

Sept. 11 Special Edition

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One Year Later

Like all Americans, I will never forget where I was when I learned of the September 11 terrorist attacks. I was at the highest point in Washington, D.C., the Dome of the United States Capitol, giving a tour to my cousin.

When we began our tour, only one of the World Trade Center towers had been hit. Details were sketchy, and we assumed it must have been a terrible accident involving a small commuter plane or similar aircraft. We did not know at the time, nor could we imagine, that America was under attack.

Atop the Capitol Dome, we heard an explosion. I turned around to see a small mushroom cloud across the Potomac River. It looked to be near the Pentagon, but I didn't think the explosion could possibly be at the Pentagon. Perhaps a large propane truck or similar explosive had an accident.

Quickly, though, we realized the explosion and billowing smoke were coming from the Pentagon. Something was terribly wrong. We were ushered out of the Capitol to safety.

Not until later that day did I realize the vulnerable position we had been in - standing at the very top of what quite possibly could have been the fourth target. Were it not for the brave, heroic actions of those on Flight 93, it is clear that the terrorists were on their way to Washington intending to attack either the Capitol or the White House.

As the actions of the passengers on Flight 93 showed so vividly, September 11 brought out the best in America. My office in Stockton was flooded with phone calls from people offering blankets, water, anything that could help those in need. So many people rushed to donate blood the blood banks could not handle them all. Police and firefighters from throughout the country put their lives on the line to help in the rescue efforts.

When Todd Beamer said, "Let's roll!" leading his fellow passengers to make the ultimate sacrifice, perhaps he did not know the impact of his heroic cry. Throughout the country, people rolled up their sleeves to help complete strangers. It was, after all, not an attack on some of us; it was an attack on all of us.

Indeed, the entire world stood with us in the aftermath of September 11. British Prime Minister Tony Blair came to Washington to be with President George W. Bush at his address to Congress and the nation. World leaders traveled to New York to visit the World Trade Center site. The Parisian daily Le Monde announced on the morning of September 12, "nous sommes tous Americains," which translates to "We are all Americans."

It was in this atmosphere - the days following the attacks - in which President Bush acted with resolve, courage and compassion. In our hour of crisis, he helped us grieve and gave us hope. I am proud of the job he did, and proud to call him a friend.

His resolve has been especially evident in rooting out the Taliban in Afghanistan. As we have apprehended those who belong to or assist Al-Queda, we have learned what an extensive network exists, hell-bent on destroying our freedoms. The Al-Queda terrorists are rich and they are sophisticated, but they miscalculated our strengths.

The decisive actions taken by President Bush have brought new freedoms to the Afghan people - freedoms we often take for granted; no longer are little girls denied even the most basic education, no longer are women denied medical care, or publicly executed when they seek it, and no longer are journalists threatened with death for filming or writing about public events.

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Today in History

1297 - Scotsman William Wallace defeated the English forces of Sir Hugh de Cressingham at the Battle of Stirling Bridge.

1777 - Under the command of General George Washington, the Stars and Stripes were carried for the first time in battle.

1789 - Alexander Hamilton was appointed by U.S. President George Washington to be the first secretary of the treasury.

1814 - The U.S. fleet defeated a squadron of British ships in the Battle of Lake Champlain, VT.

1941 - In Arlington, VA, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pentagon took place.

1985 - Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds achieved hit number 4,192 to break the record held by Ty Cobb.

1990 - U.S. President Bush vowed "Saddam Hussein will fail" while addressing Congress on the Persian Gulf crisis.

1998 - Kenneth Starr sent a report to the U.S. Congress accusing President Clinton of 11 possible impeachable offenses.

2001 - In the U.S., four airliners were hijacked and were intentionally crashed. Two airliners hit the World Trade Center, which collapsed shortly after, in New York City, NY. One airliner hit the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Another airliner crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

From www.on-this-day.com

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The people in Afghanistan looked to America with hope, and those hopes are being fulfilled.

And so now, one year later, America has never been stronger. We are continuing to provide the hope of liberty and freedom for the world.

