

# The politics of 9/11

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Opinion Editor

Last week, on the eighteenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Republican members of the North Carolina House of Representatives made a surprise move to override Governor Roy Cooper's veto of the state budget. The move left many in the state with a sour taste in their mouths after discovering the lengths the Republicans took in order to accomplish this.

The Democratic members of the House of Representatives claimed that they were totally caught off guard after House Speaker Tim Moore called a vote to reconsider the status of the budget as they believed the meeting was

meant to be a formality only.

Many Democrats belonging to the House of Representatives were attending a memorial for first responders in honor of the anniversary of the terrorist attack eighteen years prior. Just enough Republicans were in the room to ensure that a vote could indeed happen. This led the Democrats to conclude that the Republicans had planned this all along, purposely leaving them out in order to forward their agenda.

Essentially, Democrats believe that the Republicans of the House utilized a 9/11 memorial to gain a political advantage over them; and, for all intents and purposes, they're correct.

The Republicans of the House are old enough to remember what happened on 9/11. They knew full-well that the anniversary was coming

up. They knew that many people, including the Democrats of the House and the Governor, would be in attendance at the memorial. Yet, they still chose to go forward with their political agenda.

9/11 is not a day for politics. It is a day to remember tragedy, to remember pain, to remember those who were lost. But, here we are, dealing with partisan political tactics. It does not matter what party did it. Either way, it would be morally reprehensible. If you think this behavior reflects the American spirit at all, you are sadly mistaken.

There is a time and place for politics. September 11 was not it. Mourn. Grieve. Then, move on to politics.

Have enough respect to set aside your pettiness for one day.

## Pinning

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pig and politician stories to mark this evening's celebration. The first had to do with the way both paint a picture of key character strengths: like resilience, humility, and empathy. The second is this: the very improbability of these two very different "success stories" speaks to us of what is potentially the best in ourselves," said Bringle.

Of all the things Bringle said, she left us with some wise parting words:

"“There is now” comes to us as a hopeful and defiant refrain from the barking pig. Here is a closing watchword from the politician. Abraham Lincoln once professed, “I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down.” Seniors, there are a lot of people sitting at a table and in this room with you tonight who believe in you profoundly. We know what you have learned here, what you have set yourselves up to keep on learning for the rest of your lives after you graduate. We are confident you will not let us down. And we stand ready to applaud with enthusiasm and pride as each of you clip-clops your rightful way to center stage.”

After Bringle left us those inspiring words, a student speaker was introduced. Associate Professor of Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education Clyde Carter gave a fabulous introduction to Taylor Everard, a WLEE major, Peer Leader and Climbing Club member.

Everard had several important points to share with his fellow seniors as well as a reflection

on his time at Brevard.

Everard spoke about three main points. “Always seek truth, don't fight fire with fire and love one another,” Everard said. He went on to talk about what each of the points meant. He gave examples and told anecdotes.

In closing, he challenged us all to consider what he had presented to us and to truly try to follow those three pieces of advice. Do what we can to make the world a better place to live in and be the best that we can be.

The only thing left to do after that was the main event, the pinning of the seniors.

President Joyce led this part of the ceremony. He first gave us some words of advice, then made sure to mention how proud the seniors should be that they made it to that point. He then said for seniors to turn to the person pinning them and tell them why we chose them, and followed that with the pinners saying why they were honored to have been chosen to pin us.

The pinning involved a lot of tears, but ultimately pride and happiness were shared throughout all that attended the event. Congratulations to all the seniors at Brevard



Photo by BC Communications

This year's student speaker Taylor Everard addresses a crowd of his peers and their mentors. Everard's humility and kind nature showed in his speech, which urged listener's to be kind to each other.