



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Virginia Tech Community
c/o Dr. Charles W. Steger, President
210 Burruss Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear President Steger and members of the Virginia Tech community:

As we gather together to dedicate this memorial, images fill our minds.

We see the faces of our friends, fellow students and faculty members, the familiar campus buildings silhouetted against a beautiful sky, and all the little things that comprise this beloved university community.

We recall the jolt of disbelief when we first learned the news. We see over and over in our memory the heartbreaking sights of a morning of terror. We weep, even when we feel there are no more tears, when we think of the lives lost and the lives of families forever changed.

We saw evil on April 16, but we saw as well the image of God. We saw the greater love that causes one person to lay down his life for others. We saw the injured cared for and the broken comforted. We saw – and felt – the peace that surpasses understanding. We saw the power of prayer and witnessed the innate strength of Virginia Tech.

This memorial will stand as an eternal flame of the Commonwealth of Virginia. As we dedicate it today to the memory of those we loved and lost, let us dedicate ourselves anew to those values that have sustained us since that April morning.

Let us strive to honor the lives of our fellow citizens, by giving of ourselves to one another, by practicing humility, patience, virtue and kindness.

Let us resolve that while our lives are forever changed, we will never relent in our belief that God's greater purpose of perfect freedom for all will be better served throughout this Commonwealth because of your strength.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. McDonnell", written in a cursive style.

Robert F. McDonnell