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REMEMBERING 9/11



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HONORING THOSE
WHO SERVED....**



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9/11

25th

ANNIVERSARY



Did you know?

According to the National Park Service, **2,996 people were killed during the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.**

Those who lost their lives included **343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers, and 37 Port Authority police officers.**

Tens of thousands of additional individuals have suffered in the aftermath of September 11 due to exposure to chemicals and industrial debris.

In recognition of that, the United States government helped to establish the **September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF).**

The VCF is a federally funded program that was established to compensate for physical harm or death caused by the terror attacks on September 11. As of April 30, 2026, victims have been awarded \$17.79 billion since the inception of the fund.

9/11

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

25 YEARS LATER, WE REMEMBER.

We remember
the lives lost.

We honor the heroes
who ran toward danger.

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to carry their loss.

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strength of a nation
that stood together.

September 11, 2001 - September 11, 2026

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A timeline of the morning of September 11, 2001



The attacks of September 11, 2001, shook the world and have continued to affect global politics and international relations well into the 21st century. While that impact was not on the minds of Americans in the early hours of September 11, this timeline of that fateful morning, courtesy of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, shows that it was not long after the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center that authorities recognized the United States was under attack.

- **5:45 a.m.:** Two of the hijackers pass through security at Portland International Airport in Maine. The men will take a short flight to Boston Logan International Airport, where they will join three other hijackers and board American Airlines Flight 11.
- **6:00 a.m.:** Polling stations open in New York City for primary elections.
- **7:59 a.m.:** American Airlines Flight 11 takes off from Boston with 11 crew members, 76 passengers and five hijackers on board. The plane, which will eventually crash into the North Tower at the World Trade Center, is filled with more than 76,000 pounds of fuel.
- **8:15 a.m.:** United Airlines Flight 175 takes off from Boston with nine crew members, 51 passengers, and five hijackers on board. This flight also is loaded with 76,000 pounds of fuel.
- **8:19 a.m.:** American Airlines ground personnel are alerted by flight attendant Betty Ann Ong that Flight 11 is being hijacked. This call lasts roughly 25 minutes and Ong reports that the cockpit is unreachable. In the moments before Ong's call, one of the hijackers stabbed Daniel M. Lewin, who was sitting in front of him in first class. Lewin is likely the first person killed in the 9/11 attacks.
- **8:20 a.m.:** American Airlines Flight 77 takes off from Washington Dulles International Airport. The flight has 49,900 pounds of fuel and is carrying six crew members, 53 passengers and five hijackers.
- **8:21 a.m.:** The transponder on Flight 11 is turned off. This device is meant to allow air traffic controllers to identify and monitor the flight path of a plane.
- **8:24 a.m.:** One of the hijackers of Flight 11 unwittingly broadcasts a message to air traffic controllers alerting them to the attacks. The hijacker was attempting to communicate with passengers and crew within the cabin.
- **8:30 a.m.:** Around this time, roughly 80 people have already begun gathering on the 106th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center for a financial technology conference. The conference is one of many events on the Trade Center schedule that day.
- **8:37 a.m.:** The Boston Air Traffic Control Center alerts the military that a hijacking is under way.
- **8:42 a.m.:** United Airlines Flight 93 takes off from Newark International Airport. The flight was due to take off at roughly the same time as the other hijacked planes, but was delayed due to routine traffic. Seven crew members, 33 passengers and four hijackers are on board. The flight is filled with 48,700 pounds of fuel.
- **8:46 a.m.:** Five hijackers crash Flight 11 into floors 93 through 99 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Hundreds, including everyone on board the flight, are killed instantly. The crash severs all three emergency stairwells, trapping hundreds of people above the 91st floor.
- **8:46 a.m.:** Police, paramedics and firefighters are sent to the North Tower.
- **8:50 a.m.:** While visiting an elementary school in Florida, U.S. President George W. Bush is notified that a small plane has hit the North Tower.
- **8:52 a.m.:** A flight attendant aboard Flight 175 reaches a United Airlines operator in San Francisco and reports the flight is being hijacked. By 9 a.m., various passengers on Flight 175 have called family members.
- **8:55 a.m.:** The Port Authority informs people inside the South Tower via a public address system that the building is secure and there is no need to evacuate.
- **8:59 a.m.:** The Port Authority Police Department orders both towers evacuated. One minute later, Captain Anthony Whitaker expands the order to include all civilians in the entire World Trade Center complex.
- **9:02 a.m.:** An evacuation order is broadcast in the South Tower.
- **9:03 a.m.:** Five hijackers crash Flight 175 into floors 77 through 85 of the South Tower. All onboard the flight are killed, as are an unknown number of people inside the building. Two of the three emergency stairwells are impassable and most elevator cables are severed, trapping many people above the impact zone and inside elevator cars.
- **9:03 a.m.:** A second call for mobilization brings the total number of New York City Police Department officers responding to the scene to roughly 2,000. In addition, the FDNY issues a fifth alarm and deploys several hundred additional firefighters to the scene.
- **9:05 a.m.:** President Bush is informed that a second plane has crashed into the World Trade Center.
- **9:12 a.m.:** Flight attendant Renée A. May calls her mother and tells her that hijackers have seized control of Flight 77. When May's call is disconnected, she calls American Airlines.
- **9:30 a.m.:** Amidst reports of additional hijacked planes, the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management at 7 World Trade Center is evacuated.
- **9:37 a.m.:** Hijackers crash Flight 77 into the Pentagon. All 53 passengers and six crew members perish, and 125 military and civilian personnel on the ground are killed in the fire caused by the crash.
- **9:42 a.m.:** The Federal Aviation Administration grounds all flights, ordering all civilian planes in United States airspace to land. Departures also are prohibited.
- **9:45 a.m.:** Evacuations at the White House and the U.S. Capitol begin. Both the House of Representatives and Senate are in session at the time the evacuation begins.
- **9:58 a.m.:** Flight 93 is flying so low to the ground that passenger Edward P. Felt is able to reach an emergency 911 operator in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.
- **9:59 a.m.:** The South Tower collapses after burning for 56 minutes. The tower collapses in just 10 seconds.
- **9:59 a.m.:** Continuity-of-government procedures are implemented for the first known time in American history.
- **10:03 a.m.:** Four hijackers crash Flight 93 into a field near the town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. All 33 passengers and seven crew members on board perish. Passengers and crew had stormed the cockpit, and the plane ultimately crashes just 20 minutes' flying time from Washington, D.C.
- **10:15 a.m.:** The E Ring of the Pentagon collapses.
- **10:28 a.m.:** The North Tower collapses after burning for 102 minutes. More than 1,600 people are killed as a result of the attack on the North Tower.
- **11:02 a.m.:** New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani urges the evacuation of lower Manhattan.
- **12:16 p.m.:** The last flight still in the air above the continental United States lands. Within two and a half hours, U.S. airspace has been cleared of roughly 4,500 commercial and general aviation planes.

