

**GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING
HERE TODAY...**

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS, CHIEF DOWNEY, DIRECTOR
PATTERSON, CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED STATES MILITARY, FELLOW PUBLIC
SERVANTS AND FELLOW RESIDENTS...**

**EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST FOURTEEN YEARS,
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS COME TOGETHER TO
REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 -- THE DAY THAT
OUR COUNTRY, OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD
CHANGED FOREVER.**

**WE REFLECT ON THE LOSS OF INNOCENT AMERICAN
LIVES, AND HONOR THOSE FIRST RESPONDERS WHO
WERE LOST PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES.**

**INDEED, IT IS A DIFFICULT DAY FOR ALL
AMERICANS.**

WE ALL REMEMBER THE IMAGES AND STORIES --

**FIRST RESPONDERS RUNNING TOWARDS THE
DANGER IN BURNING BUILDINGS IN AN ATTEMPT TO
RESCUE WHOMEVER THEY COULD...**

**AMERICANS HELPING ONE ANOTHER EVACUATE
GROUND ZERO...**

**TOWNS AND CITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES,
INCLUDING OUR OWN, JOINING TOGETHER TO PRAY
FOR OUR COUNTRY, OUR LEADERS, OUR MILITARY
AND THOSE WHO LOST LOVED ONES...**

**AND AS WE WOULD LEARN LATER, THE HEROIC ACTS
OF PASSENGERS ON FLIGHT 93 PROBABLY SAVED
HUNDREDS IF NOT THOUSANDS OF OTHER LIVES...**

**ALL HAVE BEEN SEARED INTO OUR COLLECTIVE
MEMORY.**

**AND YET, THE MOST PAINFUL IMAGES OF 9-11 ARE
THE ONES WE DID NOT NECESSARILY SEE -- THE
EMPTY SEAT AT A DINNER TABLE, THE FUNERAL OF
A FATHER OR MOTHER WHO NEVER RETURNED
HOME THAT TUESDAY...**

**BUT WHILE 9-11 SHOWED US THE VERY WORST OF
HUMANITY, WITH TERRORISTS MURDERING
AMERICANS IN NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND ON
FLIGHT 93 IN PENNSYLVANIA... WE ALSO
WITNESSED THE VERY BEST OF WHO WE ARE AS
AMERICANS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.**

THROUGH ALL THEIR SACRIFICES, THOSE FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS, FIRST RESPONDERS AND CITIZENS REMINDED US THAT WHENEVER TRAGEDY STRIKES, AMERICANS COME TOGETHER AND OUR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL ALWAYS ANSWER THE CALL.

AND BECAUSE MANY OF THE HEROIC RESCUE EFFORTS WERE SEEN ON TELEVISION, IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH, OUR COUNTRY EXPRESSED A RENEWED APPRECIATION FOR WHAT OUR FIRST RESPONDERS -- MANY OF YOU WHO ARE HERE TODAY -- DO EACH AND EVERY DAY.

OF THE NEARLY 3,000 WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, 343 WERE FIREFIGHTERS AND 72 WERE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

EACH ONE OF THEM PUT SERVICE TO OTHERS ABOVE THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEMSELVES.

AND THAT IS WHY THE NAMES OF EACH ONE OF THOSE HEROES WILL BE REMEMBERED HERE TODAY.

MAY WE NEVER FORGET THEM NOR THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE.

MAY FUTURE GENERATIONS OF POLICE OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, FIRST RESPONDERS AND AMERICANS LOOK TO THEM FOR INSPIRATION AND LIKE THEM, SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE...

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE FORMER FIRE CHIEF IN THE CITY OF MIAMI, I KNOW THE SACRIFICES YOU MAKE AND THE CHALLENGES OF YOUR PROFESSIONS AND I COULDN'T BE PROUDER TO LEAD OUR DEDICATED PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING HERE TODAY AND FOR PUTTING "SERVICE ABOVE SELF".

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