

SUPERVISOR DON WARD'S INTRODUCTORY WORDS AT GREENWICH'S 9-11 REMEMBRANCE

Greenwich, New York, September 18, 2021

Every member of our Greatest Generation remembers where he or she was on December 7th, 1941, the Day of Infamy, when Imperial Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and killed 2,335 Americans... and that memory united them for the ordeals they were to face.

Today we remember September 11, 2001.

That September 11 was a beautiful fall day. I was at the headquarters building for the US Marshal Service, just a few blocks from the Pentagon, having a cup of coffee and listening to *Imus in the Morning* on the radio as I did many mornings before work. Imus paused and said, "Looks like a plane crashed into the World Trade Center."

I sat there for several minutes wondering what it all meant and then the building shook to its very foundations as a third plane hit the Pentagon... and my life changed forever... all of our lives... changed forever.

- At 8:46 American Airlines Flight 11 struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.
- At 9:03, a second plane, United Airlines Flight 175, struck the South Tower of the World Trade Center.
- At 9:37, American Airlines Flight 77 struck the southside of the Pentagon.
- At 9:59, the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed.
- At 10:03, a fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed near Shankesville, Pennsylvania. Later we learned that passenger Todd Beamer yelled "Are you ready? Let's roll" and the passengers of that flight valiantly fought the terrorists, crashed the plane and saved countless lives. All the passengers on the flight died in that valiant and patriotic sacrifice.
- And at 10:28, the North Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed.

2,763 died at the World Trade Center that day... including 343 Fire Fighters and 60 Police Officers,

189 died at the Pentagon.

44 died at Shankesville

... and many others, including many First Responders, have died since as a result of injuries and medical conditions they suffered responding to that attack.

Today we honor all those who have so died.

After 9-11 we experienced a national unity... a national unity we had not experienced since Pearl Harbor. We applauded our Fire Fighters, our Police Officers, our Emergency Medical Workers, our armed forces. We had a renewed spirit of respect for America and for those who sacrifice their lives for us daily. We proudly displayed old glory. We helped each other through those terrible days and nights. And we were united against a common enemy.

We must get back that spirit shown after 9-11... respect our Fire Fighters, our Police Officers, all of our First Responders, all those who serve in our military and, most importantly, we must respect our fellow citizens.

We are one nation under God, and we must be united to continue this great experiment in democracy, this Republic, bequeathed to us by our Founding Fathers, this United States of America... for as Benjamin Franklin said, "You have a Republic if you can keep it" and we must be united to keep it.