

Patriot Day Message Read over Loud Speaker

Today, Tuesday, September 11th is patriot day. September 11 will always be, first and foremost, a day when we remember those lost and injured in the 2001 attacks, and pay tribute to the many who rose in service in response to the attacks – our firefighters, public safety officers, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and also our men and women in the armed forces. We engage in good deeds and other charitable activity in tribute to them. People often ask why 9/11 Day is also about promoting unity and putting aside differences. Anyone who was alive when 9/11 happened knows the answer: The 9/11 attacks brought America together in a way not seen since World War II. In a moment, whatever differences may have existed between people throughout the country were instantly dissolved and rendered trivial compared to what we all had in common – our fundamental compassion and concern for the well-being of others. We became a nation of people bonded together by the universal human spirit of goodness that lives in virtually all of us. For a brief period of time, we had the rare opportunity to view each other as neighbors, not as strangers, and we experienced briefly what our society might be like if we worked more closely together to solve our problems.

It was a remarkable and important moment that we hope to preserve in perpetuity in tribute to the 9/11 victims and others, expressed in this way: On the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, as a way to pay tribute to, and remember the victims and others we wish to honor, we put aside whatever differences we may have at the moment, and work together to help others in need. That is the annual ritual, a fitting and appropriate gift to the many that lost their lives and the countless others who were injured or came to the aid or defense of those in need. Please join me for a moment of silence on this patriot day.