



Celebration of Life for Kendall Berry

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on March 29, 2010**



This speech was presented to attendees of FIU Student-Athlete Kendall Berry's memorial service on March 29, 2010.

I want to thank the FIU community for being here in support of Kendall Berry's family, friends and teammates.

Please join hands in solidarity against the senseless violence that wracks our society.

Students, staff, and our institution's first responders are to be commended for their rapid and focused efforts to help Kendall during Thursday night's altercation. The Reverend Martin Luther King tells us that, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Kendall Berry personified an individual who rose above his own concerns and dedicated himself to his team and his university.

Ladies and gentlemen: Kendall Berry's memory will be honored by you if you can display the pride that number 19 had in his institution--our FIU--and in his team.

His memory will be honored if you can embrace Kendall's commitment to excellence and determination to succeed. In our sorrow, we must come together.

We must let Kendall Berry's spirit and enthusiasm guide us as we seek to return to the light of day and the brightness of tomorrow.

I ask for a moment of absolute silence to honor the memory and spirit of Kendall Berry, and as a means to begin the process of healing that he would urge upon us.

[Silence]

Thank you.

About Kendall Berry:

Kendall Berry was born on December 31, 1987. After attending Haines High School (Haines City, FL), Kendall came to FIU as a wide receiver on the Golden Panthers football team. After playing in all 12 games his freshman year, Kendall suffered a devastating knee injury before his sophomore year that forced him to miss the entire 2008 season. Like he always did, Kendall fought through the adversity and returned to the field for the '09 season. Despite having to face yet another challenge in switching from receiver to running back, Kendall went on to have a spectacular season for the Golden Panthers, leading the team in touchdowns with seven. Kendall, a junior majoring in education, was 22 years-old at the time of his passing.