



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2017

Contact: Dana Bye, [\(804\) 404-2655](tel:8044042655)

press@abigailspanberger.com

Spanberger Statement on Last Weekend's Violent Events in Charlottesville, VA

GLEN ALLEN, VA -- *Abigail Spanberger, candidate for Congress in Virginia's 7th district, released the following statement in response to last weekend's violence in Charlottesville, VA.*

"Over the weekend, men and women marched through the streets of Charlottesville carrying sticks, bats, shields, and even guns. Some threw bottles of paint, cement, and reportedly urine at civilians and clergy. They upped their level of engagement in a tactical manner, they physically tried to overpower police to push through police lines, they beat people on the streets, and one murdered a woman and injured many others in a copy-cat car attack like the ones perpetrated by terrorists in Nice, France and London, England. As a former CIA operations officer who worked to keep terrorism out of our country, I know what terrorism looks like.

"No matter what they call themselves, "Alt-Right", "white supremacists", or "KKK", the intent of their violence and their threats is to instill fear and push their ideological agenda. I believe deeply in our first amendment right of free speech and assembly, but these individuals didn't just speak reprehensible words, they took action to hurt and terrorize civilians. The man who killed Heather Heyer was a terrorist. The men who beat Deandre Harris on the street were terrorists. The men who threw eggs, then paint, and then cement at civilians were terrorists.

"And yet, President Trump's initial statements gave moral equivalency between these neo-Nazis and the peaceful counter-protesters in Charlottesville who were standing up against hate. While Congressman David Brat went on Fox News and compared the "Alt-Right" hate groups with the peaceful protesters at the Women's March some of whom he characterized as the "Alt-Left".

"As a Virginian, a UVA alumna, and a former CIA officer, I cannot accept that we have elected officials who seek to soften the reality of neo-Nazis walking through our streets by ascribing blame to victims and counter-protesters. It is not only dishonest, but it disrespects the lives of those who died this weekend.

"May we all have the strength to speak out for what is right like Heather Heyer sought to do. May we all we seek to serve our communities and honor the lives of Trooper Pilot Berke M.M. Bates and Lieutenant Pilot H. Jay Cullen who died while serving and protecting our community."

###

Paid for by Spanberger for Congress