

Let us pray.

As we remember with sorrow those whom death has taken from our university community during the past year let us give thanks for their lives. Whether life be long and fully lived, or tragically cut short, we are grateful to the Source of Life for our time on this earth.

For some of those we mourn today, death came at its appointed time bringing peace. For others, it came suddenly, tragically, violently, or senselessly. These losses are some of the hardest to bear. At times like these, when we walk in the valley of the shadow of death, one consolation is to reflect on the beauty of life. We can look at the lives our loved ones lived, and remember what they loved the most. By loving what they loved, by standing for what they stood for, by modeling what they hoped to become, we create a living memorial.

In the rising of the sun and in its setting, we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter, we remember them.

In the opening buds and the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

In the blue sky and warmth of summer, we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and its end, we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joys to share, we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

May their souls be bound up in the bonds of eternal life. And may the One who makes peace in the heavens above make peace descend upon all of us. And let us say, Amen.

Closing Benediction: Annual Memorial Service

University of Georgia, April 29, 2008

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