

Good afternoon. My name is Alexis **Vincent**, and today it is my honor to speak on behalf of the Carver College of Medicine Physician Assistant, class of **twenty-twenty two**.

Today is a day of expressing gratitude, but it is also one of solace and remembrance of the loved ones that you have lost. This is not forgotten, and I share my condolences with each of you. Thank you for being here, for your role in each of the donor's lives, and for joining with us in celebration of their incredible last gift.

For in their rest, and with your grace, we started out on the journey of our dreams.

As PA students, we have the valued privilege here at Carver to work and train right alongside of our medical student peers. It is not an opportunity taken lightly that we are given access to the same didactic training, the same support, and are provided such an enriched learning environment. Our time in the anatomy lab is one of the most cherished of these privileges. Their past forever changed our future.

The stories each of their bodies told, provided us with the teaching we couldn't be providers without. With each white coat that walks out of this program, know that your loved ones helped to put it on. With each medical discovery and cured patient to come, know your loved ones were a part of it. Together we celebrate them today.

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After my time in the lab this past year, I feel as though I have a new superpower. When we were young, there were always cartoons in which the characters had "X-ray vision". As silly as it was, I thought that was a pretty darn cool idea. I would guess that some of you might have even picked that superpower when asked by people "if you could only have one, what would it be?".

The gift of an in-depth, tangible, tour of the human body, given by our donors, gave me a knowledge base that is so impactful, so visual and 3D, that when I see patients come in with injuries and ailments I feel as though, if I really think back to lab, I can see all the intricacies and underlying structures. I can see the anatomy and what might be broken, torn, or aching. I truly feel as though I have gained this incredible superpower of X-ray vision.

What could never be taught in a textbook was provided by each donor and although, we students are the recipients of this super**power**, it is our donors that are the super**heroes**. For they, like superheroes, defied death by continuing to give even after their time here on earth had ended. For this, a simple thank you will never be sufficient. So, instead I offer a "**super**" thank you to the donors and to their families, and I feel confident in pledging to you, that each one of us will use this superpower for the good of our patients and to the best of our abilities. That this gift that has been given will continue to change people's lives with each patient we can help heal. Know that each donor will never be forgotten, and their legacy will live on.

Thank you.