

THANK YOU.

GOOD MORNING.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CHIEF DOWNEY, FELLOW PUBLIC SERVANTS AND FELLOW RESIDENTS...

EVERY YEAR, WE GATHER TO REMEMBER THE DAY THAT THE WORLD CHANGED FOREVER AND TO HONOR THE SACRIFICES OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES.

IT IS A DIFFICULT MEMORY FOR ALL AMERICANS. BUT WHILE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 WAS A DAY THAT WE SAW THE WORST OF HUMANITY - WITH TERRORISTS MURDERING INNOCENT AMERICANS IN NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND ON FLIGHT 93 - WE ALSO WITNESSED THE VERY BEST OF WHO WE ARE AS AMERICANS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

THE IMAGES ARE CONSISTENTLY REPLAYED ON OUR TELEVISIONS AS THE DAY APPROACHES -- FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS RUNNING TOWARDS THE DANGER INTO BURNING BUILDINGS.

THROUGH THEIR SACRIFICES ON THAT DAY, THOSE FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS REMINDED US THAT WHENEVER TRAGEDY STRIKES, THEY ARE WHO WE COUNT ON AND THEY CONSISTENTLY PERFORM HEROIC ACTS.

OF THE NEARLY 3,000 WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, 343 WERE FIREFIGHTERS FROM THE NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

AS A FORMER FIREFIGHTER MYSELF, I BELIEVE IN SERVICE OVER SELF AND THAT IS WHAT THOSE WHO PERISHED THAT DAY DID. EACH ONE OF THEM PUT SERVICE TO OTHERS ABOVE THEIR FAMILIES, AND ABOVE THEMSELVES.

THAT IS WHY THE NAMES OF THOSE FIREFIGHTERS WE LOST ON THAT DAY ARE DISPLAYED ON ENGINE COMPANY 3 ALSO KNOWN AS "BIG RED." FIRE STATION 3 HAS ALSO BEEN DEDICATED TO FDNY AND ALL THE SEPTEMBER 11 HEROES. BECAUSE WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM NOR THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE.

MAY FUTURE GENERATIONS OF FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS LOOK TO THEM FOR INSPIRATION AND LIKE THEM, PUT SERVICE TO OTHERS ABOVE ALL ELSE...

**THANK YOU ALL AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY.**

