

Congressman Lee Zeldin

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Anyone associating themselves with the KKK and Nazism is associating themselves with hatred, bigotry, racism, intolerance and a tremendously inhumane past filled with horrible evil. This is one of the extremes that exist in our society that has a long history of trying to tear us apart. Their violent acts inspired by deep hatred are disgusting, un-American, and unwelcome in our great nation. President Trump has condemned them repeatedly.

Antifa bused in criminals with bats and pepper spray for the purpose of committing acts of violence targeting anyone who was part of the protest against Charlottesville bringing down the statue of Robert E. Lee, whether associated with the KKK or Nazism or neither. In the words of New York Times reporter Sheryl Gay Stolberg, the "hard left" was just as violent at the protest as the "alt right".

These two sides are not equal. They are different. I would add though that it is not right to suggest that President Trump is wrong for acknowledging the fact that criminals on both sides showed up for the purpose of being violent. That particular observation is completely true.

There is an element of our country that has pledged to resist, oppose, and obstruct this President entirely on absolutely everything and anything and to this population the President cannot say or do absolutely anything at all that they won't criticize as long as he is in the office he was elected to serve in last November.

I'm also looking forward to better understanding the reasoning for allowing those individuals on both sides with bats and other weapons looking for a physical fight to be able to so easily confront each other violently instead of being placed in different locations.

The violence we all witnessed is absolutely not the right way to disagree with each other and anyone participating in the violence should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law, and most importantly, the domestic terrorist who murdered Heather Heyer and injured many others.

We can and must do more to unite as a nation. There must be zero tolerance whatsoever for the extremes that try to tear us all apart. Patriotic Americans of all walks of life must come together and bridge the divides between all who don't associate with either extreme for the sake of our country and our people.