The remarkable story of

Flight 93



September 11, 2001, is among the darkest days in the history of the United States. But the day also was one marked by incredible heroism and a collective bravery that showed the world Americans would not be intimidated by terrorism.

The lack of fear in the face of terrorism was on display aboard United Airlines Flight 93. Flight 93 was one of the four planes hijacked on the morning of September 11, 2001. But unlike the hijacked planes that ultimately crashed into the Pentagon and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, Flight 93 never reached its intended target, which 9/11 investigators suspected was the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Flight 93 departed Newark International Airport in Newark, New Jersey, at 8:42 a.m. on September 11, 2001. The flight was delayed by 42 minutes due to considerable congestion at the airport. That delay meant that Flight 93 took off just four minutes before the hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 was flown into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Flight 93 was intended to be a non-stop flight from Newark to San Francisco, and the The 9/11 Pentagon Memorial notes that long haul was among the reasons the plane was targeted by the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks. The cross-country flight meant the plane had a full fuel tank, which is not standard on shorter flights. Flight 93 also was a Boeing 757, which was an aircraft type that hijackers were trained to fly. In addition, Flight 93 featured just 33 passengers and seven crew members, which the Pentagon Memorial notes appealed to the hijackers because it suggested there would be less resistance when the plane was taken over. That proved to be a significant miscalculation on the part of the terrorists.

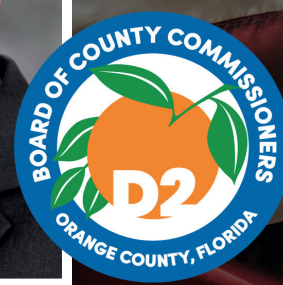
Less than an hour after Flight 93 departed Newark, the hijackers stormed the cockpit and soon turned the plane in a southeast direction. Passengers and crew were forced to the rear of the cabin, but they were not wholly unaware that they were part of a multifaceted and coordinated suicide attack on the United States. Due to the 40-minute delay at Newark Airport, passengers and crew aboard Flight 93 were able to piece together details of what was unfolding in the eastern United States that morning.

The Pentagon Memorial notes that Flight 93 passengers' and crew members' awareness of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon prompted them to discuss fighting back, and they quickly decided to do just that. That heroic decision led to the formation of a plan to confront the hijackers. Undoubtedly cognizant that such a confrontation might cost them their own lives, the passengers and crew nonetheless moved forward with their plan to fight back against the hijackers.

The hijackers' attempted to thwart the efforts of passengers and crew to regain control of the plane by rolling and pitching the aircraft, and the Pentagon Memorial notes they even flipped the plane upside down at one point. But those efforts proved futile, and the terrorists flying the plane ultimately decided to crash the aircraft into a field in rural Pennsylvania. At the time of the crash, which killed all on board Flight 93, the plane was just 20 minutes' flying time from the U.S. Capitol, where Congress was in session. By thwarting the terrorists' plan to crash the plane in Washington, D.C., the passengers and crew aboard Flight 93 saved countless lives at the expense of their own. That remarkable bravery and selflessness serves as a reminder that September 11, 2001, though marked by unspeakable tragedy, also was a day characterized by incredible courage.

We will never forget.

Honoring all who showed
bravery, compassion, and service.



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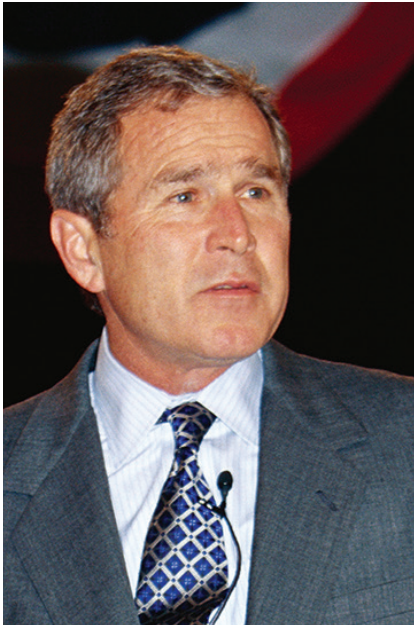
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Key figures in the American response

to the attacks on 9/11

In a speech delivered to a shaken nation on the evening of September 11, 2001, United States President George W. Bush noted Americans' response to the deadliest terror attacks in world history reflected "the best of America." President Bush also indicated the search was already under way for the perpetrators of the attacks, a hunt the president noted would benefit from the full resources of the American intelligence and law enforcement communities.

The American response to the attacks of 9/11 was a multifaceted effort that involved an assortment of key officials whose roles are worth noting as Americans reflect on the tragic events of 9/11 25 years after the attacks shook the world.



President George W. Bush

President Bush had not even been in the Oval Office for a full year when the attacks of 9/11 occurred. After the attacks, President Bush inspired confidence among the American people. The Miller Center at the University of Virginia notes that President Bush's approval rating in the weeks after the attacks rose to 90 percent. President Bush deemed Friday, September 14, a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance.

Donald Rumsfeld

Donald Rumsfeld was roughly nine months into his second stint as the United States Secretary of Defense when the 9/11 attacks occurred. Rumsfeld, who also served in the role under President Gerald Ford from 1975 to 1977, directed the actions of the Department of Defense in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. According to the United States Department of War, in the wake of the attacks on 9/11, Rumsfeld proposed a reorganization of the worldwide defense command structure. Rumsfeld also initiated a global restructuring of the U.S. forces that included shifting forces from Europe and the Korean peninsula.

George Tenet

George Tenet served as the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from late 1996 until mid-July 2004. The Council on Foreign Relations notes that, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, President Bush granted Tenet and the CIA open-ended authority to capture and detain anyone who the intelligence branch considered a "continuing, serious threat" to the United States.

Condoleezza Rice

Condoleezza Rice served as the National Security Advisor to President Bush from 2001 to 2005. Chapman University notes that Rice played a crucial role in the Bush administration's response to the 9/11 attacks, including the decision to invade Iraq in 2003, which Rice advocated for. Rice continued to play an influential role in shaping America's post-9/11 foreign policy while serving as President Bush's Secretary of State from 2005 to 2009.

General Tommy Franks

United States Army General Tommy Franks was Commander of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), a role he took on in July 2000. General Franks was tasked with orchestrating the military response to the attacks, including guiding the war in Afghanistan. General Franks also led the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

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President George W. Bush's

address to the nation on September 11, 2001

On the evening of September 11, 2001, millions of Americans were struggling to make sense of the events that occurred earlier that day, when hijackers commandeered four commercial airplanes, ultimately crashing two into the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in a field near the town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers and crew attempted to regain control of the plane from the hijackers. The attacks were the deadliest terrorist attacks in world history. All passengers and crew on board all four flights died on September 11, and thousands of others on the ground lost their lives that day as well. In what seemed like the blink of an eye, Americans were forced to confront the unsettling reality that America was under attack.

