To the people of Daytona Beach and Volusia County:

This week has been very difficult for the people of the United States and for us at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

We join the people of this country in mourning our losses. Nearly everyone knows someone who was adversely affected by the tragic events of September 11, 2001. At our institution, we know that at least one of our alumni was among the airline crews who died in the hijacking of four commercial planes.

In addition, we’ve learned that it’s possible that another of our graduates was one of the terrorists involved in the tragedy. While that is not yet confirmed, the mere possibility of that being true causes us pain and embarrassment.

In the midst of this turmoil and sadness, you – of every race, nationality and ethnic group in the community of Daytona Beach and Volusia County – have stood beside us and supported us. You recognize and support the principles of tolerance and respect for our international brethren that has always been a hallmark of Embry-Riddle.

You support us with your phone calls, e-mails and personal contacts. And frankly, with what you are saying to others about us. You’ve also told us that – in accordance with your own religious beliefs – you’re praying for us.

From all of us – the 27,195 faculty, staff and students – we have only a few words in response.

Thank you …and God bless America!

Sincerely,

George H. Ebbs, Ph.D.
President