The most recent tragic, deadly events and assaults on Constitutionally guaranteed citizen rights leave us wondering how America got to its present state, and why we, nationally, seem to have not made nearly the progress we often promote. We reflect on the generations of our cadets and employees. NMMI prides itself on its diversity in our Corps of Cadets, and our alumni, faculty and staff. Annually, our Corps of Cadets is comprised of individuals from 40 States, as many as 35 foreign countries, and several United States Territories. There is never a clear majority of any one ethnic or cultural group. The same is true of our diverse employee base.

It is these very cadets and employees that help us build and sustain an inclusive educational environment that recognizes and respects people of all backgrounds and experiences. We maintain that all persons should be respected for and judged by their character inclusive of their ethical and moral behavior—not the color of their skin, gender, or ethnic or cultural background.

A Cadet is a Cadet. Cadets are not selected, placed or ranked in any manner affiliated with race, gender, or ethnicity. The Cadet Blue Book and Honor Code do not allow or tolerate acts of prejudice, hazing or bullying based on race, gender or ethnicity.

Without respect for each other as human beings, we cannot hope to listen earnestly to another’s concerns. We then feel free to shrug off those concerns with “I understand, but...” Such a lack of respect and understanding cannot bridge divides, solve problems, or perpetuate an inclusive, fair, and respectful living and learning environment.

NMMI remains committed to that proposition. We hope that our cadets, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters will continue to say and do what is necessary and right to eliminate racism and other negative influences on our progress as an educational institution and our nation.

Our fervent belief holds that education, at all levels, can be the most profoundly positive influence on all our lives. Education can and must pave the way forward for all of us. Then, perhaps we may all be able to breathe free.