

FROM THE BRAFFERTON

9/11: Ten Years Later

Have any of us forgotten exactly where we were when the planes hit the Twin Towers and then the Pentagon on 9/11? Not likely. There was the shock of the attacks themselves given awful reality by images on television, relentlessly replayed, and then the growing awareness that things had changed, not for the better.

Seven William & Mary people died in the World Trade Center: Alysia Christine Burton Basmajian '00, James Lee "Jimmy" Connor '85, Michael Hardy Edwards '90, Mark Gavin "Lud" Ludvigsen '91, Christopher William Murphy M.B.A. '98, James Brian Reilly '98 and Gregory J. Trost '97. They were members of the W&M family whose loss was mourned by the Tribe.

"They represented what we hope for in members of our community. At great sacrifice to their other opportunities and personal safety, they responded to the call they felt to serve."

Many alumni have served our country since 9/11, some at the highest levels, as the United States responded to sudden attack on our country. Bob Gates '65, L.H.D. '98 left the presidency of Texas A&M in 2006 to become Secretary of Defense and work for two very different presidents. Gen. David McKiernan '72 was commanding general of land forces in Iraq and then commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Following a long W&M tradition, there have been many, many others who answered the call in time of national need. Two especially should be remembered.

Donald "Ryan" McGlothlin '01, considered one of the top chemistry students ever to attend the College and a Phi Beta

Kappa graduate, was a doctoral candidate at Stanford University. He interrupted that quest to join the Marines after 9/11. First Lt. McGlothlin was killed in an ambush in Iraq in November 2005. His Silver Star citation credited him with saving the lives of two other Marines during the action. Ryan was just 26 years old at the time.

Nearly five years later — in September 2010 — Army 1st Lt. Todd W. Weaver '08 died in combat. Like Ryan McGlothlin, he was only 26. A product of local public schools in York County, Todd graduated in 2002 from Bruton High School where he starred on the football and baseball teams and was a campus hero. He was a scholar as well as an athlete, earning powerful SAT scores and a GPA over 4.0.

Deeply moved by 9/11, Todd felt called to serve right after high school. He joined the Army National Guard and had a 10-month deployment in Iraq as a combat engineer before coming to W&M in 2004. He was a standout in the College's ROTC program and a Phi Beta Kappa government major. Two years after graduation, assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, Todd was again in the Middle East, this time in Afghanistan. He was killed in action in Kandahar while leading his infantry platoon. Todd was married and the father of a one-year-old daughter.

Both Ryan and Todd were natural leaders of tremendous ability and promise. They drew people to them. They represented what we hope for in members of



our community. At great sacrifice to their other opportunities and personal safety, they responded to the call they felt to serve.

Last November, the College's Student Athletic Advisory Council, working with the Weaver family, launched a wristband campaign to fund an endowment in Todd's name. The wristbands have a simple but compelling message: "One Tribe. One Family."

Looking back on the past decade, while much has changed, among the constants is this: W&M people continue to serve their communities and country in countless ways. I believe they always will. Since 1693, it's been what William & Mary people do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Taylor Reveley III".

W. TAYLOR REVELEY III
President, College of William & Mary

For more on the One Tribe. One Family. program, please visit www.onetribefamily.com. To read about the campus' commemoration of the 9/11 anniversary, visit www.wm.edu/news/stories/2011/sept.-11.php