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REMARKS OF ACTING GOVERNOR DONALD T. DiFRANCESCO  
"REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION"  
LIBERTY STATE PARK  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2001

**"Our nation calls these people victims. So many of us here call them by more familiar names - Mom or Dad, Patrick or Wanda, Robbie or TJ."**

Thank you all for sharing this evening with us - and thank you all who are watching at home. Tonight we come together to remember and reflect.

Think of where you were two weeks ago. Not September 11th, but before that. The weekend before our nightmare began. What were you doing? Did you use the weekend to pursue a hobby? Spend family time? Help your community?

My guess is that activities like these occupied the people we remember today. To read accounts of their lives is to recognize that they were just like us.

Boating and fishing were a passion for Paul, who lived in Colts Neck with his wife and three kids. Joseph loved old English cars. Mike was an avid camper, Tom a skier, Christopher a Jimmy Buffett fan.

Some of these New Jerseyans, I am sure, spent that weekend making a difference in their community - showing the spirit of citizenship that perhaps we all took for granted until now.

Donald and Jean, who lived in Spring Lake, regularly collected clothing for babies at a pregnancy center. Stephen raised awareness of a rare disease after it struck a good friend's child.

Colleen was one of our state's greatest advocates for people with disabilities - I know that because I knew Colleen.

**"I hope, in recalling the lives of a few, we have glimpsed the vitality and humanity of them all."**

And Seth, well, he could relate to the heroic stories we tell this evening - after all, he was the guy who carried a pregnant woman on his back down more than a hundred floors back in 1993.

Our nation calls these people victims. So many of us here call them by more familiar names - Mom or Dad, Patrick or Wanda, Robbie or TJ.

Tony, who lived with his wife and two children in East Hanover, was the guy in his family to ask if you needed something fixed. Steve spent five years as a stay-at-home dad. Hilda would do anything for her grown children. And Tim made sure to end each night by telling his wife, "I love you, I love the children."

To the families, my wife and I offer you a sympathy that words alone cannot express as you endure a pain we cannot imagine. I hope, in recalling the lives of a few, we have glimpsed the vitality and humanity of them all.

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To those of us who count ourselves among their family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues, I ask this: Let us keep their memory in our hearts and minds and in all that we do.

Do not allow these individuals to be defined by their death, for that would be a victory for the terrorists. No. Let us remember these friends not by the hatred that snatched them from us - but by the love that binds them to us.

I did not have the privilege of meeting most of these New Jerseyans. But I did get to meet so many who came to their aid.

I met the trauma surgeons from all over the country who happened to be at a conference in Secaucus and who came to Jersey City to lend assistance. I saw Liberty State Park staff, the first to assist casualties from across the Hudson until medical help arrived.

Day after day at ground zero, I saw Task Force One - New Jersey's Urban Search and Rescue team - operate with professionalism and patriotism. I saw the courage of fire fighters and EMS and Port Authority police who lost so many of their own but kept on doing their job.

I saw National Guard members answer the call. I saw Salvation Army and Red Cross volunteers remind us how big America's heart can be, even when it is aching.

I have asked some of these good people to join us this evening.

Jersey City fire fighters and police officers spent days in flooded PATH tubes under the Hudson, trying to reach the World Trade Center station and save lives.

Representing the fire fighters are Deputy Chief Thomas Kearney, Battalion Chief Kenneth Drennan, and Captain Chris Salmon. Representing the police are Sergeant Richard Musso and Sergeant Louis Michalski.

Like so many of your comrades, you have put your lives at risk, and we thank you.

West Caldwell's Victoria Cross-Kelly is deputy director of PATH. She acted immediately after the first crash and stopped all trains from coming into the World Trade Center and trapping their passengers.

Without question, her quick action saved many, many lives. Thank you, Victoria.

Fred Marrone of Lakewood devoted his life to protecting others, first as a State Trooper and then as Superintendent of Police for the Port Authority.

