

September 2020

**Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning?** (Song by Alan Jackson)

This year marks the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States. On September 11 (Patriot Day) we will remember the Heroes, the Survivors, the Victims, and the hijackers.

I doubt anyone will ever forget where they were on the morning of September 11, 2001, when they heard of the attacks on the twin World Trade Towers in NYC and the Pentagon in Washington. This horrible and tragic day is etched forever in our memories.

Like the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought us into World War II, the nine-eleven attacks led us into a new war... the war on terrorism. It also touched and changed forever the lives of each and every American.

- On the morning of September 11, 2001, nineteen Islamic al-Qaeda militants hijacked four planes. The hijackings occurred from Boston, Newark, and Washington airports. The planes selected were long distance flights, which would have more fuel in the tanks.
- One plane each hit the north and south towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The planes and engulfing firestorm ultimately brought down both towers. A number of other buildings were also damaged or destroyed, most notably was the Marriott hotel.
- A third plane hit the Pentagon in Washington, DC.
- The fourth hijacked plane ultimately crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA. Passengers on the plane learned of the fate of the other planes and unsuccessfully attempted to take back control of the plane from the suicidal hijackers. Everyone aboard died.
- In total, 2977 were killed (411 first responders). Deaths included both Americans and citizens from many other countries.

It was a heartbreaking attack, which is why Patriot Day was proclaimed by President George W. Bush and is recognized every year on September 11. On Patriot Day, U.S. flags are lowered halfway, and there is a country-wide moment of silence at 8:45 AM (Eastern Daylight Time) to commemorate when the first plane was driven into one of the Twin Towers. Although the attacks were on American soil, Patriot Day is recognized worldwide as the news devastated and impacted people worldwide

On the anniversary of 9/11, I encourage you to spend a few minutes reflecting on the devastating terror attacks and praying for the victims who died, and their families and friends.

We need to give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line on that day and every day. To take a moment to consider what we stand for as a nation and how we can work together to make the world a better place for all.

Elections are around the corner - now is the time to register to vote if you are not registered. Each state has its own requirements. Google [vote.gov](http://vote.gov), select your state or territory, click on Find out how to register, click on the link to your state (generally pops up in blue letters) and follow instructions. With the controversy over mail-in ballots each of us has to make the decision as to whether we are going to stand in line or trust the United States Postal Service and election officials. Mail in voting is different than absentee voting. Absentee voting was designed so individuals not residing in their home state (and sometimes not even in the United States) can vote, predominately the military, DoD



employees, and senior citizens. There has been some form of absentee voting by mail since the Civil War when troops voted from the battlefield. What does this mean to you?

There are 50 US states and in 42 of them, for this year, anyone who wants to vote by mail can do so. Here are the details, according to CNN's political unit:

- *Eight states, in addition to Washington, DC, will be conducting a primarily vote-by-mail election in November (CA\*, CO, DC\*, HI, NV\*, OR, UT, VT\*, WA)*
- *34 states allow voters to request a mail ballots with no excuse (AL\*, AK, AR\*, AZ, CT\*, DE\*, FL, GA, ID, IL\*, IA\*, KS, ME, MA\*, MD, MI\*, MN, MO\*, MT, NE, NH\*, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH\*, OK, PA, RI, SD, VA, WV\*, WI, WY)*
- *Eight states require an excuse to cast a ballot by mail (IN, KY, LA, MS, NY, SC, TN\*, TX)*

*\*Asterisks denote a change was made due to coronavirus.*

So, if you are leaning toward voting, do it and do it as soon as you can. Don't delay, something could happen to stop your vote from counting and every vote needs to be counted.

Stay safe my fellow NCOA members.

Strength in Unity!  
The Voice of the Enlisted

Lady Sunny Wirth  
Grand Knight