

a terrible moment. But this country will not relent until we have saved ourselves and others from the terrible tragedy that came upon America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Jiang Zemin of China; President Pervez Musharraf

of Pakistan; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A reporter referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. The proclamation of September 13 on the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001, is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Memorandum on Benefits for Survivors of Public Safety Officers *September 13, 2001*

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Benefits for Survivors of Public Safety Officers

I hereby direct you to implement procedures to streamline the application, approval, and payment process for claims for benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 1976 by eligible survivors of firefighters, police officers, medical rescue personnel, and other public safety offi-

cers who died in the line of duty as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

I further direct that you work with Federal, State and local officials and deploy the resources of the relevant offices within the Department of Justice to provide immediate assistance to the survivors of those public safety officers who have sacrificed their lives for our communities and country.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks Following a Visit to Washington Hospital Center *September 13, 2001*

We have just seen some really brave men and women. We met with the people who work for our Government, that work inside the building. We met with their families.

This is a great hospital. The doctors and nurses are not only accomplished, they're loving people. There's a wonderful spirit up on the floor that we went to. We told them that our country is praying for each and every one there, praying for their families.

Some of the folks could talk, and they described the horror of the incident, the moment. They talked about escaping, going through fire, crawling through debris. It

was clear that they were fighting for their survival then, and like every patient up there, they're still fighting for survival.

And it was just a sobering moment for Laura and me. But we again thank the hospital, the docs, the nurses and, of course, again tell the families that the Nation prays for those who have been injured by this unbelievable act of terror.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:20 p.m. outside the main entrance to Washington

Hospital Center. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Service
September 14, 2001

We are here in the middle hour of our grief. So many have suffered so great a loss, and today we express our Nation's sorrow. We come before God to pray for the missing and the dead and for those who love them.

On Tuesday our country was attacked with deliberate and massive cruelty. We have seen the images of fire and ashes and bent steel. Now come the names, the list of casualties we are only beginning to read.

They are the names of men and women who began their day at a desk or in an airport, busy with life. They are the names of people who faced death and in their last moments called home to say, "Be brave," and, "I love you." They are the names of passengers who defied their murderers and prevented the murder of others on the ground. They are the names of men and women who wore the uniform of the United States and died at their posts. They are the names of rescuers, the ones whom death found running up the stairs and into the fires to help others. We will read all these names. We will linger over them and learn their stories, and many Americans will weep.

To the children and parents and spouses and families and friends of the lost, we offer the deepest sympathy of the Nation. And I assure you, you are not alone.

Just 3 days removed from these events, Americans do not yet have the distance of history. But our responsibility to history is already clear: To answer these attacks and rid the world of evil.

War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder. This Nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger.

This conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way and at an hour of our choosing.

Our purpose as a nation is firm. Yet, our wounds as a people are recent and unhealed and lead us to pray. In many of our prayers this week, there is a searching and an honesty. At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on Tuesday, a woman said, "I prayed to God to give us a sign that He is still here." Others have prayed for the same, searching hospital to hospital, carrying pictures of those still missing.

God's signs are not always the ones we look for. We learn in tragedy that his purposes are not always our own. Yet, the prayers of private suffering, whether in our homes or in this great cathedral, are known and heard and understood.

There are prayers that help us last through the day or endure the night. There are prayers of friends and strangers that give us strength for the journey. And there are prayers that yield our will to a will greater than our own.

This world He created is of moral design. Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time. Goodness, remembrance, and love have no end. And the Lord of life holds all who die and all who mourn.

It is said that adversity introduces us to ourselves. This is true of a nation as well. In this trial, we have been reminded, and the world has seen, that our fellow Americans are generous and kind, resourceful and brave. We see our national character in rescuers working past exhaustion, in long lines of blood donors, in thousands of citizens who have asked to work and serve in any way possible.