That was the situation confronting United States President George W. Bush when Mr. Bush addressed the nation that evening.

“

Good evening. Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices; secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed; our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.

America was targeted for attack

because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America – with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C. to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight, and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business, as well.

The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism. Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night, and God bless America.

”

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The reactions *of* world leaders to the attacks on 9/11

Americans were shocked by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Images of hijacked airplanes being flown into the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan and the attack on the Pentagon will never be forgotten, and the Flight 93 National Memorial in Stoystown, Pennsylvania, serves as a reminder and a living testament to the bravery of the passengers who prevented the hijackers of that plane from reaching their intended target, which investigators believe was the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

As Americans coped with the tragic events of September 11, leaders from across the globe condemned the terrorists' brutality and issued statements of support for the United States in the hours and days following the attacks.



“ This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today. It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life, and we, the democracies of this world, are going to have to come together and fight it together. ”



— **Tony Blair**,
Prime Minister of the
United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland

“ My government condemns these attacks to the utmost. I want to express my heartfelt condolences and my unqualified solidarity to you and the American people. ”



— **Gerhard Schröder**,
Chancellor of Germany,
in a personal letter to
President George W. Bush

“ These terrorist attacks are a serious challenge not only to the United States, but to the freedom, peace and democracy of the world... We must stand up with firm resolve to acts of terrorism, together with other nations of the world. ”



— **Junichiro Koizumi**,
Prime Minister of Japan

“ We, who know well the insanity of terrorism, manifest our support and solidarity... to all the citizens of the United States. ”



— **Jose Maria Aznar**,
Prime Minister of Spain

“ I want to tell President Bush, who is my friend, that we stand in total solidarity — we bring you the total solidarity of France and the French people. It is solidarity of the heart. ”



— **Jacques Chirac**,
President of France

“ In the face of such unspeakable horror we cannot but be deeply disturbed. I add my voice to all the voices raised in these hours to express indignant condemnation, and I strongly reiterate that the ways of violence will never lead to genuine solutions to humanity's problems. ”

— **Pope John Paul II**

“ On behalf of the European Union, they condemn in the strongest possible terms this type of cowardly attack on innocent civilians. ”



— Joint statement from
Guy Verhofstadt, Prime
Minister of Belgium, and
Louis Michel, Minister of
Foreign Affairs for Belgium

“ Greece condemns, most categorically, these horrific acts. We hope that the culprits be located and brought to justice immediately. ”



— **Costas Simitis**,
Prime Minister of Greece

“ I condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless attacks which have just been perpetrated against the United States of America. These barbaric acts constitute intolerable aggression against democracy and underline the need for the international community and the members of the alliance to unite their forces in fighting the scourge of terrorism. ”

— **George Robertson**, Secretary General of NATO

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9/11 Memorials

across the United States



The shocking attacks of September 11, 2001, are unforgettable. Millions of Americans recall exactly where they were and what they were doing the moment they heard the United States was under attack.

While the 19 terrorists who hijacked four commercial airplanes on the morning of September 11, 2001, aspired to crash the planes into cities in the eastern United States, the attacks resonated with Americans everywhere. The presence of 9/11 memorials throughout the United States serve as a reminder that every community was touched by the attacks of September 11. These monuments also endure as a testament to American resiliency and ensure that Americans born before and after the horrifying events of September 11 will never forget those who lost their lives that day and in the days, weeks and months following the attacks.

The Voices of September 11th Living Memorial Project was launched in 2006 and chronicles the 2,977 individuals who lost their lives on 9/11 as well as the six individuals and unborn children who perished in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. In addition to maintaining an extensive online collection of more than 87,000 photographs, the 9/11 Living Memorial also maintains a list of 9/11 memorials across the United States at voicescenter.org/living-memorial/memorials/by-state. Americans interested in visiting a memorial near their homes can peruse this abridged rundown of memorials by state or visit the 9/11 Living Memorial website for a full list of memorials.

Alaska

• **Alaska Fallen Firefighters Memorial and 9/11 Remembrance, Anchorage, AK:** This memorial is dedicated to 19 Alaskan firefighters who died in the attacks on 9/11.

Alabama

• **Moody 9/11 Memorial, Moody, AL:** This memorial features a chard of twisted metal from one of the Twin Towers.

Arkansas

• **9/11 Steel Monument Memorial, El Dorado, AR:** This memorial features a granite archway inscribed with the names of the four Arkansans who died in the attacks.

Arizona

• **The Salome - 9/11 Memorial, Salome, AZ:** The design of this monument was a community effort and features a double-sided metal waving flag intended to serve as an icon of hope and freedom.

California

• **Flight 93 Memorial, Union City, CA:** The name, age and hometown of each individual on Flight 93 are featured on stones that also include a stainless steel mirror to reflect viewers' own images, which serves as a reminder that any visitor could have been aboard Flight 93 on 9/11.

Colorado

• **9/11 Stair Climb, Morrison, CO:** The route of the stair climb is designed to equate to 110 stories, which was the height of the Twin Towers.

Connecticut

• **Amy Toyen Sculpture, Avon, CT:** This life-size sculpture of a child reading a book and holding a teddy bear honors Amy Toyen, who was attending a technology conference at One World Trade Center when the attacks occurred.

District of Columbia

• **David Bernard Memorial Garden, Washington, D.C.:** This memorial is named after fallen IRS employee David Bernard and dedicated to all of the IRS employees who perished in the attacks on 9/11 and the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

Delaware

• **Dover 9/11 Memorial, Dover, DE:** This memorial is carved from a tulip tree and dedicated to all who died on 9/11.

Florida

• **Spring Hill Memorial Garden, Spring Hill, FL:** This memorial features a piece of iron from the World Trade Center, a piece of the airplane from Flight 93 and a tile from the Pentagon.

Georgia

• **9/11 Memorial Garden and Trail, Athens, GA:** This memorial was the brainchild of retired teacher Bob Hart. Hart built the memorial, which is open to the public

and features 99 poles with all of the 9/11 victims' names, on his 18-acre wooded property.

Hawaii

• **Honolulu Community College 9/11 Memorial, Honolulu, HI:** A sealed vessel featuring a golf ball-sized piece of the World Trade Center and a charred hunk of the roof of the Pentagon are attached to the back of this memorial.

Iowa

• **Knoxville Freedom Trees Memorial, Knoxville, IA:** This memorial honors the police, fire, EMT, and other rescue workers who died in service on 9/11.

