



MEMO

TO: Hawk Family

FROM: President Anderson

Date: January 8, 2021

Dear Hawk Family,

The past few years I've made it a habit to spend the first week of January reflecting on the previous year and making plans for the new one on the horizon. Today, I find myself filled with a contradictory set of feelings -- grateful for many blessings of the past year, but also feeling dismay, anger, and sorrow for so many of the events we have witnessed in recent months.

Last May, when I saw the horrific images of the death of George Floyd under the knee of a police officer, I did not think I could be shaken any deeper. Then the insurrection took place at our nation's capital on January 6, 2021. Like so many of you, I was appalled by the barrage of mobs, carrying Trump and confederate flags storming the Capitol building and desecrating the "people's house." They broke through windows, climbed over barricades, defaced the memorial for Congressman John Lewis, and stole property.

This was pure anarchy, and all aided and abetted by the American President. Today, the sad news was announced that Capitol police officer, Brian Sicknick died due to injuries sustained on that fateful day. Like many of you, I am still processing these events and wondering what the next several weeks and months will bring.

We teach our students that peaceful protest is perfectly acceptable. The news media compared the BLM marches in August to Wednesday's siege -- There is clearly no comparison. If anything good can come from the contrast, it may be that it visually depicts the meaning of white privilege in America.

Let's make this year one in which we focus our energies on teaching our students the importance of our shared histories and respect for our democracy.

I hope you, my Hawk Family, stay well, stay safe, and stay kind to one another as we enter this New Year.

With Hawk Pride,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda M. Anderson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.