

# Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on March 21, 2017

Location: Hendricks's Chapel

Remarks: Service of Commemoration

Good afternoon. In a moment, I will read the names of the faculty and staff who have passed away in the last year. First, however, let me thank you for being here, for coming together as a community for this inaugural Service of Commemoration.

With more than 20,000 students, 5,000 faculty and staff, and thousands of friends, it is inevitable that Syracuse University will lose beloved members of our community each year.

Today is the first of what I hope will be an annual commemoration of those who were part of our community. Each of those we remember made a difference at Syracuse University, and we celebrate them.

Hendricks Chapel has played a role throughout its history in bringing together and unifying diverse peoples. Though the University was founded by, and remains affiliated with, the Methodist Episcopal Church, Hendricks Chapel opened its doors in 1930 as a home for all faiths.

More than 80 years ago, Hendricks Chapel's inaugural dean, William H. Powers, declared Hendricks to be "a place where all unite, regardless of our religious creeds. This is the place where we try to find something in common—one for all, and all for each."

Today, we are united in our shared loss and our shared determination to remember. We gather, not just to recall names and faces, but to embrace the legacies of our loved ones. All of us are here today to build upon their

strengths, to remember dreams, and to ensure that their lives can still inspire the lives of others.

This University learned *how* to remember lost souls after the horrific terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. We learned how to act forward in their memory, when we established the Remembrance and Lockerbie scholarships. And in return, those scholarship recipients fulfill the hopes and dreams of those who lost their lives too soon.

Through that tragic experience, this University learned not only how to endure .... But how to look back and act forward.

We are doing that again today, once again in this great chapel.

Some of those we honor today lived long, fulfilling lives, and made major contributions to their fields of study or to their communities.

Others had their lives cut short by illness or tragedy. And though their time with us was too brief, their contributions still were meaningful and important.

I have not the slightest doubt that, for each name I read today, there were countless acts of decency, kindness, and hard work on behalf of our students, our community, and our university. No doubt some of those kindnesses are forgotten. But the Bible says not a sparrow falls without God knowing it. Today we try to remember not just the falling, but also the kindnesses and blessings.

In the Jewish tradition, there is a phrase often seen in obituaries: "May their memory be for a blessing."

We are blessed today with the memory of the following faculty and staff who passed away during the year behind:

Robert J. Bartels  
Karl Barth  
Bahri Behrami  
Jose Benardete  
Frederick A. Bobenhausen  
Francis M. Borasky  
Amanda Wiles Brown  
Marilyn J. Butler  
Bettye Caldwell  
Sandra J. Chase  
Patricia C. Colucci  
Jennifer M. Cook  
Frederick Cooter  
Pedro Cuperman  
David J. deLaubenfels  
Burton E. Eseltine  
Donald F. Everson  
Joan Idella Farmer  
Frances Felton  
H. Kenneth Fitzgerald  
Brenda L. Fuller  
Cindy D. Gromny  
T. William Hall  
Arlene J. Hanlin  
Laurel Holben  
Keyran Joseph Hooley III  
Peter E. Howe  
Lewis L. Howland  
Sonia Mae Johns  
Linda Louise Kalbus  
Marilyn Kerr  
David R. Krathwohl  
Rosemary L. Lape

Judith Ellen Meighan  
Margaret Kearney Melnick  
Arlene J. Michelson  
Metod] M. Milac  
Martha Mirabella  
David Olson  
Ellen Oppler  
Maria Orendarenko  
Julia Evelyn Osborne  
Helen Palmer  
Charles L. Petersen  
John Alan Robinson  
Claire S. Rudolph  
Lorraine A. Schmidt  
Teresa I. Sheehan  
Peter G. Simpkins  
Huston Smith  
James M. Thompson  
Rosalyn E. Trotman  
Mark Frederick Weimer  
Stuart C. Williams

Gary Engelhardt will now light the candles in memory of faculty. Louise Ciaramella will light the candle in memory of staff.

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