

On the 15th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 Attacks

It is hard to fathom that it has been fifteen years since the Sept. 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks. The beauty of that crystal clear morning was destroyed by the incomprehensible actions of people who represented nothing but pure evil. At the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and on board Flight 93 over Pennsylvania, thousands of innocents died at the hands of Radical Islamic terrorists. Brutal murderers who, like so many cowards in history, tried to cloak themselves by invoking the name of God.

Make no mistake, God, not even God as taught in the Muslim faiths, condones or supports the mass murder of innocent people.

These men and their masters do not represent the God that people of goodwill and true faith believe in. These animals, and their comrades who still poison our world, represent the worst of humanity. If even the word humanity can be used in reference to them.

More importantly, they represent failure. Their intent then, and their intent now, is and was to bring us to our knees and take away our way of life. Their hope was to do what no entity in history has been able to do- defeat the spirit of the United States of America and its citizens. Oh how mightily they have failed. And in their failure, they have brought the wrath of righteous nations and peoples upon themselves and their supporters.

Yes, they still exist. Yes, they still bring forth their evil at times. Yes, we have made adjustments, but have not changed our beliefs or our faith. We continue to thrive and try to do the right thing around this world. Even though, at times, we feel the urge to make them suffer the true ability of this nation to retaliate.

We still live in and support freedom and the rights of all people in this world, while they must hide like rats in a sewer or cockroaches in a basement.

As we mark this solemn anniversary, let us focus on the real results of their actions. A nation and a world more resolute than ever in defending the rights of all humanity to live in peace and prosperity. A nation even more committed to the freedoms outlined by our founding fathers in the Bill of Rights. Our continued support to allow even those with whom we disagree to have and voice their opinions. The only change that has been accomplished is that we, as a people, are more aware of the real value of our freedoms and beliefs.

Let us also never forget all of those who exemplified the true spirit of Americans on that day and for the days and years after Sept. 11, 2001. The bravest, the finest, the first responders and the regular citizens who on that day ran into the conflagration when logic and human nature begged them to run away and save themselves. Remember all of those in the weeks and months that followed who walked into that toxic debris to try to bring some hope and then comfort to the victims' loved ones. Many of them have lost their health, many of them have lost their lives because of their great sense of duty and honor to aid and serve others. Think of them when you come into this hall and pass the plaque honoring Michael Ryan, a member of Division Seven who was one of these heroes.

Pray for our men and women in uniform, our law enforcement, our first responders, and our citizens who everyday rise to the task and risk their own well- being so that we, and nations around the world, can live free and practice our faith.

Never forget that day and never let the generations to come forget, that from that terrible incident, we rediscovered the best of who we are. A reminder of what generations before us fought and died for. A reminder that we too must defend that which we hold most dear. A reminder that we, as a people and as a nation, hold our rights and our responsibilities at the highest level and to the highest standard. A reminder of what a great privilege it is to be a citizen of the United States of America.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

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