When President Bush addressed an overflowing gathering in Stockton last month, he reminded us all of how the tragedies of September 11 have brought us together and made us stronger. Introducing Malika Rasheed, a Freedom Corps volunteer from the area, President Bush said, "I mention her because I want people to understand that I understand the true strength of America. It is not in the halls of our governments, but in the hearts of our people. And there are people like her all across the country who are willing to try to make the communities in which they live a better place for all of us."

It is that spirit which shows that we will remain unbowed and unbroken.

By Congressman Richard Pombo

Weekly Quotes

"I fear that all I have done is awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve."

**--Admiral Yamamoto
after the Pearl Harbor
attack, December 7, 1941**

"How do I respond when I see that in some Islamic countries there is vitriolic hatred for America? I'll tell you how I respond: I'm amazed. I'm amazed that there is such misunderstanding of what our country is about, that people would hate us. I am, I am -- like most Americans, I just can't believe it. Because I know how good we are, and we've got to do a better job of making our case. We've got to do a better job of explaining to the people in the Middle East, for example, that we don't fight a war against Islam or Muslims. We don't hold any religion accountable. We're fighting evil. And these murderers have hijacked a great religion in order to justify their evil deeds. And we cannot let it stand."

**--George W. Bush,
press conference**

Homeland Security Accomplishments

► **Establishing a Department of Homeland Security – House Passed.** H.R. 5005 creates the Department of Homeland Security, which will work to prevent terrorist attacks and reduce U.S. vulnerability to terrorism, through improved coordination between federal, state, and local governments and first responders.

► **INS Reform to Secure America's Borders – House passed.** H.R. 3231 abolishes the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in favor of two new organizations that concentrate respectively on providing immigration services and enforcing immigration laws. It will work to keep the terrorists out, but provide efficient and fair service to those that play by the rules when it comes to our immigration process.

► **Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2001 – Enacted.** H.R. 3525 requires the State Department to only issue to aliens visas and other travel documents that are tamper-resistant and machine-readable using standardized biometric identifiers. In addition, the INS must implement an integrated entry and exit data system (for nationals of countries other than Canada) containing arrival and departure data from these documents. This system will both combat counterfeiting and identity fraud and provide a reliable measure of aliens who overstay their visas.

► **Airport Security - Aviation and Transportation Act of 2001 – Enacted.** This plan ensures uniform standards for airport security and will help provide the safest possible environment for American travelers on planes, at airports and on trains.

► **The PATRIOT Act – Enacted.** The PATRIOT Act gives law enforcement the tools they need to secure America's future while protecting our freedoms and Constitutional rights. This law enhances foreign intelligence surveillance tools for the 21st century, strengthens control of border abuse by foreign terrorists, improves law enforcement sharing of information to fight terrorism, enhances penalties for terrorism, broadens definition of terrorist acts and protects against abuse of new police powers.

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Wordsmith

her·o·ism

Pronunciation: 'her-&-"wi-z&m also 'hir-

Function: noun

Date: 1717

1 : heroic conduct especially as exhibited in fulfilling a high purpose or attaining a noble end

2 : the qualities of a hero

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► **Public Health Security & Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001 – Enacted.** H.R. 3448 is designed to better prepare America for bioterrorist threats or other public health emergencies by improving America's ability to respond effectively and quickly to such threats. This sweeping legislation will cover everything from public health preparedness and improvements, to enhancing controls on deadly biological agents, to protecting our food, drug and drinking water supplies.

► **Arming Pilots Against Terrorism Act –House Passed.** H.R. 4635 enables pilots to carry guns in the cockpits. Arming pilots provides both a frontline of defense, as well as a deterrent against terrorist efforts to hijack commercial planes.

► **Homeland Security and Information Sharing Act – House Passed.** This proposal will help get important threat and other information into the hands of local first responders and local officials who can use it to prevent or respond to a terrorist attack (included in H.R. 5005).

► **FY 2002 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act – Enacted.** Includes \$28.9 billion for emergency military and homeland security priorities in the war on terrorism, including \$3.85 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, \$5.5 billion in assistance to New York, and \$1 billion to avert an estimated shortfall in the Pell Grant program caused the economic downturn.

