



July 19, 2016

ATTN: Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey S. Sallet  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
New Orleans Field Office  
2901 Leon C. Simon Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70126

Dear Special Agent Sallet,

Thank you for your service to our community and to our country. As someone who had the opportunity to serve with both the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office and the Baton Rouge City Police, like many in Baton Rouge, I am grieved by what took place on Sunday.

I would agree with your statement at the press conference yesterday that unity is what we need and what we should seek at this time of crisis in our community and in our nation. Sharing your desire for unity, I wanted to bring to your attention that in your reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance you omitted the fundamental element that has historically unified us – the fact that we are one nation under God. The omission may have been inadvertent, but it was noticeable and concerning given the steady attacks on religious liberty by the present administration.

President Ronald Reagan speaking at a prayer breakfast in Dallas, Texas in 1984 said, "If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

President Reagan is right. Removing God only makes it more difficult to overcome the division and distrust that has been seeded into our nation. Only through God can we as individuals, families, communities and a nation find hope and unity.

I want to give you the benefit of the doubt here and respectfully request that you offer a simple correction. Doing so, would make clear that your remarks were not intended to further divide, but in fact, unify.

Again, thank you for your service to protect and defend the American people against the many growing threats facing our nation. I pray that God will guide and protect you and all of those in the FBI and law enforcement community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Perkins". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a cursive "P".

Tony Perkins  
President  
Family Research Council