



FAMILY SECURITY MATTERS

ENGAGING AMERICAN FAMILIES IN OUR NATION'S SECURITY

Lest We Forget!

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"Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism."
George Washington, Farewell Address, September 19, 1796

September 11, 2001 or 9/11. However we choose to remember it, this date evokes disquieting memories and a heavy heart.

Nine years ago, on that frightful morning, every television station, and every radio station, every business and household came to an abrupt standstill as the world bared witness to the indescribable horrors and chilling events of that day.

Lest we forget the thousands of innocent lives that were lost and the aftermath that would slowly unravel the true realization and extent of this tragedy. Almost 3000 lives taken at the hands of Islamic extremist crazies whose mission wasn't to just cause bloodshed and mayhem, but their real mission was a failed attempt at breaking America's spirit and slicing a dagger into her way of life.

Where America stands for freedom, the hijackers represented captivity. Where America stands for abundance and prosperity, the hijackers embraced many deficiencies. Where America is built upon the ideals of democracy the hijackers were born from the ideals of suppression and forbiddance. Where America celebrates life, the hijackers rejoice death.

Lest we forget, the graphic news reports, lest we forget the voices of the victims' last farewell phone calls to their loved ones, lest we forget the frightening images of hijacked planes torpedoing into buildings and lest we forget the haunting images of people jumping out of the buildings.

Lest we forget their screams; their cries; the gasps; the breathlessness; the disbelief; the tears... the heartache.

In the words of a famed letter entitled

To Kill an American

:

"An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani or Afghan.

An American may also be a Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as Native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact,

there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses..."

In the wake of the 9th anniversary of September 11, it is vital not to forget the past sacrifices made by so many who have brought us to this day. Thousands died, thousands of Americans from all walks of life. Thousands of innocent people of different colors and creed; of men, women and children.

With freedom comes great responsibility

So we must pay our respects to the lost souls of that horrific day no matter our color or creed. Particularly Muslims, who now more than ever before should be standing alongside all Americans in solidarity against the carnage those extremists' had caused 9 years before. Even supporters of the planned mosque construction just two blocks from ground zero should show their loyalties to America by not entertaining such an idea in the first place, albeit all the rights and freedoms that they do have to build wherever they wish, in this instance it will be seen as a deeply insensitive reaction to America's pain and sorrow. The classy, respectful and responsible gesture would be to cancel such a project. However, it must be emphasized that they are free men in America and can choose to build wherever they wish. But as with all free choices, they may face many criticisms for their decisions.



In the meantime the highly criticized Florida Pastor Terry Jones announced to the press that he has agreed to take the high road and will call off the burning of the Koran on 9/11 on the proviso that Imam Rauf be willing to move the construction away from its original location. Although they are both scheduled to meet on the anniversary, unfortunately Imam Rauf has denied any such promise.

And to add insult to injury, sadly there are those who wish to pick at America's wounds by claiming that Americans overreacted to 9/11. Nonetheless, after all that this great nation has been through and risen up from stronger than before, such poor talk cannot weaken America's strengthened resolve since 9/11.

How can we forget the selfless and fearless heroes who risked their lives? Those brave men and women, those champions of humanity who threw themselves in harm's way to save lives shall all be remembered and admired for their overreactions. Lest we forget the sense of brotherhood and a united front that showed the true character of America in the face of danger and adversity. Lest we forget that it is these qualities that have made America so great. Lest we forget 9/11.

Never!

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