► **National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003 - House Passed.** This bill continues our commitment to defend our homeland, support our military personnel and fight the war on terrorism. H.R. 4546:

- Supports the president's request for \$7.3 billion to combat terrorism.
- Supports the president's Ballistic Missile Defense program by authorizing \$7.8 billion.
- Provides a 4.1percent military pay raise.

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9/11 Memorial Events

The following is a list of local memorial events scheduled for the anniversary of the September 11 attacks:

American Legion Karl Ross Post No. 16: 2020 Plymouth Road. Candle-light vigil, 7pm

Lathrop

Lathrop School: 15851 S. Fifth St. 9:30 - 10am

Lodi

Bear Creak Community Church: 11171 N. Lower Sacramento Road. 6:45pm

Community Church of God: 444 W. Turner Ave. 10:30am

Episcopal Church of St. John the Bapstist: 1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road. Requiem Mass, 12:10pm. Memorial song, 7pm

Lodi Art Center: Gallery inside Lakewood Mall at Ham and Elm streets 9/11 Art Show 10am - 6pm

Lodi Women's Club: All Veterans Plaza between City Hall and Carnegie Forum. 6:30pm

San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum: Micke Grove Park. Free admission. 10am - 3pm

Manteca

Manteca Fire Dept.: Various stations. Tolling of the Bell Ceremony. 7am

San Joaquin Chapter of the Knights of Columbus: St. Anthony of Padua

Catholic Church. 525 E. North St. 7pm

Stockton

City of Stockton: North steps of City Hall, 425 N. El Dorado, noon

UOP Associated Students and Chaplain's Office: McCaffrey Center, 8:46am - 6:30pm

Hew Harvest Christian Fellowship: 1950 E. Cherokee Road. 7pm

Lincoln Presbyterian Church: 3156 Michigan Ave. 7pm

Quail Lakes Bapstist Church: 1904 Quail Lakes Dr. 7pm

Saint Mary's High School: 5648 N. El Dorado St. 10am

Saint Luke's Catholic Church: 316 N. El Dorado St. 7pm

Zion Lutheran Church: 808 W. Porter Ave. 7pm

Tracy

Tracy Chamber of Commerce, Fire & Police departments, Marine Corp. & Tracy Ministerial Association: Tracy Civic Center. Noon

Tracy Fire Department: Fire station at 10th & Central avenues. Salute to Fallen Firefighters, 6:45 - 7:30pm

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► **The FY 2003 Republican Budget – House passed.** The House Republican wartime budget meets the nation's most pressing priority to protect America's homeland and citizens. Homeland defense and security became the nation's top priority in the aftermath of September 11 and the subsequent threat of biological weapons. Our budget responds with \$37.7 billion for homeland security in FY 2003 – almost double what was spent before September 11. Those resources will protect Americans in a variety of ways including: supporting first responders, countering bioterrorism, securing U.S. borders, and ensuring food supply safety.

- First responders: \$3.5 billion to help local police, fire, and emergency personnel get the training, personnel, and equipment they need to respond to a terrorist attack.
- Bioterrorism: \$5.9 billion to counter bioterrorism through research, vaccine stockpiles, improved information networks, and enhancements in the health care system.
- Secure Borders: \$10.6 billion (22% increase) to secure America's borders, including increases for the INS, Customs Services, and Coast Guard to hire additional agents and implement better information systems.
- Airport Security: \$4.8 billion to implement new airport security equipment and to hire more screeners and law enforcement personnel.
- Food Supply Safety: \$880 million to protect the nation's food supply including enhanced consumer protection efforts, pest and animal disease prevention, and research.

► **Terrorism Risk Protection Act – House Passed.** H.R. 3210 creates a temporary industry risk spreading program to ensure the continued availability of commercial property and casualty insurance and reinsurance for terrorism-related risks to limit immediate market disruptions, encourage economic stabilization, and facilitate a transition to a viable market for private terrorism risk insurance.

► **Cyber Security Research and Development Act – House Passed.** H.R. 3394 creates new research and education programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to promote more innovative research in cyber security and to attract more senior researchers and students into the field.

► **Treasury and Postal Operations Appropriations FY 2003 – House Passed.** H.R. 5120 provides for increased funding for border security, port security and implementation of the anti-terrorism PATRIOT Act.

