

One year ago today, the senseless acts of violence against America shocked the entire nation.

Although each of us has unique memories of that terrible day, we shared the experience as a campus community. We came together as a family to console, to comfort, to reassure students, staff and others who felt alone or afraid. That's what families do.

Today we gather again as a family to remember two of our own who were victims of the 9/11 tragedy: Donald G. Havlish, Jr., from the law school's class of 1977, and Frank Skidmore, Jr., a 1968 business school grad and kappa Sigma Phi fraternity brother. They lost their lives in the collapse of the World Trade Center.

At the suggestion of four of Frank's Kappa Sigma Phi fraternity brothers – Lou Vitti, Andy Parlantieri, Ed Dougherty, and Duquesne Board member Jim O'Day – Duquesne will memorialize Frank Skidmore and Donald Havlish, by planting this Yellowwood tree in their honor. It is our hope that it stands for generations as a solemn symbol of Duquesne's dedication to members of the University family.

Charles J. Dougherty, Ph.D.
President
Duquesne University
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