



# Office of the Mayor

Matthew T. Ryan

## Statements by Mayor Matt Ryan at the April 10, 2009 Community Memorial in Downtown Binghamton

One week ago today, our community experienced a tremendous loss. We lost family. We lost friends. We lost colleagues. We lost neighbors. Our peace was shattered, and our tranquility was ruptured.

This loss extended from our city, to our nation, and across the world. It is a loss that is with all of us today. It is a loss that we can never forget.

Since last Friday, we have faced our loss in the best way we know how. By coming together. By grieving together. By reflecting together. By working together to meet our most vital needs. And by renewing our collective commitment to building a better world for our children, our children's children, and generations beyond.

It was only in this spirit that our community could have responded to the tragedy as we did, with professionalism and skill, concern and compassion, grace and respect. From our public officials to our community agencies, from our hospitals to our educational institutions, from our businesses to our centers of faith; from our residents to all those who are calling, visiting, and sending support from Denver to Dubai; it is by standing side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder, hand-in-hand, across land and sea that we will mend and heal.

And so, even in this time of great sorrow, I never have felt more hopeful than now. Through difficulty, we have witnessed how far our community ranges, how deep our courage runs, and our prevailing care one another. We have witnessed that which will deliver us to what we desire most. Safety and security. Joy and love.

We will do so in honor of those who have passed from our world. We will do so for everyone in pain.

For all who are suffering so much, please remember that God will raise you upon Eagles wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.