9/11 Comments from the District

"It is incredible that a person could place so little value on their own life and the lives of thousands of innocent people. No person or nation should live with this kind of threat....No one. The threat is real. Very real." - **Mark Mullins** - 9/11/01

"We are ready to provide resources and bear arms as necessary against all who would attack the US." - **David Myrick** - 9/11/01

"As the debate rages on I would also ask that you remember that we are A FREE SOCIETY and treasure that FREEDOM." - **Gary Hanna** - 9/11/01

"We need to show the world we are truly united and willing to fight all acts of aggression toward our way of life and our society." - **Rinda Webber** - 9/11/01

"We must unite behind our leadership to bring to justice those who would intentionally kill innocent men, women and children" - **Blake Crary** - 9/11/01

"Today's tragic attack makes it only too clear that the world is a cruel and dangerous place." - **Gerald Gasber** - 9/11/01

"Let the world know that the USA WILL NOT STAND FOR ACTS SUCH AS THESE." - **Yvonne Archer** - 9/11/01

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"America is feeling the cost of FREEDOM." - **Clifford and Carolyn Glidden** - 9/11/01

"The souls of tens of thousands of murdered Americans are crying out for justice!" - **Frank Balestrery** - 9/12/01

"Our well-being and perhaps survival depend on a strong response." - **Alan Haynes** - 9/12/01

"Almost two days have passed and not a damn thing has been done. We do not need Nato. This should be a unilateral bombing." - **Anthony Pinelli** - 9/12/01

"Now I see those gleeful ten-year-old boys as the future suicide bombers of tomorrow. Their attitude towards this disaster will forever affect my feelings about their culture." - **Robert Hallam** - 9/12/01

"Bin Laden and the rest of these terrorists need to know there isn't a place in this world for them." - **Ronald Lowry** - 9/12/01

"Unlike 1941, the enemy is not obvious and a declaration of war is more a statement of emotion than a destination to send military forces." - **Jack Dighton** - 9/12/01

"You must stand up to this coalition and keep the United Nations and NATO out of our affairs!! The United States is the strongest nation in the world and we need to remain that way by taking care of our own problems and not let any other nation interfere with our business." - **Daniel Larson** - 9/12/01

"The security of our nation must take precedence over all other concerns." - **Gerald Gasber** - 9/12/01

"I would hope that the government responds accordingly as it should when the US or it's citizens have been attacked in a time of war." - **Edward Primasing** - 9/12/01

"We, as individual citizens, do not want to see these acts go unavenged, and we are willing to do whatever it takes to bring the enemies of our nation to justice." - **Susan Cabral** - 9/12/01

"It is incredible that a person could place so little value on their own life and the lives of thousands of innocent people. No person or nation should live with this kind of threat....No one. The threat is real. Very real." - **Mark Mullins** - 9/12/01

"I urge you as a member of Congress to declare articles of War against the Terrorist Groups responsible for this dastardly attack upon our citizens." - **Frank Pacheco** - 9/12/01

"Maybe now Congress will also wake up and get us out of the United Nations, kick their organization off American soil, and get on with the business of taking care of us the American people regardless of what it takes." - **Paul Helsel** - 9/13/01

"If war does break out due to this act of terrorism, I'm a veteran offering my service to my country again." - **Roger Bailey** - 9/13/01

"I understand we did not choose to go to war, but we are at war. Our enemies are watching us and we cannot blink." - **Scott Colonese** - 9/13/01

"Perhaps we should engage in terrorism against their governments as well." - **Darryl Sutton** - 9/13/01

"It is my opinion that our airlines should have armed security on all flights in order to better secure our airways." - **Ione Taunton** - 9/13/01

"Each day we waist not regaining the respect of our enemies is a provocative invitation to all our enemies but especially the thousands of terrorists inside our borders to attack again and again." - **Tim McGrath** - 9/13/01

"If our government sits and tries to rationalize its actions in light of 'political correctness' or other such nonsense we will surely fall victim to these acts again." - **Robert Reichart** - 9/13/01

*You can view more September 11th comments on Congressman Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link here:
<http://www.house.gov/pombo/board/board2001/board2001.htm>*