

THANK YOU LIEUTENANT JENKINS...

CHIEF DOWNEY, DIRECTOR PATTERSON...

FELLOW RESIDENTS...

GOOD MORNING TO ALL OF YOU.

IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY IN REMEMBRANCE OF A DAY THAT CONTINUES TO LIVE ON IN ALL OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORIES.

LET ME BEGIN BY WELCOMING AND RECOGNIZING ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY, PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS, AND ALL FELLOW ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT HAVE JOINED US.

THIRTEEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT FATEFUL TUESDAY MORNING WHEN TERROR CAME TO AMERICA.

ON A MORNING MUCH LIKE THIS ONE, WHEN FAMILIES GATHER FOR BREAKFAST, WHEN WE BATTLE RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC TO GET OUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL AND THEN WE GO OFF TO WORK, WHEN WE GO ABOUT OUR DAILY ROUTINES, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED...

AMERICA WAS ATTACKED.

AND WE WERE ATTACKED BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE, BECAUSE OF OUR WAY OF LIFE, AND BECAUSE OUR NATION REPRESENTS THE BRIGHTEST HOPE AND BEACON FOR FREEDOM IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

ON THAT DAY, THEN PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH REMARKED HOW "TERRORIST ATTACKS CAN SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR BIGGEST BUILDINGS, BUT THEY CANNOT TOUCH THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA."

THAT STRONG FOUNDATION WAS SEEN THAT DAY.

THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO SAY HOW "OUR NATION SAW EVIL, THE VERY WORST OF HUMAN NATURE, AND WE RESPONDED WITH THE BEST OF AMERICA, WITH THE DARING OF OUR RESCUE WORKERS, WITH THE CARING FOR STRANGERS AND NEIGHBORS WHO CAME TO GIVE BLOOD AND HELP IN ANY WAY THEY COULD."

AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. WE SAW EVIL, AND RESPONDED WITH GOOD. WE SAW COWARDICE, AND WE RESPONDED WITH HONOR AND BRAVERY.

OVER 400 FIRST RESPONDER PERSONNEL, MEN AND WOMEN OF VALOR, LOST THEIR LIVES THAT DAY TRYING TO PROTECT AND SAVE OTHERS.

JUST TEN DAYS AFTER THE ATTACK, I HAD THE HONOR OF JOINING THE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MIAMI AT GROUND ZERO.

I WAS STRUCK BY THE EERIE FEELING AT THAT PLACE, THAT SOMETHING VERY TERRIBLE HAPPENED THERE, THE DEATH OF SO MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS.

BUT I WAS ALSO STRUCK BY THE HEROISM OF THE PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM ALL OVER OUR NATION TO HELP NEW YORK CITY HEAL.

I SAW A SENSE OF SELFLESSNESS IN THOSE FIRST RESPONDERS...A SENSE OF SERVICE FOR OTHERS THAT SURPASSES A SENSE OF SELF.

AND THAT IS WHY WE GATHER HERE TODAY.

SO THAT WE MAY ALWAYS REMEMBER, AND SO WE NEVER FORGET!

JUST A FEW DAYS AGO WE WERE REMINDED THAT THE EVILS OF TERRORISM ARE STILL VERY MUCH WITH US.

WE LOST A FELLOW MIAMI NATIVE, STEVEN SOTLOFF, AT THE HANDS OF THE ISIL TERRORISTS.

AND WHILE THIS IS A VERY REAL REMINDER OF THE WORLD WE LIVE IN, WHEN WE LOOK AROUND AT THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY WHO ARE WITH US AND WHO ARE DEPLOYED AROUND THE WORLD, WHEN WE LOOK AT OUR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS AND OUR FIRST RESPONDERS, WHEN WE SEE THE SACRIFICES THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES MAKE TO KEEP US ALL SAFE, IT SHOULD GIVE US SENSE OF CONFIDENCE THAT THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN ARE PROTECTING US, AND WE SHARE A DEEP SENSE OF GRATITUDE FOR WHAT THEY DO.

LET ME CLOSE WITH THAT OLD AND OFT REPEATED SAYING THAT "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE..."

WE ARE REMINDED OF THAT TODAY, AND EVERY DAY.

FREEDOM IS PAID FOR WITH THE HONOR, BRAVERY,  
AND THE LIVES OF ALL AMERICANS WHO DEFEND  
OUR FREEDOMS.

TODAY...

LET US HONOR THE MEMORIES OF ALL THOSE WHO  
LOST THEIR LIVES ON SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2001.

LET US HONOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO  
PROTECT OUR FAMILIES AND OUR  
NEIGHBORHOODS.

LET US HONOR ALL WHO PLACE THEMSELVES IN  
HARM'S WAY SO THAT WE MAY ALL LIVE FREE.

LET US HONOR THOSE WHO PLACE SERVICE ABOVE  
SELF.

THANK YOU, WE KEEP YOU ALL IN OUR PRAYERS,  
AND WE ASK THAT GOD BLESS US ALL, AND MAY  
GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS OUR NATION.