Idaho

• **Celebration Forest, Sandpoint, ID:** This memorial features memorial trees purchased by donors and planted in the permanent forest preserve in north Idaho.

Illinois

• **Commander Dan Shanower September 11 Memorial, Naperville, IL:** This memorial honors Navy intelligence officer Commander Dan F. Shanower, who died in the attack on the Pentagon on 9/11.

Indiana

• **Indiana 9/11 Memorial, Indianapolis, IN:** This memorial features two 11,000-pound beams from the Twin Towers and a pair of six-foot-tall black granite walls inscribed with remembrances of 9/11.

Kansas

• **Anthony 9/11 Memorial, Anthony, KS:** Artifacts from the attacks of 9/11, including a block of limestone from the Pentagon, are incorporated into this memorial.

Kentucky

• **Walton Community Park, Walton, KY:** This memorial honors those who perished in the attacks on 9/11 and those who continue to fight terrorism.

Louisiana

• **Lake Charles 9/11 Memorial, Lake Charles, LA:** Local artists designed this memorial that features beams from the World Trade Center rising from a reflecting pool.

Massachusetts

• **Memorial to Merrimack Valley Victims, Lawrence, MA:** This memorial honors and features the names of 29 area victims, many of whom were on Flight 11 or Flight 175.

Maryland

• **Survivors and Victims Memorial, Ocean City, MD:** This memorial located on the boardwalk features a statue of a firefighter and honors the 343 firefighters from the New York City Fire Department who were killed during the attacks on 9/11.

Maine

• **Maine Fire Service Institute 9/11 Memorial, Brunswick, ME:** This memorial features a section of a girder from the World Trade Center that was donated by the New York City Fire Department.

Michigan

• **Remembrance Plaza, Lansing, MI:** This memorial was designed with an elevated square concrete base. Three sides of the base represent the states where hijacked planes were crashed while a fourth side features a statement dedicated to the American spirit evident in those who perished in the attacks and persevered in the aftermath.

Missouri

• **Fenton Heroes Memorial, Fenton, MO:** This memorial features a polished granite wall and a sculpted model of the Twin Towers.

Montana

• **Community 9/11 Memorial at MSU Billings, Billings, MT:** This 4,150-square-foot memorial features benches for personal reflection and a scaled-down replica of the Twin Towers.

Nebraska

• **Memorial Clock, Lexington, NE:** A plaque at the base of this clock identifies the clock, which was the brainchild of local middle school students, as a memorial to the victims of 9/11.

Nevada

• **Elko 9/11 Memorial, Elko, NV:** This memorial located at Elko City Hall honors victims and first responders and incorporates steel from the World Trade Center.

New Hampshire

- **Benson Memorial Park, Hudson, NH:** The entrance to the memorial and the path leading through it follow the flight path of Flight 77, which was hijacked on 9/11 and deliberately crashed into the Pentagon.

New Jersey

- **Monmouth County 9/11 Memorial, Atlantic Highlands, NJ:** This memorial features a timeline walkway to recollect the day's events and a stone base carved with the names of county residents who perished in the attacks.

New Mexico

- **Vista Verde Park 9/11 Memorial, Rio Rancho, NM:** This memorial features a bronze replica of the Twin Towers and a plaque commemorating the lives lost on 9/11.

New York

- **DeWitt 9/11 Memorial, DeWitt, NY:** This memorial features a sculpture of two textured stainless steel flames representing the Twin Towers and signifying light and hope for the future.

North Carolina

- **September 11th Oak, Raleigh, NC:** This memorial features a rare Daimyo Oak as a living memorial to the victims of the 9/11 attacks.

North Dakota

- **The International Peace Garden, Dunseith, ND:** The International Peace Garden features steel girders from the Twin Towers and hosts an annual 9/11 memorial service that is open to all.

Ohio

- **Todd C. Weaver Memorial Tree and Plaque, North Canton, OH:** This memorial honors Ohio native Todd Weaver, who was in his office on the 94th floor of the South Tower when the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center on September 11.

Oklahoma

- **University of Oklahoma 9/11 Memorial Grove, Norman, OK:** Located on the campus of the University of Oklahoma, this memorial is situated in a peaceful setting and features a small plaque in memory of the victims.

Oregon

- **Gladstone 9/11 Memorial, Gladstone, OR:** This site located at the Gladstone Fire Station features a memorial fountain honoring the 343 firefighters who died while responding to the attacks on 9/11.

Pennsylvania

- **Flight 93 National Memorial, Stoystown, PA:** This memorial was designed after an international competition solicited ideas for a permanent memorial honoring the 40 passengers and crew who bravely thwarted a planned attack on Washington, D.C. on September 11.

Rhode Island

- **Tribute to Amy N. Jarret, North Smithfield, RI:** This memorial plaque honors United Airlines flight attendant Amy Jarret, who was working on Flight 175 when the plane was hijacked.

South Carolina

- **Myrtle Beach 9/11 Memorial, Myrtle Beach, SC:** This memorial in Warbird Park features a steel beam from the Twin Towers and a 9/11 timeline.

South Dakota

- **South Dakota WTC Steel Memorial, Sioux Falls, SD:** This memorial features a steel cross section cut from rubble retrieved from the World Trade Center in the aftermath of the attacks.

Tennessee

- **Assembly Park, Knoxville, TN:** This domed memorial features the names of the 9/11 victims etched in stone.

Texas

- **Beaumont 9/11 Memorial Garden, Beaumont, TX:** This Pentagon-shaped garden is approximately 50 feet by 50 feet and features brick columns eight feet high.

Utah

- **Utah Healing Field, Sandy, UT:** Each year in honor of 9/11, the Sandy Healing Field displays thousands of American flags. The annual event honoring the victims of 9/11 is open to the public.

Vermont

- **9/11 Memorial Flag, Milton, VT:** A stone pillar at this memorial describes how locals residing in Grand Isle County erected a flag within 24 hours of the 9/11 attacks.

Virginia

- **Fairfax County 9/11 Memorial Grove, Fairfax, VA:** This grove was designed by an architect with the National Park Service and overlooks a lake at the Fairfax County Government Center. A commemorative plaza is located within the grove.

Washington

- **Kitsap 9/11 Memorial, Bremerton, WA:** Each element of this memorial featuring two steel beams recovered from the Twin Towers tells a story and reflects a timeline of some of the events of the morning of 9/11.

West Virginia

- **September 11th Tree Memorial, Morgantown, WV:** This memorial along a walkway in Morgantown features trees planted and dedicated to those with a connection to the city who perished in the 9/11 attacks. Plantings are accompanied by plaques featuring the names of victims.

