

REMARKS

Dr. Patricia Cormier

April 17, 2007 – 4 p.m.

**Brock Commons -- In front of Lankford
Remembrance Service for Virginia Tech Victims**

We gather here today to share our sorrow, our disbelief, and our heartfelt sympathy for our friends, our relatives, and our colleagues at Virginia Tech. The events that transpired on the Tech campus yesterday were a terrible, horrific tragedy that has touched all of us.

We want to remember and celebrate the lives of those who died and be hopeful that those who were injured will survive.

Yesterday was the worst nightmare imaginable for a university president, faculty, students, and parents. It reminded us that no matter what we do, how much we prepare, bad things can still happen and they can happen to any of us at anytime, at any location. The world we live in is not the safe haven we sometimes think it is and we must all be ever vigilant.

We at Longwood understand what it is like to endure pain and suffering with the Great Fire of 2001 and the recent loss

of one of our students and his friend, although in comparison our tragedies, pales in light of yesterday's tragedy at Virginia Tech. However, we know what it is like to live under the magnifying glass of the national media while you are in the process of grieving and this gives us a closer bond with Virginia Tech.

As we go through this time of sadness, please know that our Counseling Center is available if you need or want to have someone to talk to during this very difficult and emotional time.

An unknown author wrote that "Hope is grief's best music." As we share in our grief, let us hope for a future that values life.

At this time I would like to ask Phillip Burns, president of the Student Government Association, to say a few words. Following Phillip, Dr. Micah McCreary, ACE Fellow, faculty member at VCU, and an ordained minister who has been on our campus for the past year will offer words of remembrance and encouragement.

[Phillip Burns to speak.](#)

[Dr. Micah McCreary to offer words of remembrance and encouragement.](#)

Thank you, Phillip and Dr. McCreary. I would also like to remind you that at 7 p.m. tonight at the Farmville United Methodist Church the campus ministries of Longwood and Hampden-Sydney are holding an Ecumenical candlelight and prayer vigil for those of you who would like to attend.

As we close, I would ask all of you to close your eyes and remain silent as we ring the Lancaster bell in memory of the innocent victims who lost their lives and for all those injured who we hope will survive.

President Charles Steger, faculty members, staff and students at Virginia Tech have inspired us with their strength and compassionate responses at this difficult time. We honor their efforts and offer our best wishes and support as they lead their campus in healing and recovery.

Thank you all for coming.