

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Statement on the Anniversary of the September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks
September 11, 2024

Today our Nation comes together to renew our sacred vow: Never forget.

Never forget each of the 2,977 precious lives stolen from us when terrorists attacked our Nation. Never forget their families who still bear the grief from that searing September morning. Never forget the heroic citizens and survivors who rushed to help their fellow Americans. And never forget that when faced with evil—and an enemy that sought to tear us apart—we endured.

In the crucible of September 11 and the days that followed, we showed what Americans are made of. Firefighters and police officers running into the inferno of jet fuel and debris at Ground Zero. Civilians and servicemembers at the Pentagon rushing into the fiery breach to rescue their colleagues. The heroes of Flight 93, who confronted terror with absolute courage and undoubtedly saved more American lives. Neighbors who showed up for neighbors to grieve and to rebuild. And hundreds of thousands of women and men whose hands went up, ready to serve our country.

On this day 23 years ago, terrorists believed they could break our will and bring us to our knees. They were wrong. They will always be wrong. In the darkest of hours, we found light. And, in the face of fear, we came together: to defend our country and to help one another. That is why terrorists targeted us in the first place: our freedom, our democracy, our unity.

They failed. But we must remain vigilant. Today, our longest war is finally over. But our commitment to preventing another attack on our people never will be. We will continue to disrupt terrorist networks wherever we find them. And we will continue to deliver justice to terrorists who plot against America, just as we did with Osama bin Laden in 2011 and Ayman al-Zawahiri in 2022.

And above all, we will continue to remember: We are the United States of America. We endure. We overcome. And there is nothing beyond our capacity when we do it together. May God bless our fallen and their families, may God protect our troops and first responders, and may God bless the United States of America.

Categories: Statements by the President : September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, anniversary.

Subjects: Counterterrorism and homeland security; First responders, service and dedication; September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; U.S. servicemembers, service and dedication.

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