

## Patriot Day: 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 September 2016

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On Sunday, we mark the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks on 9/11. Tuesday, September 11 started out like any other day: Children getting ready to go to school, Parents getting ready for work, Commuters making their way into the office, Employees grabbing a cup of coffee and beginning the days work. And then the unthinkable happened. Everyone alive and old enough at the time has a “high-definition” memory of what they were doing that day, a day that is burned into the hearts and minds of every American.

All told on September 11th, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a rural field in Pennsylvania. It was the most devastating terrorist attack ever to happen on American soil. We remember the unforgettable images... The burning towers, the horrific collapse, the apocalyptic storm of dust, the anxious families gathered waiting, the vigil candles burning, the notes for the missing, the churches filled with those who were mourning, trying to make sense of the senseless, crying out to God.



Three hundred forty-three firemen gave their lives that day, alongside 23 from the NYPD, 37 from the Port Authority, and 8 EMTs and Paramedics. Heroes all. And who hasn't heard of the heroic act of the passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93?



While the rest of the world returned to semi-normal in the months after 9/11, the military's task was just beginning. As you know they soon became engaged in what has become America's longest war – the War on Terror. Many lives have been given to keep us safe. That struggle

continues, and we honor the sacrifices of the members of the Armed Forces and their families.

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## PATRIOT DAY: APPLICATION

In light of the heroism of 9/11 and the everyday sacrifices of our Armed Forces, what can we do as believers to make a patriotic contribution?

**1. Pray for our Troops and First Responders:** Obviously, we can pray for our troops and first responders and their families. They keep us safe, they defend our freedoms, they sacrifice so much. We should pray for them.



**2. Participate in the Upcoming Elections:** Not only should we pray, we should also honor the victims, the first responders, and our troops by participating in the upcoming elections. To sit at home, to fail to vote is to dishonor the sacrifices of those who gave their lives on 9/11 and those who have given their lives for our freedom. We need to evaluate the candidates when it comes to national security and Islamic terrorism. If they cannot even identify and verbalize the ideology that drives 100% of the terrorist acts, then do they deserve our vote? The least we can do is register to vote and vote our biblical values. We should resolve that we are not going to sit out this election. Resolve to pray, participate, and then thirdly...



**3. Promote the Spirit of 9/11:** Remember the immediate aftermath of 9/11? How unified we were? Remember how the entire Congress, Republican and Democrat, standing on the steps of the Capitol, singing God Bless America? For a few weeks, there were no Republicans or Democrats, no Black or White, Asian or Hispanic. There were only Americans. What will it take to get us to that place again? Another disaster? Another attack? Or a determined effort on our part to mend the fences, cross the bridges, go the extra mile to find common ground. There is more that unites us than divides us. Let's renew that spirit!

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