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# George Mason University

Office of the President  
4400 University Drive  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-4444

Dear Alumni,

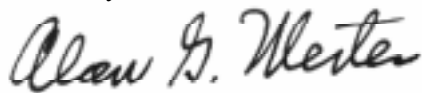
This is a time of great sorrow for all of us. Our nation has suffered a terrible loss as a result of the devastating events of September 11. We recognize that many of you have been personally touched by this tragedy. Please contact us if you know of any alumni or other community members who should also be in our thoughts and prayers.

Over the past weeks, we have all witnessed countless examples of people reaching out to one another to provide support, comfort, and hope. Strangers have become friends. Communities have come together, and our nation has become more united. What might have been our darkest hour has become a tribute to the human spirit.

The George Mason community is no different. I have appreciated the initiative taken by faculty, staff, students, and alumni to help each other get through the initial shock and to understand the importance of taking the time to grieve our collective loss. We have demonstrated that, despite our differences, we are stronger when we stand together. I have witnessed, firsthand, true solidarity in the face of adversity.

You have probably experienced a wide range of emotions as you try to understand and deal with this tragedy. Please remember that, as a member of the George Mason community, you are not alone. As we move forward together, we will strive to find greater understanding and do what we can to prevent this from happening again. In the spirit of our university's motto, "Freedom and Learning," let us never take our freedom for granted, and let us learn from this experience.

Sincerely,



Alan G. Merten  
President, George Mason University

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