

“A Day To Remember”

September 11, 2015

Remarks by: Mayor Jay A. Gillian

Good evening. On behalf of the City Council I'd like to welcome you all and thank you for being here.

9/11 is an event that will stand out in our individual and collective memories for the rest of our lives.

We all remember what we were doing and what our reaction was to the horrific events that were unfolding.

I personally almost immediately thought of the courage of our first responders. Some of the first images from Ground Zero were of police officers, firefighters, emt's and other rescue workers rushing to the scene. 9/11 reminds us of the risks and dangers that those who protect us face everyday. We should never forget their commitment bravery and dedication.

And those involved didn't just sacrifice that day. Sadly, many are still dealing with health impacts today, 14 years later. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's World Trade Center Health Program report that:

- There are more than 71,000 responders and survivors receiving medical monitoring or treatment for their September 11th injuries.
- These people are not just in the New York metropolitan area. They reside in every state in the nation and in 429 out of 435 Congressional districts.
- More than 33,000 responders and survivors have at least one injury or illness related to September 11th. More than 22,000 have two or more. More than 3,700 of these people have cancer directly related to the events of September 11th.

In addition to the first responders we also all witnessed members of the general public risking their lives. Who will ever forget civilian workers in the Pentagon who escaped unharmed, but rushed back in to help others?

We'll also never forget the passengers and crew of Flight 93. They chose to take action, and give their lives, to prevent the murder of more innocent people on the ground.

9/11 reaffirmed our knowledge that there are heroes among us every day.

And of course, we also honor and remember our men and women in uniform serving at home and around the world.

There's now a growing generation of children or young adults that are either too young to really understand the events of 9/11, or who were not even born.

Some of you have heard me say many times how important I think history is.

I urge you to tell your children, your grandchildren and future generations about what America experienced that day.

We owe both the victims and the survivors nothing less.

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