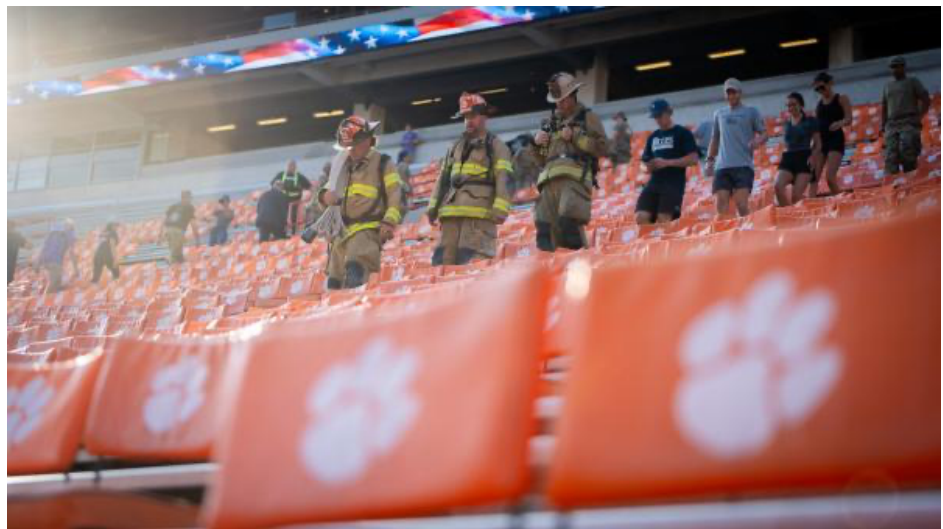




Greetings from Tigertown!

As the vibrant hues of autumn blanket our campus, we're reminded of the rich traditions and enduring spirit that makes Clemson so special. This season, as we gather with friends and family, we invite you to reconnect with your roots to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our loved ones and collective community. From exciting developments on campus to inspiring stories of fellow Tigers who are making an impact around the world; there is much to share and celebrate. So, grab a warm cup of your favorite beverage, settle in, and let's dive into some engaging reflections and stories from our Clemson family!

September provides us with the opportunity to reflect and remember a powerful and pivotal event that our nation breathlessly endured 23 years ago. Clemson's Office of Military and Veteran Engagement hosted a Memorial Stadium Stair Climb on 9/11 in remembrance of every man and woman lost too soon, and in honor of all first responders who risked



everything on that tragic day.

We each vividly recall the exact moment we first learned about the events of 9/11: where we were, who we were with, and the horror that we felt. And every September 11th thereafter, we keep our promise to “never forget” by remembering those we lost and the sacrifices made by so many. On 9/11 this year, I received a powerful story from friend and alumnus Gerry Bohm of Roseland, NJ that detailed a compelling and heart-wrenching testimony from Christina Ray Stanton who witnessed the towers fall. She shared this emotional account in her book *Out of the Shadow of 9/11*.

It was an excerpt of her story that brought me to learn more about James “Jim” Patrick White



'89. He was an exceedingly bright, determined, and good-natured individual who spread joy to everyone around him. He graduated from Clemson with a degree in industrial engineering and a minor in finance. His strong work ethic and talents landed him a position at Cantor-Fitzgerald, where he became one of the youngest partners in the company's history. Jim was working in the World Trade Center on that fateful day - September 11, 2001 - and he is the only Clemson alumnus to perish in the attacks on the twin towers.

In 2002, his family and friends established a named [scholarship endowment](#), which was a meaningful tribute to a great man loved and lost. To date, 71 scholarships have been awarded to deserving Clemson students, most of whom were

born after the fateful attacks and have no personal memories of this defining event. If you find yourself in NYC, I encourage you to seek Jim White's name etched in bronze and place your paw upon the memorial where the towers once stood.

As Stanton shared so eloquently in her book, “Instead, I will spend ... much of the month of September doing what I first did on my birthday 23 years ago: wondering what Jim would have contributed to the world if he had not been cut down in an act of terror and malice. What would the thousands of others who died that day or as a result of that day have contributed to

the world? It's a loss too large to be calculated. And too important to be forgotten.”

Steve Crump '78 and his wife Janet have also evaluated how they can have a significant impact on first generation students who may not have an opportunity to reach their full potential without a quality education.

“With age comes wisdom and a shifting of priorities,” Steve shares. After 49 years of marriage and the launch of retirement, he and Janet began thinking of what they wanted to leave behind – how their legacy could shape the future. “We asked ourselves: What do we have to show for all these years of work and how can we leave the world a better place?”