Wisconsin

- **Ann Nelson Memorial Bench at Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam, WI:** This memorial bench is dedicated to Ann Nelson, a Wayland Academy alumna who lost her life in the World Trade Center on 9/11.

Wyoming

- **Evanston 9/11 Memorial, Evanston, WY:** This memorial features two steel beams reclaimed from an old county road bridge and refashioned to represent the Twin Towers prior to their collapse on 9/11. Four trees are planted around the beams and each represents one of the terrorists' targets and Flight 93.

How the attacks on 9/11 affected air travel

It's been 25 years since terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. The effects of those attacks were wide-ranging, and anyone who has traveled by air in the quarter century since the horrific events of 9/11 knows that the world changed forever on September 11.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, hijackers boarded four different airplanes they ultimately gained control of. Two of those planes were flown into the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan while another was flown into the Pentagon in Virginia. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania after brave passengers stormed the hijackers, forcing them to crash the plane before it could reach what investigators believe was the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

The use of airplanes to attack the United States on September 11 forever changed both domestic and international air travel in various ways, and these are just some of the changes travelers have grown accustomed to over the last 25 years.



• The United States government created the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Within two months of the 9/11 attacks, President George W. Bush signed legislation that created the TSA, which was to be tasked with screening passengers. The TSA replaced private companies that had been handling security prior to the attacks on 9/11. After the establishment of the TSA, all who sought to become screeners for the new agency were subjected to strict background checks and detailed training.

• Everything going on a plane was now screened or inspected.

One of the more notable components of the legislation that established the TSA was that all checked baggage and carry-on items were now to be screened for harmful devices, including explosives.

• Long lines at security checkpoints became part of the air travel experience.

National Public Radio (NPR) notes that waiting times at gates increased dramatically after 9/11. Whereas before 9/11 it was possible, if not recommended, to arrive at the airport shortly before a flight was scheduled to depart and still make it to your seat on time, that flexibility largely vanished after 9/11 due to the heightened security at airports that created a need to arrive at the airport long before a flight was scheduled for takeoff.

• Friends and family could no longer escort you all the way to the gate.

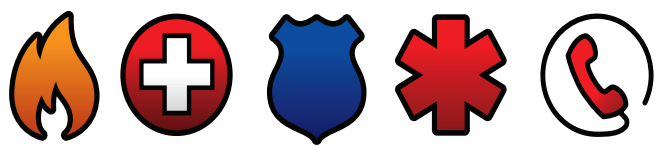
Many a Hollywood movie made prior to 9/11 includes a scene featuring a moving goodbye or a warm welcome home at a gate for a departing or arriving flight. However, after 9/11, no one other than ticketed passengers was allowed past security checkpoints.

• The Real ID Act was passed.

According to MacDill Air Force Base, the Real ID Act was passed by the United States Congress in 2005 after the 9/11 Commission which investigated the terrorist attacks of September 11 recommended that the federal government set a more rigorous standard for the issuance of personal identification. A Real ID is now required for anyone who wants to use only a state-issued driver's license to board a domestic flight in the United States (a valid U.S. passport is also allowable for those who have yet to secure a Real ID).



While it's understandable to conclude the need to remove footwear at airport security checkpoints is a byproduct of the 9/11 attacks, that's not so. A little more than three months after the attacks on 9/11, British criminal and terrorist Richard Reid boarded a flight between Paris and Miami wearing shoes that were loaded with explosives. Reid was unsuccessful in his efforts to detonate the explosives, and was subdued by fellow passengers and ultimately sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. But in the ensuing decades most airline passengers were asked to remove their shoes at airport security checkpoints before the requirement was lifted in July 2025.



WHO ARE FIRST RESPONDERS?

Law Enforcement Officers
Firefighters
EMTs
Paramedics
911 Dispatchers

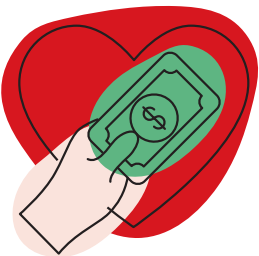


5 Ways to Thank and Show Your Support for Our Community's First Responders

- 1 Say thanks to a first responder, in person or on social media.
- 2 Send a handwritten note expressing your gratitude to a local department or agency. Parents and teachers can help kids create handmade thank-you cards to deliver to first responders.
- 3 Have breakfast or lunch delivered to a local department or agency, enlisting neighbors or coworkers to help finance the gesture.
- 4 Consider making a donation to a local fire, EMS or police department, or to an organization that supports first responders and their families.
- 5 If you own a business, consider offering a courtesy discount for first responders!

Thank you

First responders are trained to recognize and respond to emergencies, playing a vital role in public safety. Each day, these individuals act with courage and skill to help others and protect our communities. Please join us in thanking them for their service and sacrifice, and honoring those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



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2026

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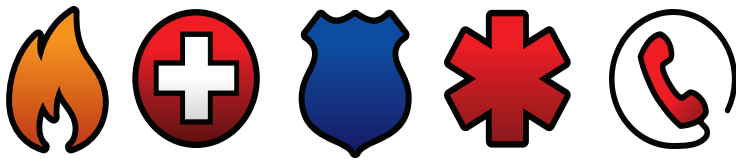
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How to honor first responders

This fall marks the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The attacks on September 11, 2001, remain the deadliest terror attacks in world history, and the families affected by the tragedy continue to confront its fallout each and every day.

The 25th anniversary of 9/11 will no doubt evoke responses that span the emotional spectrum. Sadness may dominate such responses, but the anniversary of 9/11 also is a great time to reflect on the heroic efforts of first responders. First responders played a vital role on 9/11, and many lost their lives and/or suffered long-term health consequences resulting from their selfless efforts to save innocent people.

In the two and a half decades since the 9/11 attacks, first responders have continued to make countless sacrifices to ensure their communities are safe and peaceful places to call home. The 25th anniversary of 9/11 is a great time to recognize the efforts of first responders and honor them for all they do.



• Donate to local fire departments.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, 52 percent of active firefighting personnel are volunteers. Many of those volunteer firefighters work for underfunded departments that are in need of regular financial support. Donating to such departments is a great way to show first responders how much their efforts are appreciated. Donations may be used to purchase new equipment, upgrade existing facilities, provide vital training, and/or improve response times, the latter of which can increase the likelihood that firefighters make it through calls safe and sound.

• Support legislation to assist wounded first responders.

Many first responders suffer significant mental and physical injuries while on the job. Various nonprofit organizations help wounded first responders who may need to make modifications to their homes or purchase costly equipment to get through their daily lives. But nonprofit organizations cannot go it alone in support of wounded first responders. Citizens can do their part by promoting and voting in favor of local, state and national legislation that makes it easy for wounded first responders to get the help they need, when they need it. In addition to urging local politicians to support such legislation, private citizens can utilize social media to promote proposals and other efforts to support wounded first responders. A vocal citizenry can be a strong asset as first responders seek assistance.

