

TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH
PRESENTED ABOARD THE SAILING YACHT OCEAN
ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2013, IN CHICAGO
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On the anniversary of September 11, we are aboard this boat to honor the Americans who perished that day, and those who served following that day in the pursuit of justice and a free world. A moment of silence, please, for those, and their loved ones, who made the ultimate sacrifice.

[silence]

But we must not let this anniversary be a sad day. Let it remind us of those Americans departed – and those Americans living – who have served and continue to serve the cause of democracy. On this anniversary we should take great pride in what we have learned about the *character* of the American people.

It has been said that true character always reveals itself. On that day and days since we saw our character revealed when citizens on the street risked death as they rushed to the rescue of others; we saw our character revealed as Firemen and Police entered the World Trade Center to carry people out as the building came down around them; we saw our character revealed when passengers thwarted terrorist efforts in the air over Pennsylvania; we saw our character revealed as our troops campaigned two wars on terror, and as our humanitarians lifted those living under tyranny; and we saw our character revealed as we placed Old Glory atop of the new World Trade Center which stands as proof of American resilience.

Our nation has been strengthened and unified by the events of September 11. We will always remember those Americans who now look at us from heaven; and we will always stand tall and be thankful for the extraordinary acts of our First Responders, our military, our humanitarians, and our citizens.