

September 11, 2024

Blog – Remembering September 11, 2001

There are moments in history that remain etched in our mind forever and we know exactly where we were and what we were doing when that event occurred. Today is one of those days. Even though the September 11 tragedy was twenty-three (23) years ago, I remember the exact moment when I watched the second plane crash into the Twin Towers. I was at a construction meeting for the building of our Intermediate Center in Mount Horeb. What gave me hope was that I saw how we came together as a nation after this incident and banded together as one united nation to deal with a common threat. We were able to put aside our differences and view each other as fellow citizens of the United States of America. The events of this day also helped us to remember the extreme importance of family and friends and the realization that we must cherish each day because tomorrow is not guaranteed to any one of us.

When I think of the events of that day, I remember how firefighters and police ran towards the falling buildings when everyone else was running away. I remember their bravery and selfless acts of courage trying to rescue and save as many individuals as possible. These individuals did not think about the personal cost, but they thought about their duty and desire to help whomever they could. I remember gathering as a community to pray for the families that were directly impacted by the tragedy and to be thankful for the opportunity to see our own family members and give them a big hug and tell them how much we cared for them.

As I take a moment to remember the events of that day, I am hopeful when I look at our young people. I see a group of individuals that are challenging the way things were in order to make things better in the future. I see the dreams and aspirations that are waiting to be fulfilled. I also see individuals of all ages that work hard to provide opportunities for others and staff members that work closely with students to help them find success. Sometimes tragedies allow us to see the best in people, I am blessed to be in a position where I can see the best in people each day. I see staff members working with our students and helping them develop in our communities and country's next generation of leaders. I see and hear our students each morning, reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance". I see friendships formed between students because of the kindness and compassion of others. I am hopeful because I see people work together to accomplish things that we could not accomplish on our own.

Even though the world and our nation seem to be embroiled in controversy with wars between Russia and Ukraine, conflicts in the Middle East and tensions in the Far East, I have hope that even with all the tragedy and issues that seem to be taking place in our world, we find ways to unite and help others in times of need. Today, I will take time to remember and reflect upon what happened on September 11, 2001 and to take an extra moment to be grateful for everything we have as an individual, family, community and nation. I hope that you will also take a moment to think and reflect upon this day. I am hopeful for our community and nation because I remember how we have always worked to help others in the past and know that this human trait will continue in the future.

Today, I invite you to have hope and believe in the possibilities of the future.