• Commit to supporting first responders year-round.

The 25th anniversary of 9/11 will call attention to the efforts of first responders on that day 25 years ago as well as the countless times since then that these brave men and women have served their communities. But first responders deserve vocal, year-round support. Make a concerted effort to thank policemen, firefighters, EMTs, nurses, and doctors in your community whenever you interact with them, and urge others to follow suit.

First responders play a vital role in communities across the globe. The 25th anniversary of 9/11 can serve as a catalyst for communities to express their support for first responders.

Bravery marked the day at all three sites associated with the 9/11 attacks

Recollections of the devastation wrought by the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, are affected by indelible images of the carnage that resulted from that brutality. That carnage might have been far worse in lower Manhattan, the Pentagon, and Washington, D.C., if not for the heroism of first responders, ordinary citizens working at the sites and the brave passengers on Flight 93. According to the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, an estimated 15,000 of the approximately 17,400 people who were present in the Twin Towers on the morning of September 11 were evacuated safely thanks to first responders, building staff, and civilians. Similar acts of heroism unfolded when the Pentagon was struck at roughly 9:37 a.m. by an airplane traveling 500 miles per hour. The plane crashed into the western facade of the Pentagon, tore through the building's E-ring and penetrated three of the Pentagon's five concentric rings. The quick response of the Pentagon's on-site firehouse as well the arrival of firefighters from nearby Reagan National Airport and the Arlington County Fire Department within minutes of the crash undoubtedly saved countless lives. Heroism also characterized the events that unfolded on United Flight 93, which ultimately crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, just 20 minutes' flying time from Washington, D.C. September 11 investigators suspect the hijackers of Flight 93 intended to crash the plane into the U.S. Capitol Building, which would have led to the deaths of many more innocent people. But the bravery of the Flight 93 passengers, who fought back against the hijackers and forced them to crash the plane in rural Pennsylvania, prevented that tragedy. While images of the devastation wrought by the 9/11 hijackers and their cohorts can never be forgotten, neither should the memory of the incredible bravery of the many individuals who helped to save thousands of lives on September 11, 2001.



Thanks to Our First Responders!





Wesley (Wes) Owens
RN, EMT-P at AdventHealth Apopka
Age: 42

Started at AdventHealth: Started in 2004 with my first EMT shift at the old Apopka campus, stepping up to

paramedic just a few months later. After 14 years as a paramedic, I became an RN.

Fun facts: While working full-time and going back to school for my BSN, my incredible wife, Jenni, and I finally made our 8½ year-old son Clarkson's dream come true when Camden was born three months ago.



Michael John Schuffert
Director of Emergency Services
Age: 52

Started at AdventHealth: May 2022

Fun facts: I love taking the road less traveled.

My idea of a perfect vacation is a warm-hearted village where I don't speak the language.



Nora Haynes
Rapid Response, ICU, ER nurse at AdventHealth Apopka. RN, BSN, EMT-P.

Started at AdventHealth: January 2015

Fun facts: I ran the New York City Marathon for

the first time in 2025, and I will be running it again this year.

My family is my everything: We have five children, and not to brag, but we are all very close and to me that is more important than anything else!

REMEMBERING 9/11



William Bryant
Communications Manager
Began at ADP in 2000

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I had just returned home from working an overnight shift when I received a phone call from a friend telling me to turn on the TV. I turned on the news and saw the first tower billowing smoke. At the time, it was unclear exactly what had happened.

As I watched the coverage, the second tower was struck, and it became clear that our nation was under attack. I returned to work that evening, and the impact of what

had occurred was immediately evident, not only among my coworkers, but also in the fears and concerns expressed through the 9-1-1 calls from the citizens of the communities we served. Public safety personnel and the public alike were struggling with feelings of shock, disbelief, fear, and anger as we tried to comprehend what had happened.

The most memorable and encouraging thing in the days and weeks that followed was the sense of national pride and unity that emerged. Political and social differences seemed to be set aside as Americans came together to support one another. For a brief time, Americans seemed to be reminded of what united us rather than what divided us.



Sgt. Daniel Colley
Police Officer
Began at APD in 1999

I will never forget Sept. 11, 2001, and how it changed my perspective as a police officer. I was off duty that morning when my supervisor called and told me that we were under attack. At first, I thought he was joking. Then I turned on the television and watched in disbelief as the second plane struck the South Tower.

The fear was immediate. Being a police officer in Central Florida, so close to Disney, there was a tremendous sense of

uncertainty. We did not know what was happening, who might be targeted next, or whether the attackers possessed weapons capable of reaching our community.

From that day forward, I found myself dealing with citizens with a little more compassion and understanding. 9/11 reminded me that the badge did not make us separate from the people we served. We were all vulnerable. It was no longer simply "us against them." We were all victims, and we were all in this together.



Lt. Carol McMaster
Police Office
Began at APD in 1997

I will never forget where I was on the morning of 9/11. I was at ORMC waiting to speak with a crime victim who had undergone emergency surgery. I was watching the news on the television while waiting and saw the plane fly into the second tower. I remember thinking to myself: "This cannot really be happening!" In the days following the event, we responded to many reports of suspicious packages, suspicious people, and provided extra security

of our water and power plants. With Disney in our backyard, the thought of an event locally was always on our minds.

In the days to follow, people were verbally thanking us for our service, paying for our meals at restaurants and extremely supportive of law enforcement and firefighters. We saw a large increase of people flying the American flag on their houses, in their yards and on their cars. The "United We Stand" slogan was posted everywhere. It was a great time to be an American!

How to discuss 9/11

with children

Twenty-five years ago, parents across the United States faced the delicate situation of discussing 9/11 with their children. Many adults watched their televisions with a sense of disbelief and horror on September 11, 2001, and parents were forced to explain the inexplicable events of that day to their youngsters.

As the world prepares to commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11, many people who were children or adolescents on the morning of September 11 now have children of their own. Parents may need help explaining the significance of 9/11 to youngsters who were not alive when the attacks occurred. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum recognizes how difficult such conversations may be for parents and offers the following tips that can serve as broad guidelines to facilitate discussions about 9/11 and terrorism.

- **Be ready to listen.**

The museum notes that some children will want to discuss 9/11 and terrorism and some won't. Discussions should not be forced if kids do not want to talk about 9/11. Parents can let kids know they're ready to listen whenever kids want to talk. Kids who want to speak can be encouraged to share their thoughts and ask questions. Parents are urged to actively listen to kids' concerns, noting their body language and validating their emotions.

