



911 Bypass Road, Pikeville, KY 41501 | 606-430-3501 | pikevillehospital.org

June 2, 2026

To Those Who Honor Original Sculpture,

It is a distinct pleasure to write this letter in support of Statues, Inc. and the exceptional work of Victoria Karpos and her team. Over the course of our long-standing partnership, they have become far more than just a vendor; they are a vital creative partner in our efforts to honor the history and spirit of our region.

Our collaboration began years ago, when I worked for the City of Pikeville as City Manager, with the commission of the **Mayor William C. Hambley Statue**, located in the heart of downtown Pikeville in the City Park. The success of that project set the stage for several other significant monuments that have since become landmarks in our community, including:

- **Governor Paul E. Patton Statue:** A centerpiece that sits at the entrance of the University of Pikeville that captures the legacy of leadership with remarkable detail and dignity. Governor Patton was known in Kentucky as the educational governor, who later became President of UPIKE and is now the current Chancellor.
- **"Little Ava" for the AVA Center:** A deeply meaningful sculpture that serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who visit our Appalachian Valley Autism Center, aka AVA. This piece is modeled after my four-year-old granddaughter Ava, who was the first Learner of the Autism Center and is now 9 years old.

What sets Statues, Inc. apart is not just their technical mastery of bronze and marble, but their ability to understand the emotional weight behind each piece. They consistently deliver projects on time and with a level of artistry that exceeds our expectations. Each statue they have created for us stands as a testament to their dedication to quality and their respect for the subjects they portray.

We are proud to have these works permanently placed throughout our city and state. I recommend Statues, Inc. without reservation to any organization looking to immortalize their history through world-class sculpture.

Sincerely,

Donovan Blackburn
Chairman, President & CEO
Pikeville Medical Center
Office: (606) 430-3501
Email: Donovan.blackburn@pikevillehospital.org

