



IN MEMORY OF 9/11

THE IACSP REMEMBERS OUR FALLEN HEROES
& THEIR FAMILIES

A 9/11 MEMORIAL TRIBUTE In Perspective...Five Years Later By Craig O. Thompson

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There will never be a defensible justification for the loss of thousands of lives in the Attack on America, September 11, 2001. Innocent lives lost, families torn apart, friends sacrificed. Mothers, fathers, and siblings gone forever.

As we gaze back at what has ascended from the ashes, however, we discover the spirit of departed souls who stand in defiance of those who would take from us our way of life and deprive us of our freedom and liberty. And the true spirit of America—unified, patriotic, giving, and loving stands as tall as the landmark buildings that once cradled thousands of lives.

This memorial tribute is dedicated to the professional and spontaneous rescuers who innocently—but with eyes wide open—became heroes, as they saved countless lives while just doing their job...

To wives and husbands who, daily, must go about their lives with fond memories of lost loved-ones...

To the innocent children who peer through doors and windows for mothers and fathers who will never return, and still wonder why...

To dedicated office workers, building employees, tourists, and trusting bystanders who could not have conceived of such misfortune...

To those whose lives must still go on amid visions of tragedy that could take years to fade...

From small towns to urban cities worldwide, we share the pain, feel the hurt, and cry tears together—knowing that we still gain strength from one another in our common love and appreciation of mankind. When fellow Americans and other innocent victims of tragedy suffer, there is a commonality of spirit that we all share in the emotion, the sadness—and, yes, the pride of knowing it somehow will not be in vain.

We gain strength in our lives by focusing on the good. We move on with the wisdom that comes from a new awareness—that fallen heroes would not want it any other way. Our values and beliefs shout at us to take new steps, each day, to overcome the melancholy that yearns for the way things were.

Those who lost their lives on September 11th would want us to understand that our strength to move forward can come from the goodness they shared during their brief span of time on this earth.

Countless people ask, “How many tears must be wept before the dust of tragedy is washed away?” Yet, amid the tears, we have an opportunity to reclaim our lives and to never give up our ideals, values, and freedoms.

As we move deeper into this new millennium, Americans must focus on the future, protect our loved-ones, and choose to empower each other with an invincible faith to rise above the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Each of us must share in the responsibility—and the duty—to protect our nation and our loved-ones. Those whose lives were sacrificed in New York, Washington, DC, and in Pennsylvania would not want it any other way. Life does go on. And we, as Americans must continue to face our challenges straight-on.

These lives have not been lost in vain. The events of 9/11 have taught us many lessons. We have learned that:

Rather than cave in to negative emotions that degrade our self-esteem, we will face our adversaries and let them know we are not deterred by fear.

We can lift our dignity by getting involved and not assume someone else will solve our problems for us.

In order to understand what we face, today, we must gain appropriate knowledge to deal with future challenges. And,

We must become advocates for preparedness in our communities, and take action to protect our homeland and loved-ones.

We know there are contemptible individuals who have lost all ability to use reason and common sense to settle differences in this uncertain world. Yet, because our world has changed, we have learned to be more vigilant, aware, and cognizant of our surroundings.

The victims of 9/11 have left us a legacy. We are reminded to stand up, to be strong and go on with our lives. And we are encouraged to employ all reason and common sense to overcome the possibility of crippling paranoia that emanates from fear.

Despite adversity experienced since the Attack on America, we have derived benefits from those events. As if posthumous gifts from innocent victims and lost heroes, when this tragedy breached family ties, it also brought countless families and friends closer—to spend more time together as they share life’s experiences.

We have benefited from a renewed spirit of patriotism. There is a rethinking and redefining of our personal value systems—what's important and what isn't—invaluable and intangible benefits. And there is a deeper awareness that, as Americans, we still must look inward to determine how we live our lives in this land of cultural diversity.

Americans know we must choose to prevent any further anger directed upon large communities of good people who are caught between cultures by virtue of their ethnicity. Vengeance on a group of people, based on the actions of individuals, is not about that for which America stands.

