

President Bush. Well, I don't think about myself right now. I think about the families, the children. I am a loving guy, and I am also someone, however, who has got a job to do, and I intend to do it. And this is 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 and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

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.

Proclamation 7462—National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001

September 13, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked America in a series of despicable acts of war. They hijacked four passenger jets, crashed two of them into the World Trade Center's twin towers, and a third into the Headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense at the Pentagon, causing great loss of life and tremendous damage. The fourth plane crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside, killing all on board but falling well short of its intended target apparently because of the heroic efforts of passengers on board. This carnage, which caused the collapse of both Trade Center towers and the destruction of part of the Pentagon, killed more than 250 airplane passengers and thousands more on the ground.

Civilized people around the world denounce the evildoers who devised and executed these terrible attacks. Justice demands that those who helped or harbored the terrorists be punished—and punished severely. The enormity of their evil demands it. We will use all the resources of the United States and our cooperating friends and allies to pursue those responsible for this evil, until justice is done.

We mourn with those who have suffered great and disastrous loss. All our hearts have been seared by the sudden and senseless taking of innocent lives. We pray for healing and for the strength to serve and encourage one another in hope and faith.

Scripture says: "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." I call on every American family and the family of America to observe a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, honoring the memory of the thousands of victims of these brutal attacks and comforting those who lost loved ones. We will persevere through this national tragedy and personal loss. In time, we will find healing and recovery; and, in the face

of all this evil, we remain strong and united, “one Nation under God.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 14, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001. I ask that the people of the United States and places of worship mark this National Day of Prayer and Remembrance with noontime memorial services, the ringing of bells at that hour, and evening candlelight remembrance vigils. I encourage employers to permit their workers time off during the lunch hour to attend the noontime services to pray for our land. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in these solemn observances.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:58 p.m., September 13, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14.

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 officers 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 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