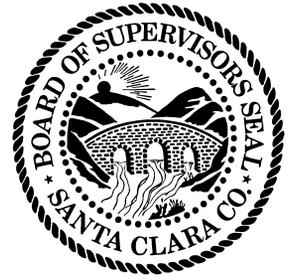


COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

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KEN YEAGER

SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

Orlando Shooting Victims Memorial Ceremony
Lowering of Rainbow and Transgender Pride Flags to Half-Staff
Santa Clara County Government Center
Monday, June 13, 2016

Remarks from Supervisor Ken Yeager:

Thank you all for being here today.

It's great to see a number of our County and City leaders here, as well as members of our LGBTQ, Latino, and Muslim communities, faith community leaders, and many others.

Saturday night's events in Orlando have shaken all of us.

This tragic loss of life reminds us of the fear and violence faced by so many LGBTQ Americans on a daily basis, but fear and violence will not determine the course of our progress.

Our future will not be defined by the hatred of others.

Many people will try to erase LGBTQ people from this tragedy, but we know that this was a direct attack on our community.

Many people will try to tell us that Muslim-Americans are to blame for this tragedy, but we know that the real enemy continues to be unchecked gun violence and bigotry.

Here in Santa Clara County, we have fought hard to eradicate these threats from our communities.

We have made incredible progress and it shows in all facets of life.

We are home to the only County Office of LGBTQ Affairs in America.

We have some of the finest healthcare professionals in the world addressing the unique needs of LGBTQ residents.

Just over two months ago at this spot, we became the first county government in the nation to raise the Transgender Pride Flag.

Time and time again, we have built bridges and come together in the name of visibility and equality.

Together, we have created a place in which LGBTQ residents and all people can feel safe living authentic lives.

And as we are gathered today, we are sending a message to the world: Here in Santa Clara County, we do not tolerate hatred and violence.

Our thoughts are with the victims, survivors, and their families. We mourn, but we do not lose hope.

We fight back by continuing to live and love fearlessly—as a community and as our true, authentic selves.

Thank you.