- **Encourage discussions with kids who are ready to engage.**

Children who don't want to discuss 9/11 and terrorism should not be forced to do so. But parents should not avoid discussing 9/11 and terrorism in general solely because of the difficult subject matter. The museum urges parents to invite conversations if children express an interest in learning about terrorism and 9/11. Ask children, "What would you like to know?" or "How does that make you feel?"

- **Remain calm and avoid appearing anxious.**

Adults should be aware of their tone when discussing 9/11 and terrorism with children. Make a concerted effort to remain calm and not appear anxious. Answer questions honestly, but do so in



a way that is developmentally appropriate. Ask children if they have any concerns and provide appropriate, realistic reassurance. Let kids express their feelings and focus on how to cope with those feelings rather than suggesting their feelings are unfounded. If necessary, share what's been done since 9/11 to keep the country safe and prevent future attacks.

- **Learn about 9/11 so you can answer questions truthfully.**

The images of 9/11 are indelible, but even adults who lived through the tragedy may not know the answers to questions kids may ask. In anticipation of such questions, parents can visit 911.memorial.org to learn more about 9/11 so they're better prepared to answer kids' questions. Resolve to find answers to questions together if need be.

- **Emphasize hope.**

Acts of terrorism are often so horrific that they contribute to a deep sense of despair. But parents can explain to children that events like 9/11 also tend to bring out the best in people who are inspired to help and support family, friends and strangers alike. Emphasize the ways this happened on 9/11 and express to kids that their own acts of compassion may help to prevent future acts of violence and intolerance.

The 25th anniversary of 9/11 may inspire curiosity in children who want to know about the attacks and other acts of terrorism. Parents can employ various strategies to ensure such conversations are constructive and supportive.



September 11, 2001 *In solemn remembrance.*

We remember the lives lost.

We honor the courage and sacrifice of those who answered the call.

We hold in our hearts the families, loved ones, and communities forever changed.

May their memory never fade.



QUIET THE STORM
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with reverence, gratitude, and respect.*





*We will
never forget...*

Twenty-five years have passed, but we will never forget the thousands of innocent lives lost or the bravery of the first responders who ran toward danger. May we continue to hold their families in our hearts and remember the unity we shared as our country came together in the wake of tragedy.




Tiffany
Moore Russell
For Orange County Mayor

Pol. Adv. Paid for and Approved by Tiffany Moore Russell for Orange County Mayor (Non-partisan).

BOOKS

written to
help children
understand the
attacks on 9/11



As countries across the globe acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, children who were born after 9/11 may have questions about the day. Parents can make their own decisions about what to share with their children regarding the attacks on 9/11, and some may want to encourage young readers to look to these books as a means to understanding September 11 more fully.

Nine, Ten,

by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Goodreads characterizes Baskin's 2016 book as a "touching look at the days leading up to the tragic events of September 11, 2001" and the effects of the day on the lives of four middle school students. The four children do not know one another and live in different parts of the United States, but their lives intersect in the aftermath of the attacks.

Towers Falling,

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

This 2016 book looks at the events of 9/11 through the eyes of children who were not alive when the attacks took place. The story follows Déja, a fifth grader in New York City whose interest in learning about the attacks is piqued during a classroom discussion. With two new friends by her side, Déja is determined to learn about the events of 9/11 and why her father becomes so upset any time she mentions the fallen towers that once helped to define the city skyline.

The Survivor Tree: Inspired by a True Story,

by Cheryl Somers Aubin

Goodreads notes this 44-page tale takes readers "on a journey of hope and healing" that parallels the United States's own journey following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The story

focuses on a tree found amidst the debris of the Twin Towers one month after the attacks on September 11. The tree is transported outside of the city and soon begins to flourish before being returned to the 9/11 Memorial Plaza.

I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001,

by Lauren Tarshis

The wildly popular *I Survived* series includes this 2012 book about Lucas, a football-loving child whose love of the game was inspired by his Uncle Benny, who works with Lucas's father at a New York City firehouse. When Lucas's parents tell him he can no longer play football because the sport is too dangerous, the youngster secretly takes a train into the city to speak with Uncle Benny, only to find himself in the middle of a day that changes America forever.

Just A Drop of Water, by Kerry O'Malley Cerra

This 2014 book focuses on Jake Green, a 13-year-old living in Florida, and his best friend, Sam Madina, as they navigate the aftermath of the attacks on September 11. When Sam is beaten up for being an Arab Muslim and Sam's father is detained by the FBI, Jake must navigate family turmoil and loyalty to his friend.

Acclaimed documentaries

telling the stories of 9/11

The terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on the morning of September 11, 2001, shocked countless people across the globe. Questions regarding the perpetrators of the attacks and their motivation confounded mourners in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, and many of those questions have since been answered. But in the quarter century since the attack, people who were alive that day and those who were yet to be born may still have questions about the deadliest terrorist attack in human history. Over that period, numerous documentary films and series have been made in the hopes of educating the public about the 9/11 attacks and their lasting effects, and those productions can offer significant insight as the United States and the world reflects on the events of September 11, 2001, on the 25th anniversary of that horrific day.

“9/11: Inside the President’s War Room” (2021)

This film offers viewers insight into what it was like to be a member of the administration of President George W. Bush on 9/11. Narrated by Emmy Award-winning actor Jeff Daniels, this film features interviews with key Bush administration officials, including President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

“Saint of 9/11” (2006)

Among the earliest documentaries to emerge from the tragedy of 9/11, “Saint of 9/11” tells the story of Father Mychal Judge, the chaplain of the New York City Fire Department. Narrated by legendary actor Sir Ian McKellen, this moving portrait of Father Mychal, who was wildly popular among FDNY firefighters, portrays the many facets of his life and ministry. Tragically, Father Mychal was the first certified fatality of the attacks on 9/11, and “Saint of 9/11” endures as a moving testament to his life and legacy.

“Generation 9/11” (2021)

This PBS documentary connects viewers with seven children of expectant fathers who were killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The brave

young adults share what it was like to grow up without their fathers and their own approaches to confronting the events of 9/11 and how that tragic day shaped their worldview.

“Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror” (2021)

This five-episode Netflix series chronicles the events of September 11 and its aftermath, including an examination of the resulting war on terror. In addition to recollections from key Bush administration officials, “Turning Point” features interviews with American service members as well as members of the Taliban and other figures who offer unique insight on 9/11 and the events that unfolded as the U.S. responded to the attacks.

“9/11: Four Flights” (2021)

This documentary recounts the lesser known stories of the 9/11 victims who were aboard American Airlines Flight 11, United Airlines Flight 175, American Airlines Flight 77, and United Airlines Flight 93. Family members of the victims as well as air traffic controllers and military officers share their experiences of the day.

Many additional documentary films and television series can serve as invaluable resources for anyone looking to learn more about the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath.