Steve and Janet met when Steve moved to Anderson, South Carolina during his junior year of high school, following his father's retirement from the Air Force. His family had moved many times; in fact, Steve attended 10-12 different schools, including four high schools, during his childhood. Steve and Janet began dating the summer after high school graduation and continued dating through their freshman year as Steve attended Clemson and Janet was enrolled at Anderson University. They married just before Steve's sophomore year and have been married for 49 years, never having had children to add to their family.

Steve worked 30 hours a week and Janet began working full-time for a finance company in order to support Steve through his last three years at Clemson. They remember those days as a balance of hard work and sacrifice, while creating lasting memories with wonderful friends and family. Steve recalled that his time at



Clemson gave him educational stability and a community for the first time in his life. He graduated with honors and had considered attending law school; however, the thought of

three more years of school was daunting, so he took a sales job with Lanier Business Products in Augusta, Georgia after graduation.

Eventually, Steve and Janet moved back to Anderson. Janet enrolled in cosmetology school and was self-employed for 30 years as a hairdresser, which had always been her dream. Janet said the move to Anderson allowed her to be near her parents, and as a hairdresser, her clients and colleagues became a second family to her. Steve was always goal-oriented and took additional coursework to become a CPA. After passing the CPA exam, Steve worked for a regional accounting firm in Anderson until 1990 when he took the role as a staff accountant at the University.

Throughout his time at Clemson, Steve was fortunate to work with great mentors, such as Charles Tegen, Clemson's long-serving controller and the person who hired him. Charles immediately gave Steve the responsibility of preparing year-end financial statements.

Steve is particularly proud that, in 1992-93, Clemson became only the 3rd or 4th university in the country to receive a *Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting*, awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association. He also noted that one of his first responsibilities at Clemson was helping the golf course and hotel components of the Continuing Education Conference Center (now known as the Clemson University Conference Center & Inn) achieve tax exemption status. Steve served as the treasurer for the Continuing Education Conference Center for more than 15 years.

During his 30-year career, Steve worked his way up to serve as the University's controller, and ultimately retired in 2019 as Clemson's chief financial officer. Another point of pride for Steve is how well his successor, Sherry Roland, has handled the role of controller. "I worked with some of the finest people I know and learned so much from my mentors that I wanted to mentor those coming behind me," he said.

Janet retired prior to Steve in 2018 to spend extra time with her aging parents. As an only child, she cherished the opportunity to share more quality time with them. Steve and Janet have always enjoyed travel, and they have enjoyed several trips around the country and internationally with her parents.

"We realized pretty early on that accumulating material things is not what we want our lives to be about," Janet said. "We are both driven, problem-solving individuals who want to help

others. That is a big reason why we have chosen to support first-generation scholarships and why we are leaving our estate to Clemson. It is comforting to think that someone will benefit from our lives after we are gone,” she added.

After 30 years of working with Clemson’s financial statements, Steve fully understands the University’s financial strength and is assured that the University will maximize their gift and seek exceptional returns on their investment. “We are both so grateful to Clemson and appreciate that we have a comfortable retirement and have enjoyed so many wonderful friendships because of my years at Clemson. This is our way of giving back to the place that has given us so much,” Steve stated.

In making an intentional planned gift for the future of Clemson, Steve and Janet have great comfort and confidence that their estate will enact positive change for future Clemson students who will make a meaningful difference in their communities. Have you considered the future and how you will be remembered? We would be honored to help you elevate and propel future generations of faculty and students who will shape our state, nation, and world in unimaginable ways.

And as we embrace the beauty of this fall season, let us take a moment to reflect on the profound impact of September 11th. This anniversary reminds us of the bravery and resilience displayed by so many, including our own Clemson alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their courage continues to inspire us, urging us to cherish our freedoms and support one another as a vibrant and unified community. Together, we honor their memory and the enduring legacy of service and sacrifice they left behind.


Please reach out to us for assistance in learning more about the ways you impact today, tomorrow and forever. Our [website](#) features useful information that we hope you will explore, including our free Wills Guide, designed to help you navigate your thoughts and plans before you visit with your attorney and advisors. We always enjoy hearing from you, so please call 864-656-0663 or email us at giving@clemson.edu.

I hope you are making plans to join us on campus during Fall semester, whether for a football game or to stroll around our beautiful campus and witness the growth and additions that are old and new to our landscape. Be assured that while time changes some things, there will always be “something in these hills.” Let us each consider what we can do to honor those who have blazed the pathways we walk upon and carry their spirit forward as we strengthen

the bonds that unite us all. *GO Tigers!*

With tremendous gratitude, I am,

Gratefully Yours ~

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JoVanna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JoVanna J. King

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