Rushing from the Jersey City headquarters when the first plane hit, he was one of the first to head up the tower to help evacuate. Superintendent Marrone died in the line of duty.

Linda Marrone is here to represent her husband, his fellow heroes, and all of the 37 Port Authority police who remain unaccounted for. We also remember the 37 members of the Port Authority's professional staff who are among the missing or lost. Linda, I can't thank you enough for being with us.

Tom and Charlotte Wolverton of Hamilton volunteer for the Red Cross in Mercer County. When the first plane hit, they raced to Manhattan on instinct.

**"...behind me  
you also see  
Lady Liberty,  
symbol of  
freedom and the  
first American  
face to greet so  
many  
immigrants like  
my own parents.  
The torch that  
she carries now  
more than ever  
serves as a  
beacon of all  
that America  
stands  
for...freedom,  
equality, and**

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**hope."**

Even a long delay at the George Washington Bridge couldn't stop them. They simply started giving food, drinks, and support to emergency workers as they waited. Once they got to the disaster site, they worked night and day. In fact, this is the first time Tom has left ground zero - and he's going right back.

Tom and Charlotte, you and countless volunteers have served with patience and professionalism, and we thank you.

Earlier this week, the first group of soldiers departed McGuire Air Force Base for an unknown destination overseas. They are the first brave citizens from our state to serve our nation in this new war. We pray for their safe return, and we thank them for answering the call to serve America.

Representing those who are answering the call to our nation's service are Petty Officer First Class Doug Parker of the Naval Militia, Tech Sergeant Edward Williams of the Air National Guard, and Corporal Gilroy Parks of the Army Reserves. I know all three of you have been extremely busy in the rescue and recovery effort, and I thank you for being with us on behalf of your brothers and sisters who so bravely serve our country.

Then there are heroes like Todd Beamer of Cranbury and Jeremy Glick of West Milford.

**"...a lit candle has been a means of remembrance, a beacon of hope, and a symbol of unity - much like the torch forever held high by the Statue of Liberty behind me. Now we will light 21 candles - one representing each of our counties, as the entire state shares in remembering our victims and heroes tonight."**

They never met before Flight 93. We may never know just what happened in that flight's final moments. But let there be no doubt: American lives were saved because of Todd and Jeremy - these men and their fellow passengers are America's heroes.

Jeremy's wife, Lyzbeth, could not be here with us tonight, but I am honored that Lisa Beamer has joined us this evening. Thank you, Lisa.

We gather this evening to remember the lost and to honor the heroes.

God knows, too many of our own have been lost. Yet so many of our own have come forward to give what they can. Yes, our heroes are everywhere. Giving blood. Making donations. Collecting supplies. Praying. Comforting.

Behind me you see a skyline forever altered. September 11th will remain a national scar. But behind me you also see Lady Liberty, symbol of freedom and the first American face to greet so many immigrants like my own parents. The torch that she carries now more than ever serves as a beacon of all that America stands for...freedom, equality, and hope.

I'm reminded of the Liberty Song that was written a few years before the War for Independence, it goes like this: "Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."

In tribute to those we lost, we must stand united. We owe it to the victims to carry on the ideals that so many have fought to defend. The ideals of liberty, of freedom, of independence, and yes, of tolerance.

As the President said, no one should be singled out for unfair treatment or unkind words because of their ethnic background or religious faith. To divide ourselves through bias or prejudice would go against all that Lady Liberty represents.

Instead, we need to educate ourselves more about our diversity. About the religious symbols and clothing that some of our citizens wear. About the differences between a Sikh and a Muslim. And we must remember that these

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New Jerseyans are not the enemy; they are our neighbors.

Tonight we come together as neighbors - to share in sorrow, to join in salute, to light a candle in memory.

Since September 11th, a lit candle has been a means of remembrance, a beacon of hope, and a symbol of unity - much like the torch forever held high by the Statue of Liberty behind me.

Now we will light 21 candles - one representing each of our counties, as the entire state shares in remembering our victims and heroes tonight.

