

PASTOR'S PEN

After church on Sunday, I drove to College Station to attend the Campus Muster at A&M. Aggie Muster is my favorite tradition at A&M. This tradition has been held for over 100 years. The most famous Aggie Muster was held on the island of Corregidor during World War II when the Aggies serving on the during the battle gathered on April 21 to remember their fellow Aggies who had died during the previous year. During the Muster ceremony the list of Aggies, both current students and former students who died during the previous year are called out. Those who knew that individual call out "Here." This serves as a reminder that although gone from this life, the individual is still with us in our memories. Hearing the names called out and a refrain of "Here" helps lift the spirits of those who lost someone.

The commitment of Aggies to honor and remember our fellow Aggies is something we should all strive to live out in our personal lives. Walking the journey of grief is challenging and often lonely. Those grieving often feel people around them think they should just move on. The loss of a loved one is not something we just "move on" from, it is a journey that we walk through. Psalm 23 has the line "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil." Notice that David doesn't say move on past the valley, but walk through. King David reminds us of an important truth. When we walk the journey of grief, our goal is to move through the valley, not to move on. The death of that loved one will come to mind and impact us throughout our lives. We have to learn how to cherish the memories of our loved one and know that they are alive in our hearts. As Christians, we hold dear the assurance of resurrection and a meeting that will last for eternity.

If a loved one has passed away, hold their memory in your heart, cherish those memories and look forward to the day when we will see our fellow Christians again.