

Ceremony Commemorating the Seventh Anniversary of 9/11

Remarks by

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at the United States Mission in Geneva

We gather in an hour of grief. 2555 days ago, September 11, 2001, was a day that will be forever emblazoned in America's memory. 19 terrorists attacked us with barbarity unequaled in our history. We remember the fire, the ashes and bent steel. On Patriot Day, we cherish the memory of the thousands of innocent victims lost, extend our thoughts and prayers to their families, and honor the heroic men and women who risked and sacrificed their lives so others might live with the blessing of liberty.

So many of us and our fellow citizens suffered great loss and today we express our nation's sorrow together. For the families who lost loved ones that day – we cannot bear the full impact of this tragedy as they do. But we feel the loss and pray for the families. We pray for those who began that day 7 years ago at a desk, in a fire house, in a police station – or at an airport - and faced death with bravery, and for the many courageous rescuers from all across our country – they wished to serve and they did. They served us all.

We are a peaceful nation – but fierce when stirred to anger. Since 9/11, we have recognized the threat posed by terrorists to the safety of the American people and worked to protect our homeland by fighting terrorists abroad. We are confronting terrorism by advancing freedom, liberty, and prosperity as an alternative to the ideologies of hatred and repression. Our Nation pays tribute to our courageous men and women in uniform serving around the world, here at our mission, and to the devoted members of our law enforcement, public safety, and intelligence communities at home who work night and day to protect us from harm and preserve the freedom of this great Nation.

Seven years ago, ordinary citizens rose to the challenge, united in prayer, and responded with extraordinary acts of courage, with some giving their lives for the country they loved. On Patriot Day, we remember all those who were taken from us in an instant and seek their lasting memorial in a safer and more hopeful world. We must not allow our resolve to be

weakened by the passage of time. We will meet the test that history has given us and continue to fight to rid the world of terrorism and promote liberty around the globe.

Today we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the warm courage of national unity. Our unity is an enduring kinship of grief and a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies.

America is a nation blessed with good fortune, but we are not spared from suffering – as now our alabaster cities have been dimmed by human tears. Though much has been taken, much abides, that which we are, we are, one equal-temper of heroic hearts, made momentarily weaker by time and fate, but stronger yet in will, to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

And now at 2:46 p.m. in Geneva and 8:46 a.m. in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington I ask you to observe a moment of silence in honor of the innocent Americans and people from around the world who lost their lives in the terrorist attack of Sept 11, 2001.

On this national day of prayer and remembrance, we ask God to continue to watch over our nation and grant us patience and resolve for all that is before us. We pray that He will continue to comfort those who walk in sorrow and thank Him for the promise of life to come. May He bless the souls of the departed, may He comfort our own, and may He always guide our country.