

✓ C F Earthquake 1989 -

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Quiet earthquake events

Outside of Watsonville, the earthquake anniversary was more muted.

In Santa Cruz, officials and residents gathered around the town clock at 5:04 p.m. for a moment of silence. In sharp contrast with Watsonville, Santa Cruz has barely started rebuilding its destroyed downtown.

Bells also tolled in San Francisco's Ferry Building, where about 100 people remembered those who suffered in the quake with a moment of silence.

"Our city turned out to be built in the strongest bedrock of all, a sense of caring and civility," said Mayor Art Agnos.

The gathering provided an opportunity to recall both the sense of camaraderie and sadness that resulted from the quake.

"A feeling of esprit de corps, the camaraderie was something I had never felt before or have ever felt since," said Donna Gibbs, 36, who was awaiting the start of the World Series game between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics when the 15-second temblor shook Candlestick Park.

"I'm sitting here misty-eyed, and I guess that tells me I'm not quite over it," Gibbs said.

Oakland hosted a groundbreaking for permanent housing for

homeless families in Oakland and a vigil at 5:04 p.m. at a church near the place where the double-decked Cypress Freeway buckled and crashed.

Of the 63 people killed in the quake, 42 died in the collapse of the Cypress Freeway. Eight were killed in the Watsonville and Santa Cruz areas.

Agnos said his city is better prepared than ever for another earthquake.

"San Francisco came through the experience of the Loma Prieta earthquake with a great spirit," the mayor said before leading reporters on a tour of a new Emergency Command Center. The old center was deemed inadequate in the wake of the disaster.

Also in San Francisco, restaurants that used candles and flashlights to cope with the quake-caused power outage repeated the unorthodox lighting for the second year in a row.

At Tutto Bene restaurant, candelabras dripped white wax as Carolina Chavez reminisced about being on the Bay Bridge when the quake hit.

"I was able to turn around and get off," she said. "It was scary, but it was probably scarier to sit and watch it on TV from outside (the city)."

The anniversary is very meaningful to her, she said.

"It takes me back, it reminds me of how everybody bonded together," Chavez said. "We became more human to one another, more caring."

—From Associated Press