

## September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance

On September 11th, 2001, terrorists struck the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and a fourth hijacking resulted in the crash of United Flight 93 over Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

It is still hard to believe that just one year ago, such tragedy struck the United States.

Shortly thereafter, on December 18, to remember the hijacking of civilian aircraft, the destruction of the World Trade Center, the damage to the Pentagon, and more importantly, to honor those individuals who lost their lives as a result of these terrorist attacks, Congress enacted House Joint Resolution 71 as Public Law 107-89 establishing September 11<sup>th</sup> as federal "Patriot Day."

And so we gather together to remember the thousands of people who died or were injured that day. "We honor you!" To those men and women who gave meaning to the phrase, no greater love, we salute you!

To the members of law enforcement, firefighters, medical workers, and to all the union members and volunteers who spent hours, days, even months to bring closure to our families, "we pay tribute," -- for you are truly our unsung heroes, our 21<sup>st</sup> century patriots.

I speak on behalf of all members of our Ocean County College family and say, "Thank You," to these ordinary people, who on this day, one year ago, and the many days that followed, did extraordinary things to help our country heal and to clear the way for a new beginning.

The day the towers fell, heroes rose, along with our hope for the future.

As the Pentagon was scarred, heroes rose, and showed the world the strength of our nation.

And as the fate of United Flight 93 unfolded, heroes rose and sent an overwhelming message of courage and determination that shouted across the globe, "United We Stand!"

These events, witnessed throughout the world, are forever etched in our memory.

And so, Congress declared Patriot Day – a day not to mourn the passing of so many individuals but to celebrate their lives – for they were ordinary people who died doing extraordinary things!

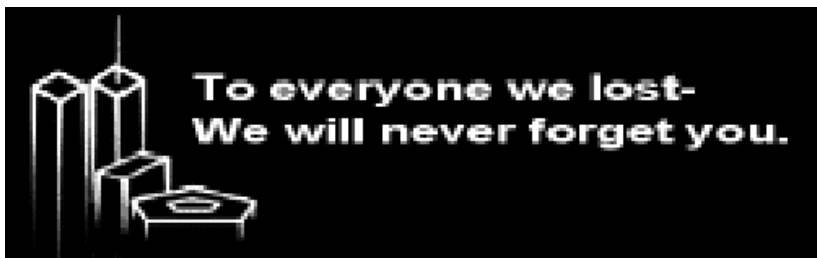
and out of the ashes, yes, heroes rose!

We will always remember this day. Let us not forget to whom it happened.

This program is a tribute to our heroes. This day is to honor the memory of so many lost, and to offer our prayers and support to the families they left behind. And as the day comes to a close, let us remember and thank our men and women in uniform who continue to demonstrate their dedication to serve and protect us by “just doing their job.” They are 24/7 - willing to defend our country while we sleep, work, and play. Many in a strange land “just doing their job.”

And across the sand and dust they, too, are heroes.

On this first Patriot Day, let us remember the men and women, young and old alike, from all ethnic backgrounds who were touched by the events of September 11, 2001. Let us take pride in honoring their spirit as we begin or continue our own healing process and pledge to “never forget.”



In Memory Of

Though you leave this world for another,

You will not leave our hearts,

Though you drift to a better place,

You will not leave our minds,

For your passing,

Though sad,

Will be overcome,

And time will heal,

The broken souls of a nation,

The broken souls of a world.

For now we can only say,

To yourselves, and those you left,

God bless you.  
We will never forget.

---Phil Rowlands