



GEORGE W. BUSH

April 16, 2017

Greetings to those gathered on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia, for a Day of Remembrance.

With hearts full of sorrow, Laura and I came to Virginia Tech nearly ten years ago to express our sympathy after an unthinkable tragedy occurred on this campus. A decade later, the pain is still fresh. It is still impossible to understand why 32 lives were taken from this earth far too soon. I know that the families who lost a loved one miss them every day, and especially today.

On April 16, 2007, America lifted this community in prayer and has continued to do so every day since. I pray that all those who mourn have been comforted, strengthened, and sustained by these prayers. I pray that you have felt the grace and guidance of a loving God. I pray that your suffering has begun to be replaced by hope and healing. And I pray that you have held on to the Scripture, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Laura and I join President Tim Sands, former President Charles Steger, the administrators, teachers, and students of Virginia Tech in paying tribute to these 32 precious souls. May the Almighty continue to bless those who grieve, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWB", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.