pure unadulterated evil, worsening someone because they are different. People should not and cannot live in fear because of their race, color, religion or sexual orientation; it is time that we take the strongest course of action to prevent these crimes.

Over the past decade the number of hate crimes has been rapidly, consuming with 1999’s "summer of hate." If taking anything positive from this infamous period is possible it is, that we have not done enough to prevent such crimes. Committing a hate crime is the most serious of offenses. It is our duty to make the punishment severe enough to deter even the most prejudicial person from considering a crime of this size. We in Congress have the ability and the opportunity to prevent the possible consequences of bias from occurring.

Today, as we commemorate the second anniversary of James Byrd's tragic death, we must pledge upon ourselves to do everything in our power to reduce the number of hate crimes. No one should ever fall victim to a hate crime, or any other crime for that matter, and we must maintain our focus of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 1082), to ensure that these crimes cease.

**Congresswoman Lois Capps Honored as Distinguished Alumnus at the University of California, Santa Barbara**

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to my very distinguished colleague, the Honorable Lois Capps, on her recognition as the Distinguished Alumnus recipient this year at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Lois Capps represents a large Congressional district that includes Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Lois received a Master's degree from UCSB in 1990, at a time when the prospects ever serving in Congress would have seemed very remote. A loving wife of a University Professor, our beloved former colleague Walter Capps, and mother of three wonderful children, Lois earned her Master's degree from the School of Education in early childhood behavior. This degree improved her skills and leadership as a nurse in the Santa Barbara School District, as an instructor in early childhood development at the Santa Barbara Community College, and as the Director of Santa Barbara County's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Project and the Parent and Child Enrichment Center.

The past ten years since she received her Master's Degree at UCSB have seen many changes in her life. Lois has earned the respect of her constituents and her colleagues here in Congress with her hard work, dedication to the family and childhood issues that are so important to her, and strength in times of unfathomable tragedy.

As a member of the House, Lois has served as a member of the Science and International Relations Committees before assuming her current position on the Committee where she serves on the Health and the Environment and Finance and Hazardous Material Subcommittee. Lois has made her mark in