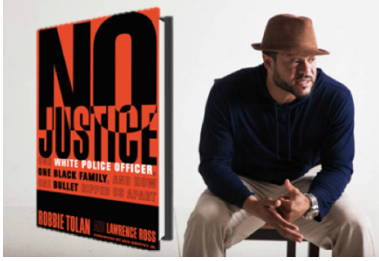
AUTHOR, SOCIAL ACTIVIST ROBBIE TOLAN SET TO DELIVER COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS FOR SUMMER 2020 VIRTUAL GRADUATION, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

This will be Prairie View A&M University's 109th Summer Commencement.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (August 7, 2020) – Prairie View A&M University will host its second virtual commencement exercise this year on Saturday, August 8, 2020. Due to the ongoing pandemic and the safety of graduates, family, friends, and other university guests, PVAMU administration is providing this alternative celebration to acknowledge this important milestone for students and their hard work.

As the commencement speaker, Robert Ryan "Robbie" Tolan's ongoing story serves as a great example for graduates in facing tragedy, fighting to survive, overcoming setbacks, and inspiring others to push forward.



Tolan enrolled at PVAMU in 2006 as a criminal justice major and was a member of the PVAMU baseball team. In 2007, after a championship season, he signed with the Washington Nationals. While visiting his parents in Bellaire, Texas (a suburb of Houston), he had an encounter with a Bellaire police officer, who shot him in his parents' driveway. Tolan has since written a book about his experience and is a sought-after speaker on police brutality.

Tolan's full speech will be available immediately after commencement at www.pvamu.edu.

What: Prairie View A&M University's 109th Summer Commencement

Date: Saturday, August 8, 2020

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: www.pvamu.edu/commencement

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About Prairie View A&M University: Designated an institution of "the first class" in the Texas Constitution, Prairie View A&M University is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in the state. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses, and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degree programs through eight colleges and schools. A member of The Texas A&M University System, the university is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information regarding PVAMU, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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