

INVOCATION -- SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

ALMIGHTY GOD -- MAKER OF ALL THINGS, WHOSE PURPOSE FROM BEFORE THE UNIVERSES WERE FORMED WE SEEK TO FULFILL , WE COME THANKFUL THAT WE CAN CALL YOU OUR HEAVENLY FATHER AND SPEAK TO YOU WITH AWE, BUT WITH INTIMACY , KNOWING THAT YOU HEAR US THIS DAY, THAT YOU ARE IN OUR MIDST, THAT WE MAY SEE YOU IN THE FACES OF THOSE GATHERED HERE, THAT YOU WEEP WITH THE WAILINGS OF YOUR CHILDREN ON THIS DAY WHEN WE REMEMBER SUCH GREAT LOSS AND SUCH OVERPOWERING SORROW.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE CANNOT GRASP THE MEANING OF THE GREAT MYSTERY THAT BRINGS US HERE, THAT WE CANNOT ENGULF OR UNDERSTAND THE LOSS OF SO MANY THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES WHO MOURN THIS DAY. BUT WE COME EAGER TO ASK YOU AGAIN THAT YOU WILL KEEP THE SOUL OF THIS NATION, AND THAT YOU WILL GIVE US STRENGTH AND WISDOM TO BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF THE FUTURE OF OUR CIVILIZATION, PURCHASED AND PRESERVED AT GREAT COST WITH THE BLOOD OF HEROS WHO PLACED THEIR FAITH IN YOU.

TODAY, WE FIND ASSURANCE IN THE ACTS OF COURAGE WHICH THIS DAY HAS COME TO SYMBOLIZE FOR THE AGES. MAY THESE ACTS OF SACRIFICE ON OUR BEHALF REMIND US THAT YOUR CHILDREN HAVE FOUND SOLACE IN YOUR LOVE, AND STRENGTH IN YOUR PRESENCE TO DO THE RIGHT THING, AND, WHEN THE WAY SEEMS UNCERTAIN, STRENGTH TO TAKE YOUR HAND AND LIVE EACH DAY WITH COURAGE TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

WE PRAY YOUR GUIDANCE ON THIS UNIVERSITY AND THOSE GATHERED HERE, WHO REPRESENT ITS HOPES AND ITS DETERMINATION TO BE A LIGHT BOTH TO ITS STUDENTS AND THE HOST OF FRIENDS, ALIVE TODAY AND YET TO COME, WHO WILL FIND IN ITS BEACON ON THIS HILL AN ASSURANCE OF ALL THAT IS GOOD AND JUST IN OUR WORLD. HELP EACH OF US TO LIVE A LIFE OF SURRENDER TO YOUR PURPOSE THAT HATRED SHALL COWER BEFORE YOUR GOODNESS AND THAT GOOD SHALL TRIUMPH.

IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY, AMEN