



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1
300 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0300

11 SEP 2014

AG1-CP Family

On 11 Sep 2001, Pentagon employees including our very own Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel workforce reported to work at the Pentagon, like every duty day. Thousands went to work in the World Trade Center, like every other workday. Collectively two hundred and twenty-seven souls boarded four planes.

Thirteen years ago – this day – on a nearly cloudless and crystal clear blue sky - at 8:46am; 9:03am; 9:37am and 10:03am – World Trade Center North and South Towers, the Pentagon, and an open field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania were forever transformed.

Lives of millions were affected by the tragic events of that horrific day.

The loss of Family, Friends, and co-workers were incomprehensible and indescribable. Nearly 3,000 in the World Trade Center Towers, several hundred first responders and travelers on American Airlines Flights 11 and 77, and United Airlines Flights 175 and 93; and 125 personnel in the Pentagon.

Yet, from tragedy there was hope. President George W. Bush stated, “We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail.” Secretary of State Colin Powell declared, “You can be sure that the American spirit will prevail over this tragedy.”

In the last thirteen years since - we have not tired, we have not faltered, and we have not failed. Our spirit has prevailed.

Yes, September 11th has changed our lives forever.

No longer can we greet and hug Family and Friends at the gate when they get off their flight; and stricter guidelines on passenger and luggage screening are in place. The Department of Homeland Security was created. Lower Manhattan’s skyline now boasts of a single glass and steel exclamation point – One World Trade Center standing at a symbolic 1,776 feet. The Pentagon Memorial – a permanent structure not too far from the routine business of the Pentagon provides a place of peace that honors the 184 souls lost. And in Shanksville, PA, the Flight 93 National Memorial plaque reads “A Common Field One Day...A Field of Honor Forever.”

Our everyday vocabulary evolved to include some new words and phrases, and some old ones that took on a new meaning. “Let’s Roll” remains to this day a national catchphrase - a battle cry that promotes hope and courage.

Yet...America rallied, the Armed Forces have rallied, and YOU have rallied. What comes to mind is one of our own organizational values – RESILIENCY!

Unsuspecting lives were taken; the economy suffered from the assault; our Nation shook to the core...yet, we dug our heels in, stood firm and fought back. In keeping with our fundamental attributes of steadfast resolve and resiliency we reclaimed our WILL to overcome and protect our Freedom – then and for future generations to come.

Of the 125 victims in the Pentagon, 70 were civilians and 55 were military personnel. The DCSPER suffered a loss of 20%; 24 souls were taken from our G-1 family. Yet, on 12 Sep 2001, the DCSPER staff went back to work with a new focus.

I know that some of you and your Family/Friends were at the Pentagon that day and are with us now – how grateful I am as well as the rest of the G-1 Family that your souls were spared.

Today is a day of solemn remembrance.

I often wonder...if the plethora of ceremonies over the years and the numerous memorials erected are enough. How should we remember? How should we pay our respects?

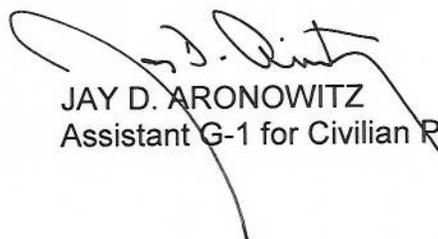
I got my answer when re-reading the speech President Barack Obama gave on the 10th anniversary of 9/11, when he said it is the legacy of those lost souls we remember and the legacy we here today will build for the future. He stated " More than monuments, that will be the legacy of 9/11 -- a legacy of firefighters who walked into fire and Soldiers who signed up to serve; of workers who raised new towers, citizens who faced down fear, and children who realized the dreams of their parents. It will be said of us that we kept that faith; that we took a painful blow, and emerged stronger."

It is the legacy of countless heroic acts of ordinary people. It is the legacy of the unified efforts of Americans and from around the world who stood with us as we regained our fortitude and strength.

Forever this day will haunt many. Each year will mark another anniversary.

However this thirteen-year journey of recovery and renewal that our country has been on continues to demonstrate how hope, faith and commitment restores a Nation to its splendor. We should not forget the courage we possessed then and now – standing up to our attackers...prevailing mightily and moving forward from September 12, 2001 to this very minute in time.

May God Bless the memory of those we lost, you and your Family, and may God bless the United States of America.



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