Those who carry these candles represent the countless Garden State residents who have contributed in one way or another to the rescue and recovery. After all 21 candles have been lit, I invite you to light your glow sticks to show your solidarity in keeping their memory aglow.

Timothy Phelan of the Jersey City EMS will light each candle.

Bishop John Smith, Roman Catholic Bishop of Trenton, representing clergy of every faith who ministered to the grieving and led prayers for the victims and their families all over the state.

**"Fellow citizens, our great state and our proud nation will recover. We will recover because we will stand together...Let there be no doubt: we will stand together in showing why America remains the greatest nation on earth."**

Trooper Joseph DeMartino of the New Jersey State Police's Newark Bay Station operated a state police vessel that transported fellow troopers and injured New York firefighters to safety.

Officer Leo Beinkowski, representing the Port Authority Police, so many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve the people of the World Trade Center.

JoAnne Penn of the New Jersey Nurses Association. The nurses of New Jersey were on duty as long as needed to respond to the tragedy, and many more volunteered to help in any way they could.

Frank Goodstein, representing the hundreds of First Aid squads from every corner of New Jersey that answered the call to assist the injured that day.

Captain Sebastian Leonardi of the Salvation Army, whose Operation Compassion Under Fire has provided tens of thousands of meals each day to emergency personnel, as well as grief counseling to rescue workers.

Jeannette Adkins of the National Organization for Victim Assistance, which has helped address the emotional aftermath for New Jersey families affected by the attack.

Daniel Civinski of the American Red Cross, which opened shelters in New Jersey and New York and through 1-800-GIVE-LIFE coordinated blood donations from across America.

Michael Suplicki of the Passaic County Sheriff's Office, representing all the local police from New Jersey who responded to the emergency with professionalism and courage.

Dr. James Pruden of the American College of Emergency Physicians, who rushed into action, treating victims with the utmost skill and compassion.

Frank Caminiti from the Essex County Sheriff's Office and his dog "Tulsa," representing the K-9 units that have worked so hard to search for survivors.

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J. Fletcher Creamer of the Utility and Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey, whose members have been at ground zero, using their heavy machinery to sort through and cart away the debris.

Commander Wilbur Douglass III of the U.S. Coast Guard, which evacuated people, aided fire fighters, and has been patrolling the harbor.

Patrick Drumm of Ironworkers Local 45, representing the ironworkers who have been cutting away steel beams and girders to aid the search and rescue effort.

Specialist Brian Maloney of the New Jersey National Guard, which has been involved in every phase, from response to rescue and recovery, and who will play a vital role in our nation's military response.

Kevin Page of the Consulting Engineers Council of New Jersey, whose members have helped ensure the safety of the brave men and women at ground zero.

Petty Officer Ronald Jeanpierre of the U.S. Department of the Navy, which lost many of its own in the Pentagon attack, and which provided a hospital ship to feed and lodge fire fighters and rescue workers in Manhattan.

Frank Bocchino, a New Jersey fire fighter, one of the many who risked their lives or lost their lives saving others as the buildings collapsed.

Robert Resetar, representing EMS workers whose brave actions were so vital to the medical response that morning.

Mike McMahon of Task Force One, the extraordinary Urban Search and Rescue Team that was at ground zero non-stop from September 11 until last Thursday.

Last but certainly not least, Deputy Chief Thomas O'Donnell of the West New York Police, representing all those who worked hard to support the rescue effort.

Thank you all.

Fellow citizens, our great state and our proud nation will recover. We will recover because we will stand together.

We will stand together in comforting families and healing wounds.

We will stand together in restoring the strength of our economy.

We will stand together in teaching our children to cherish their freedom.

We will stand together in supporting our fighting men and women.

We will stand together in rallying behind our President.

And yes, we will stand together in crushing terrorism.

Let there be no doubt: we will stand together in showing why America remains the greatest nation on earth.

God bless our victims, God bless our families, God bless New Jersey, and

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God bless America.

Now I'd like you all to rise and join us in singing God Bless America.