

## A Message of Remembrance on September 11, 2016

By Dave Godfrey

Fifteen years ago today I was in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on a consulting assignment. Upon returning to my hotel after dinner, I turned on my TV to CNN was totally horrified !!!

I know that for all of us here today – and in fact, for all Americans – September 11, 2001 forever changed our world. Just as December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor Day – defined a generation, September 11<sup>th</sup> has indelibly shaped who we are, how we live our daily lives, and what we believe in.

But unlike Pearl Harbor, in which one nation attacked a military installation, this time an organization of terrorists, not operating under the flag of any one nation, attacked thousands of unsuspecting *innocent* men and women.

By marking the anniversary in our community, we are playing an important role in memorializing those who were killed, honoring the sacrifices of our first responders, and recapturing the spirit of service and community that emerged in the aftermath of 9/11.

Despite the passing years since 9/11, it remains as important as ever, that we continue to come together to remember and honor the victims and share our memories of those tragic days.

In a new addition in the State Museum's World Trade Center Gallery, named the "World Trade Center Survivors", are historical artifacts that tell powerful, personal stories of an estimated 13,000 to 15,000 people who successfully evacuated the towers. It has been the perennial top draw of the museum's 700,000 annual visitors since it was built in 2002.

So today, as we think back on the events of 9/11, our sorrow over the loss of so many good people should be tempered by the example shown by so many responders who died, and so many who lived. They taught us through their actions that fatal day what it means to be human. They showed us the undeniable value of duty, loyalty, self-sacrifice, and love. The only way we will triumph over terrorism, and conquer the senseless tragedy of that horrible day, is by celebrating the kindness of the human spirit.

Today, as we remember those lost, I ask you to join me in faith, ***that the good will not only endure, we will prevail.***

Let us pray . . . Almighty God, our rock and our protector, comfort us with Your love on this day of remembrance. Give us strength and conviction to stand united against all evil, as we pray that You will bless this Greatest Country on Earth . . . One Nation, Under God, **Indivisible**, with Liberty and Justice For All ! Amen !