power and what happens to nuclear power plants. We have nuclear power plants in this country that are sitting near earthquake zones. So this is not something that we can say, Well, that's over there in Japan; that's 9,000 miles and 12 hours away.

□ 1040

That is, in fact, very near to us here in this country. For the Japanese, the threat of nuclear contamination, of radiation, is a special horror because they suffered in Hiroshima and Nagasaki—the only use of nuclear weapons—and the fallout that followed that. Today, millions of Japanese are still trying to absorb what they are seeing and are valiantly fighting to control the damage.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the Japanese people.

THE BULLYING OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: AN EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an epidemic that is flying too far under the radar: the bullying of children with special needs.

Bullying has gotten a fair amount of attention in recent years. Our Nation was shocked by the story of Tyler Clementi, a gay Rutgers student who jumped off the George Washington Bridge after being bullied by his peers. Earlier this month, Dateline NBC ran a special called "My Kid Would Never Bully." In it, hidden cameras were used so parents could watch their children react to several different bullying situations set up by Dateline. The results were not great. Last week, the President and the First Lady held a White House conference on bullying.

What we haven't focused on is who gets bullied the most. You might be surprised by this: It's children with special needs. In fact, two times as many children with special needs are

taunted every day in schools as children who we say are “normal.”

Tomorrow, I will be cohosting a briefing with Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS ROGERS, herself a parent of a special needs child, to discuss the heart-breaking issue. We will be joined by Lauren Potter, an actress on the hit show “Glee,” who has Down syndrome and who will share her personal stories as well. We will be highlighting a report by AbilityPath.org, Best Buddies, and the Special Olympics. This report shines a bright light on this epidemic.

Here in Congress it seems there are as many reports as minutes in the day, but too often they end up collecting dust instead of inspiring action. In this case, we cannot allow that to happen. Bullying and harassment foster a climate of fear and disrespect that can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of its victims, and create conditions that negatively affect their learning.

For special needs children who already face tremendous challenges, adding this extra burden is simply unacceptable. Those with special needs are more likely to be targets, either because their differences single them out in the classroom or because they have difficulty in communicating and in reading social cues.

Let me share with you a story from the report. These are the words of a mother of an 11-year-old girl with Down syndrome:

“My daughter is a wonderful, adorable, sweet child with Down syndrome. The bullying she encountered started in elementary school and has followed her to middle school. Everyone makes a big deal about their children being bullied at school, and it is a big deal. However, it is always the ‘normal’ children that you hear about. Who stands up for the children who are like my daughter?”

It was this sense of helplessness that led James Jones, whose daughter suffers from cerebral palsy, to confront her school bullies on a Florida school bus in 2008. The video was unforgettable and shocking. The numbers are just as disturbing.

A study in the British Journal of Learning Support found that 60 percent of students with special needs reported being bullied compared to 25 percent of the general student population.

Researchers have discovered that students with disabilities are more worried about school safety and about being injured or harassed by other peers compared to students without disabilities.

The National Autistic Society reports that 40 percent of children with autism and 60 percent of those with Asperger’s syndrome have experienced bullying.

It is time for Congress to stand up and to speak up for these children and their families. In the coming weeks, I will be introducing legislation to tackle this issue head-on. Under this legislation, schools that receive Federal

funds will be required to report the number of incidents of bullying and whether the victims have special needs. In addition, Federal funds used for bullying programs will be required to include content that specifically addresses the bullying of those with special needs.

I hope we can begin a national conversation to ensure this epidemic remains silent no more.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, our Hope and our Salvation, 40 years is hardly a lifetime anymore. Yet Your people wandered in the desert until a whole generation passed, longing for Your promises to be fulfilled.

Now, 40 days seems far longer than a month’s time. Yet both Moses and Jesus withdrew from the people just that long to seek Your face on the holy mountain.

Be with this Nation and the Members of this House as long as it takes, Lord.

Allow Your people to repent and reflect on old patterns that have brought about present crisis. Grant them Your power to seek new patterns of behavior so free people will embrace laws with accountability and security will spontaneously give rise to self-discipline.

Lord, heal our wounded nature and bring us to the fullness of life You have promised both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BACA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HATE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they cry peace, peace, peace in the daylight, but, when darkness of the night comes, they murder the innocent. Such was the case over the weekend when suspected Palestinian radicals killed five Israeli members of the Fogel family living in the West Bank. The assassins slithered into the Fogel home and murdered Udi and his wife, Ruth, and brutally butchered three of their children, ages 11, 4, and 3 months.

These homicides are an act of terror against the Jews of Israel. They appear to be political murders by radicals who preach hate in the name of religion. Baby killers of any religion or political belief are the lowest forms of the human existence.

Israel has the absolute right to existence. But those that have the blood of babies on their hands refuse to let Israel exist.

The murder of the Fogel family is yet another example that Israel cannot have peace as long as their neighbors hypocritically preach peace in the daytime and practice murder in the nighttime.

And that’s just the way it is.

REPUBLICAN CR

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, we’ve just seen 12 straight months of private sector jobs growth and there is a 2-year low in the unemployment rate. Now is the time for us to give our economy another push forward with a smart budget that invests in critical needs and lowers the deficit with intelligent