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A Time to Mourn

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During the memorial service, football Coach Joseph Smith '93 (above) called Parker Moore '17 an extraordinary young man and said it was an honor to have known him and coached him. He noted that everyone on the team and in the program are better men because of it. Pointing skyward, he ended with, "Well done, Mr. Moore. Love you, Parker." (At right) Within hours, a memorial for Moore began to grow on the fence by Maxwell Field and by week's end, it measured 30 feet long. It included his Linfield football jersey, personal messages, dozens of bouquets, candles that burned day and night, footballs, baseballs and posters featuring #44 and #35, his Woodinville High School and Linfield jerseys.



A time to mourn



The character of a community is often revealed in the face of tragedy.

And the power of the Linfield family could not be more clearly defined than through the tragedy that struck in November.

The violent and senseless death of Parker Moore '17 on Nov. 16 shook the community to its foundation. Moore, a gifted and talented young man who touched countless people with his quick wit, broad smile and positive attitude, died as the result of stab wounds inflicted in a random attack at the 7-Eleven convenience store near campus.

In the face of tragedy, Linfield alumni, parents, students, faculty and staff came together to support and care for each other.

Moore was a sophomore majoring in business management from Woodinville, Wash. He was a resident advisor and linebacker for the Linfield football team, a quintessential Wildcat – and so much more. His friends, professors and coaches called him a role model, respected for his leadership, work ethic, faith, humor, compassion and unparalleled character that resonated on and off the football field, in the classroom and at his church. Coach Joseph Smith '93 described him as “a young man you would want your kids to grow up to be.”

The response to his death was swift and overwhelming. Prayer services and candlelight vigils were held. Additional counselors were available on campus to help students cope with their grief. Faculty, coaches and staff reached out to Parker's friends and teammates. There was an outpouring of support throughout the McMinnville community and from alumni and parents around the world, many of whom changed their profile photos on social media sites to #LinfieldStrong, posting messages of condolence and support.

The compassion, generosity, kindness, concern and sympathy are symbolic of a family that not only celebrates together, but also mourns together.

Perhaps the essence of the love and support of the Linfield family was best summed up by Carrie Andrews, mother of Peri Muellner '18.

“Linfield's response to this tragedy – excellent communication from the school, loving support and compassionate care being made available to students instantly, and the outpouring of love and tenderness being shown by all – has been exemplary,” she wrote. “I feel, more than ever, that my daughter could not be in better hands.”

As President Thomas L. Hellie told nearly 2,000 people at Moore's memorial, the fabric of our community has been torn and we will never be the same.

“However, the values of Linfield will endure,” Hellie said. “During his life, Parker helped make Linfield strong; and as a community we will work to achieve what he would have expected of us. We will redouble our efforts to link learning, life, and community. We will strive for excellence and justice; we will live life fully, in the service of others; and we will love each other every day. That was Parker's way and that's the Linfield way.”

Moore's family has created the Parker Archie Moore Memorial Fund at the National Christian Foundation Seattle to provide scholarship support to a Linfield student who most exemplifies their son's character. You can make contributions at www.linfield.edu/parkermoore.

– Mardi Mileham