In Greek mythology, Pandora—like Eve—was the first woman. Over the centuries, the Greek allegory that describes Pandora’s Box—in reality a jar—was said to contain, among other gifts “...all the evils that flesh is heir to.” Zeus presented the jar to Epimetheus upon his marriage to the beautiful Pandora.

That jar—that vessel—came to symbolize a gift that seemed valuable but, in reality, was actually a curse...just as Midas discovered when his own food turned to gold and became unusable. As Pandora’s vessel was opened, all the gifts of Zeus’ jar escaped...with the exception, some say, of one.

The mythical vessel actually contained powers—each a gift from the gods—to coincide with the meaning of Pandora’s name, “The All Gifted.” All of these powers could bring about man’s ruin, if let loose from the jar.

Over two hundred thirty years ago, Americans were given all the gifts from God—no matter by which of the seven names of God we might call him. Among those gifts, set out in our Declaration of Independence, was the power to determine our own destiny and manage our own affairs.

Pandora’s jar had one power that is said to have remained inside. It was the most powerful of all gifts—the power of hope.

As we take time to remember those who were lost in the tragedy of 9/11—and those who have died in the battle against global terrorism—we salute all the victims whose lifetimes were taken away so suddenly, yet gave us hope.

We offer our personal strengths, as support, to the survivors whose lives will go on amid the silence that follows tragedy. Psalm 27 persuades us to “...be of good courage...” We share our hope and love for America—whose citizens have derived a renewed sense of courage and strength from the brave, courageous, and emboldened heroes who went before us. These heroes will forever be emblazoned on our minds.

Anthropologist, Margaret Mead, said it best, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world. Indeed," she said, "it is the only thing that ever has."

On that fateful day, September 11th, 2001, a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals—on Flight 93—displayed their ultimate and final acts of courage, and changed the direction of what some had intended as another act of war. And, by the actions of these and other heroes of 9/11, we are resolved to do what it takes to maintain freedom and liberty on our soil.

As we observe this most important day of remembrance—September 11th, I want to leave you with hope inspired by the bravery and sacrifice of those we honor.

The following poem is dedicated to the memory of the thousands of souls who had no choice as to their fate, on September 11th—to the honored men and women who gave their lives with courageous acts of valor on that day, and to those brave and determined souls who have died in defense of our homeland here and abroad:

ALTERNATE LAST PARAGRAPHS (IF THE FOLLOWING POEM IS NOT USED):

As we observe this most important day of remembrance—September 11th, allow the bravery and sacrifice of those we honor to inspire hope.

We dedicate our thoughts to the memory of the thousands of souls who had no choice as to their fate, on September 11th—to the honored men and women who gave their lives with courageous acts of valor on that day, and to those brave and determined souls who have died in defense of our homeland here and abroad.

NOTE: Please refer to the following page for the Poem titled “Father & Son,” and for the required credit box and publication rights.

Father and Son

By Craig O. Thompson

The truck is leaving.
We have to go.
Were the last words they heard them say.

There are lives to be saved
In the ebb and flow.
The truck is leaving. We must go today.

Among tragedy, shock, emotion and fear
Today our duty beckons us there.
The privilege and honor bestowed years ago
Means we endow help. We have to go.

Our badges and hats will not be lost.
Our duty's to serve, no matter the cost.
Know as we climb Buildings 1 or 2
Thousands rely on our getting through.

Know that we love you. Realize we care.
No matter what happens, we'll be with you there.

The truck is leaving.
We have to go.
Were the last words they heard them say.

There are lives to be saved
In the ebb and flow.
The truck is leaving. We must go today.



Also dedicated to the memory of
Thomas Langone, NYPD
and Peter Langone, FDNY

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Craig O. Thompson (www.BrightwaterPublishing.com and www.BusinessContinuityBCP.com) is communications director, International Association for Counterterrorism & Security Professionals, Arlington, VA (www.IACSP.com). This memorial tribute and poem is presented through the auspices of the IACSP—dedicated to provide education and information to the public and to promote international cooperation in counter-terrorism policy. Email author Craig O. Thompson: articles@BusinessContinuityBCP.com Email the IACSP: IACSP@aol.com

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