



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: 23 YEARS LATER...

Certain images are indelibly fixed in the memory of all who remember that day. Images of terror. Images of tragedy. We have seen them – and we grieve. But we have also seen images of the bravery and compassion and kindness demonstrated on that awful morning and in the days and weeks that followed. We saw a great city respond to the very worst it could be given with the very best of itself.

We think of the unselfish, unstinting efforts of the city’s firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, members of the armed forces, government officials, administrators, and the institutions and organizations they represent.

We think of neighbors helping neighbors, friends reaching out to friends, families drawn together to deal with horrific loss and the overwhelming grief that followed in its wake.

And we pause, 23 years later, to remember those we lost on that terrible day. Our love and gratitude have not faded over the intervening years. Perhaps, now, we can think of them with something akin to peace. Perhaps the pain is still too much to bear.

Wherever we are, however we feel, we commemorate the thousands of irreplaceable lives that were taken so cruelly from us on one bright, blue-skied morning in September.

Our thoughts turn to the 18th century English poet John Donne, whose “Meditation XVII” contains these famous – and most appropriate – lines:

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
Each is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.

As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thine own
Or of thine friend's were.
Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.

It does indeed toll for every man, woman, and child, every sentient being – a fact we must never ignore or forget, for it dictates the way we treat the living and how we honor our dead.

In remembrance and sorrow,

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President

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