



Patrick F. Leahy

July 8, 2016

Dear Members of the Wilkes Community:

In this week that began with our national celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the news from Baton Rouge, Falcon Heights and Dallas reaches deep into our hearts as we grieve for the lives that have been lost and pray for the families and friends of the victims and those who have been injured.

With more questions than answers, we wrestle as individuals and as a community as to how we can overcome divisions in our society that perpetuate fear and lead to senseless violence.

We can't learn from each other and bring about positive change if we aren't willing to take the risk of sharing our thoughts openly. We, as a campus community, have the power to make a difference. Let us resolve to take this moment in time as an opportunity to create more dialogue and reflection as we contemplate tangible steps that can influence all of our tomorrows.

Please know that, through our inclusion initiative we will provide opportunities for conversation and reflection in the weeks and months ahead as we endeavor to learn from these tragedies so that the suffering and pain to which we are bearing witness becomes a catalyst for creating better understanding of and greater appreciation for the dignity of all individuals.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Leahy
President