

A Time to Listen...

September 29th, 2025

Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist and co-founder of the non-profit, Turning Point USA, was memorialized in Arizona last Sunday. His tragic death 11 days earlier has intensified anger, fear, and mistrust across the country. This is a significant loss for many people, for many reasons. In moments like these, I believe it is crucial to recall our shared humanity and our shared commitment to building a better future together.

Charlie Kirk was a significant figure in American political discourse. He was known for his debating skills, particularly in his "Prove Me Wrong" campus events, where he would engage directly with students promoting conservative principles intertwined with his Christian beliefs. His modus operandi was to offer to debate his critics openly about highly emotionally charged issues. His belief in the fundamental right to speak freely, and the charged debates he so often engaged in combined with his assassination while speaking openly on a college campus leads us to a larger conversation about the state of discourse today. His death has ignited a national debate over the very principle he championed—freedom of speech.

I am sure many of our fellow Wolves, like me, are upset, agitated and uncomfortable each for very different reasons because of this horrific act and its aftermath. Please know that Wolfe can connect you to mental health professionals if you're feeling overwhelmed and would like support. Our compassionate HR team led by Dina Blumenfeld, along with our Executive Committee, and my own door is always open to support you, help you process these feelings, and guide you if you're seeking help.

Against this backdrop of increasing violence and intolerance both in the U.S. and globally, we Wolves must strive for and embody tolerance, unity, peace and love. As Charlie's widow Erika Kirk expressed at his funeral last Sunday, the answer to hate is not hate... the answer is love.

The First Amendment, often referred to as the Freedom Amendment, is not always easy to support when others are expressing opinions counter to what we believe, but the ability to tolerate and have a discourse when speech or press is not favorable or even worse fundamentally opposite to our own personal belief system, is the backbone of respect, liberty and democracy. I'm not saying there should be no limits to freedom of speech, but I am saying the bar for our nation should be quite high. Evelyn Beatrice Hall summarized Voltaire's thoughts on free speech as the notion that "I may disapprove what you say but will defend to the death your right to say it." I think in this profound statement both Charlie and most Americans can find some fence to stand-on together.

I can promise everyone at Wolfe an open dialogue—the right to feel heard and safe is critical to our mission. Let's all be here for each other and support each other regardless of our political, religious or other beliefs. Mutual trust, respect and collaboration are vital for our shared success and strengthening the bonds between us.

Thank you for reading these words and listening to each other.

Much love, peace and kindness,
Ed

*Now I've been cryin' lately
Thinkin' about the world as it is
Why must we go on hating?
Why can't we live in bliss?*

*'Cause out on the edge of darkness
There rides a peace train
Oh, peace train take this country
Come take me home again*

– From Peace Train, by Cat Stevens 1971