

President's Corner

By Don Cole, ENV SP, Brown and Caldwell



Building 2 - a name that is about as straightforward as can be. On May 31st, it became synonymous with tragedy, when 12 innocent people lost their lives to a shooter in Virginia Beach. Many of us who live and work in Virginia Beach have spent plenty of time in Building 2 as an employee, contractor, consultant, citizen or in some other capacity. It housed Public Works, Public Utilities, Planning, and Information Technology. Lifetime friends and colleagues worked here. Some of them were lost, others sustained injuries and are recovering. Families are forever impacted.

As City employees return to work, they are trying to resume a sense of normalcy. Folks are in offices spread throughout the City; room has been made in buildings, wires run, computers setup, and the important work of public service continues. This normalcy is relative - there are people missing in our lives.

As president of the chapter, I've struggled with how we should respond to this incident. Not so much in the short term, there are several ways to support the City and those impacted. Many people have stepped up and donated to [the fund to support the families of those lost or injured](#) - thank you. What I'd like to do, as the organization representing the people of public works, is look for ways we can thoughtfully take actions for change at a deeper level. Are there programs, processes, resources, training or other actions that APWA can take? I'd like to hear from chapter members - please email me at djcole@brwncald.com with your thoughts and ideas.

In closing, we will remember those we lost. Virginia Beach Strong.

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Christopher Kelly Rapp

Herbert 'Bert' Snelling

Joshua O. Hardy

Katherine Nixon

Laquita C. Brown

Mary Louise Crustinger Gayle

Michelle 'Missy' Langer

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