

Tim Kaine
Virginia



September 24, 2022

Dear Friends,

I am grateful to the City of Alexandria and the community at large for your ongoing efforts to remember victims of lynching in Alexandria, Virginia. By confronting the failures of our past, we take steps in creating a more equitable future for the Commonwealth and our nation. Your commitment to telling the full and truthful story of Alexandria's history, is a step towards healing for our nation.

By memorializing Joseph McCoy, Benjamin Thomas, and other victims of lynching, we acknowledge the dark history of violence against African-Americans in our country. Racial injustice is part of not only our history but also our present. That is why, in March of this year, President Biden signed the *Emmett Till Antilynching Act* into law. This legislation makes lynching a federal hate crime; improves transparency in policing; improves police training and practices, and holds police accountable in our courts.

The stained legacy of this egregious period in American history must never repeat itself, and the Alexandria Remembrance project is an important effort to dismantle the architecture of discrimination in our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kaine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Kaine