

NEWS 10

## Sacramentan's march against gun violence

*By David Marquis*

January 9, 2012

SACRAMENTO, CA -- Several dozen Sacramento-area residents held a vigil and march Sunday for the victims of gun violence.

The march was held on the 1 year anniversary of the Tucson massacre that killed 6 and left 13 injured, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (D-Tucson).

Sacramento Congresswoman Doris Matsui, who has held many constituent events like the one being held by Giffords that day, recalled those killed and wounded.

"Thirteen others, including my colleague and friend Gabby Giffords, who that day just came out to meet her constituents," Matsui said.

Opponents of gun violence held signs as the names of victims were read while the bell at St. John's Lutheran Church tolled once for each name.

"When the bell tolls, it tolls for a mother, a father, a brother, a sister, a cousin, someone's child, a friend," said California State Senate President Darrell Steinberg.

The U.S. Center for Disease control estimates 30,000 American's are the victims of gun violence each year.

For Lisa Berry, founder of BRAVE, or Bullies Really Are Violating Everyone, it was her son who used a neighbors handgun, to take his own life.

"People always harp on buying the gun. But it's how you store it after the fact. It is the safety aspect," said Berry.

California had 3 mass casualty incidents involving gun violence in the last year.

Assemblyman Roger Dickenson, (D-Sacramento) reminded the gathering that gun violence takes it highest toll on younger Americans.

"Firearm homicide is the second leading cause of death for young people from 1 to 19," Dickenson said.

Those gathered on the church steps marched with their signs two blocks to the intersection of J and 15th Streets and then back to the church.

The CDC estimates over 60,000 American's are injured by gun violence each year.

"God bless the survivors. May they heal and may we all build better community," Steinberg urged.