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Unity in the Community Hosts 2nd Annual Back-to-School Bash

Unity Memorial Funeral Home East, Inc. proudly hosted its 2nd Annual “Unity in the Community Back-to-School Bash” on Saturday, August 1, 2026, bringing families from throughout the Apopka community together for a day of giving, fellowship, and support under the theme, “Preparing Our Children for a Brighter Future.”

Held at 44 W. Michael Gladden Blvd. in Apopka, the event provided children with free backpacks filled with school supplies to help prepare them for a successful start to the new school year. Families also enjoyed free haircuts, refreshments, family resources, and other community services and support.

The success of this year’s Back-to-School Bash was made possible through the generosity and commitment of local businesses, churches, organizations, and community leaders who joined Unity Memorial Funeral Home East in supporting children and families.

Community partners included:

- Your Community Tree Service, LLC — “Rooted in Service. Growing Together.”
- St. Paul A.M.E. Church —



- Faith, Fellowship, Service
- Refuge Church of Our Lord — A Place of Hope, Love & Restoration
 - Hughley Construction — Building Quality, Building Community.
 - Sweeney’s Rooming House
 - Fair Lifesavers Health and Wellness — Dr. Tamilya Fair
 - A Pave A Lot Asphalt Millings
 - Early Rising Lodge No. 16
 - Sweet Thangs Lemonade
 - Howard’s Barber Shop
 - Tito’s Barber Shop

“We are extremely thankful for every community partner who stood with us and helped make this year’s Back-to-School Bash a success,” said representatives of Unity Memorial Funeral Home East, Inc. “Their generosity and willingness to serve reflect what true unity in the community looks like—neighbors, churches, organizations, and businesses coming together to invest in our

children and help prepare them for a brighter future.”

Unity Memorial Funeral Home East, Inc., known for its motto, “A Service with Love and Distinction,” remains committed to serving families not only during times of loss, but also through meaningful community outreach, partnerships, and programs that strengthen the families and neighborhoods it serves.

Following another successful year, Unity Memorial Funeral Home East looks forward to continuing the tradition and making next year’s Unity in the Community Back-to-School Bash even bigger and better.

For more information, contact: Unity Memorial Funeral Home East, Inc. Daryl and Jonie Schofield 44 W. Michael Gladden Blvd. Apopka, FL 407-814-4938

Health issues affecting 9/11 survivors and first responders



The American spirit was on full display in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. While the nation and the world looked on in horror on that morning 25 years ago, thousands of brave men and women refused to sit still. First responders came from far and wide on September 11 and in the ensuing days and months, with some estimates suggesting as many as 400,000 individuals arrived to provide assistance at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan in the aftermath of the attacks.

The bravery of the first responders and others who arrived at Ground Zero, the Pentagon and the site where Flight 93 crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, can never be forgotten. It’s equally important to remember the challenges those individuals have faced since 2001. According to the World Trade Center Health Program, the number of individuals who have perished from 9/11-related illnesses now outnumbers the amount of people who were killed during the attacks on September 11.

While it’s been a quarter century since the attacks of September 11, many people are still facing a range of illnesses and conditions associated with their experiences on that day. The World Trade Center Health Program provides medically necessary monitoring and treatment for certified WTC-related health conditions, and the following are just some of the conditions that first responders, survivors and others who worked to clean up and revitalize areas affected by the attacks may be confronting.

• **Cancer:** Exposure to toxic dust and other chemicals during and after 9/11 has been linked to dozens of types of cancer since the attacks. Examples of covered conditions include but are not

limited to cancers of the blood and lymphoid tissue, including lymphoma and leukemia; breast cancer; ovarian cancer; cancer of the head and neck; cancer of the digestive system, including the colon and rectum; prostate cancer; mesothelioma; cancers of the respiratory system, including lung cancer; and uterine cancer.

• **Aerodigestive disorders:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that aerodigestive disorders affect the breathing airways, including the sinuses or lungs. Such disorders also can affect the upper digestive tract, including the esophagus. Some examples of aerodigestive disorders include:

- Asthma
- Chronic cough syndrome
- Chronic laryngitis
- Chronic rhinosinusitis
- Interstitial lung disease
- New onset and WTC-exacerbated chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Sleep apnea

• **Mental health conditions:** Many people continue to suffer from 9/11-related mental health conditions. One study published in the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* noted that nearly half of police-responders who suffered probable post-traumatic stress disorder also had depression and anxiety. Acute stress disorder, panic disorder, substance use disorder, and adjustment disorder are some additional mental health conditions that have been identified as 9/11-related illnesses among first responders.

Many individuals are still confronting 9/11-related illnesses. Support for such individuals and the programs that serve them is vital.

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How to continue to support

families affected by 9/11

Nearly 3,000 people died in the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. But the death toll related to 9/11 has risen in the years since those attacks occurred, as the diseases tied to exposure to chemicals and industrial debris at and surrounding Ground Zero has claimed the lives of thousands more over the last quarter century.

The families of fallen heroes and the heroes who are still confronting the side effects of their involvement in rescue and relief efforts can never be forgotten. As the world commemorates the 25th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, people from all walks of life can take note of the many ways to assist the families affected by 9/11.

• Support charities working to help 9/11 families.

Countless families were forever affected by 9/11, and various charities continue to provide much-needed support to those individuals. Donating to such charities can ensure they continue to have the means to meet their missions. Tuesday's Children (tuesdayschildren.org) is a nonprofit organization founded and designed to support families who have been impacted by loss or illness related to 9/11. The organization also offers support to those who responded to the attacks on 9/11 and continue to be impacted. Additional organizations that offer support to 9/11 families and honor the legacies of fallen first responders include, but are not limited to, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation (t2t.org), the First Responders Children's Foundation (1sttrcf.org),

and the Voices Center for Resilience (voicescenter.org).

• Support legislative efforts to assist 9/11 families.

Many nonprofit organizations offer assistance to 9/11 families and first responders, but government-sponsored programs remain crucial to individuals in need. Such programs must remain a priority for government officials, and voters and volunteers can play a key role by expressing their support for these programs and insisting that legislators keep existing programs intact and continue to fund them in the future.

• Donate to museums and memorials.

In the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, government officials and others in positions of leadership emphasized the need to ensure that the victims of September 11 and their sacrifices remain part of the public consciousness. Museums and memorials accessible to the public are critical to keeping the memories of 9/11 victims and the heroic efforts of first responders alive. But museums need funding to meet their missions and public memorials require maintenance to ensure they do not fall into disrepair. Financial donations from conscientious and grateful citizens help fulfill those requirements.

As the world remembers the tragic events of September 11, 2001, on the 25th anniversary of that horrific day, it's vital that 9/11 families in need continue to get the support they deserve.

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