



## GEORGE W. BUSH

September 11, 2011

Ten years ago, the sun rose on a peaceful September morning. By the time it set, nearly three thousand people were gone – the most lives lost on American soil in a single day since the Battle of Antietam.

9/11 showed that evil is real, and so is courage. When the planes struck the World Trade Center, firefighters and police officers charged up the stairs and into the flames to save innocent people in the towers. At the Pentagon, service members and civilians pulled friends and strangers from burning rubble. When the passengers and crew aboard United Airlines Flight 93 learned the plane had been hijacked by terrorists, they stormed the cockpit, giving up their own lives to spare countless others. Their selfless decision marked the first counteroffensive in the war on terror, and it will be remembered as one of the most courageous acts in American history.

The heroes of 9/11 set an example that inspires us all. Many Americans have followed their path of service by donating blood, opening their homes to strangers in need, or volunteering in desperate corners of the Earth. Some have devoted their careers to the difficult and necessary work of analyzing intelligence, protecting our borders, or securing our skies. Others have made the noble choice to defend our nation in battle. For ten years, our troops have risked and given their lives to prevent our enemies from attacking America again. They have kept us safe, they have made us proud, and they have upheld the spirit of service shown on 9/11 and in the trying days that followed.

With the distance of a decade, 9/11 can feel like part of a different era. But for the families of the men and women lost that day, it will never feel like history. The memory of that morning is fresh, and so is the pain. America shares their grief. We pray for their comfort. And we honor their loved ones.

Laura and I continue to keep the victims of September 11, 2001 and their families in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless you, and may God bless our country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George W. Bush". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.