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# 9/11

**ONE DAY, TWENTY YEARS**



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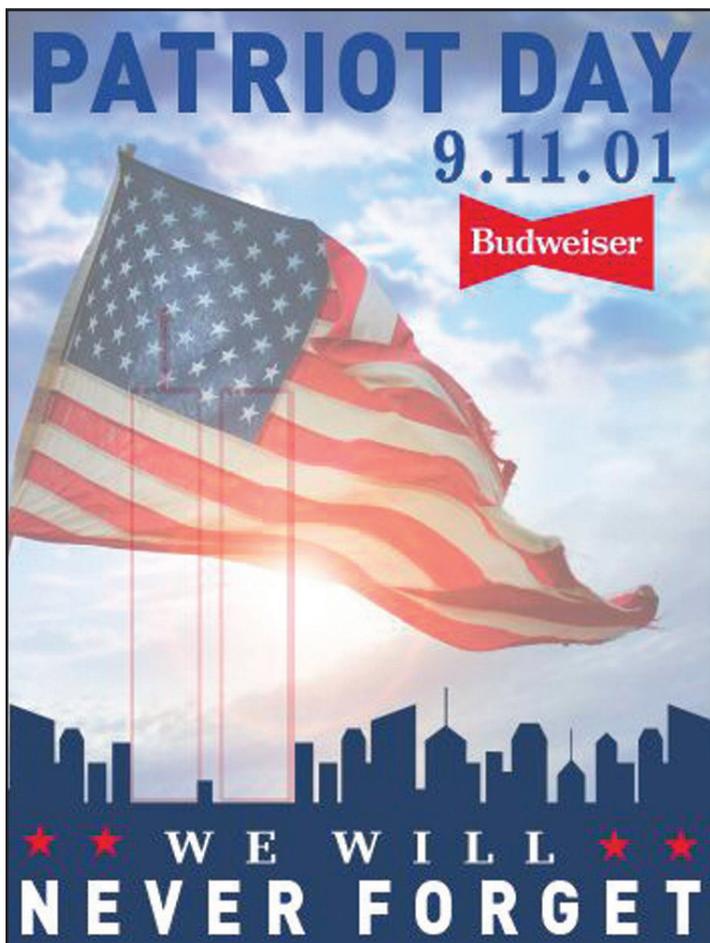
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# 9/11

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# Contents

PAGE 7: From the Editor

## PART 1: THEN

PAGE 10:  
That Day

PAGE 12:  
September 11, 2001 Timeline

PAGE 16:  
Local school principal remembers 9/11/01 at the Pentagon

PAGE 19:  
Emails from Ground Zero

PAGE 24:  
The grounded Vinton County Airshow

PAGE 26:  
“We just had no idea...”

PAGE 28:  
20 years of disbelief

PAGE 30:  
Middle Easterners in Athens pull closer together after attacks

PAGE 32:  
In their own words  
*Readers share their memories of 9/11*

PAGE 38:  
Southern Ohio’s connection to American Airlines Flight 77

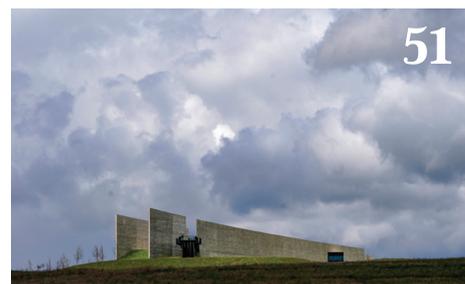
## PART 2: NOW

PAGE 42:  
How 9/11 has improved public safety at the local level

PAGE 46:  
The Next Generation

PAGE 48:  
The long road home from Ground Zero

PAGE 51:  
Don’t lose the human perspective



# APG

OHIO | MICHIGAN



*APG Ohio is proud to produce this keepsake edition.*

*It was a somber day that affected all of us.*

Our news teams paid special attention in producing this magazine and we hope you and your family find value in this edition that looks at twenty years and how we have changed.

# From the Editor



*By Corinne Colbert  
Athens News / APG Ohio*

On this date 20 years ago, four commercial airliners were turned into weapons against symbols of American power.

American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the World Trade Center towers in New York within 17 minutes of each other. American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon. United Airlines Flight 93 — believed to have been aiming for the White House — crashed in a field in rural Pennsylvania.

Nearly 3,000 people died in less than 90 minutes: 265 aboard the planes, 125 at the Pentagon, and more than 2,600 in the World Trade Center, including 343 members of the New York City Fire Department. One company, investment bank Cantor Fitzgerald, lost 658 employees, nearly 70% of its New York office.

The youngest victim was 2½, the oldest 85.

The journalists of APG Ohio created this publication to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the attacks. The publication, like our memories, is divided into “then” and “now.”

The first section returns to September 11, 2001, and the days and weeks that followed.

A timeline for each plane from takeoff to crash includes harrowing details that showcase the courage and dignity of pilots, flight attendants and passengers aboard the four flights, as well as the professionalism and dedication of air traffic controllers in Boston, New York, Cleveland, Virginia and elsewhere.

You’ll also find stories shared by residents from around southeast and southern Ohio, recalling that day and its effect on their lives. (Some of those stories are first-hand accounts from people who were in New York or Washington, D.C.) Archival images and articles add a contemporary dimension to the section.

The second section, “Now,” brings us to the present day. We could devote an entire publication to the effects of 9/11, but here we offer three examples: the impact on law enforcement, the challenge 9/11 presents for educators, and the lingering health effects on firefighters who worked at Ground Zero in New York.

Some of what you will find here isn’t easy to read. It wasn’t easy to report, then or now. The photographs of the attacks and the words of crew and passengers aboard the airliners remain powerful. Looking at those images, reading those messages — even just thinking about them — brings a lump to my throat, and I spent several nights during this project trying to clear them from my mind so I could sleep.

And that is as it should be. If our reactions to September 11 become perfunctory, if they cease to be visceral and heartrending, then we break the promise we made 20 years ago: Never forget. We differed on the appropriate response to the attacks, but we all agreed on that.

Remembering — truly remembering — can be painful. But it can also remind us that courage, dignity, ingenuity, kindness, and friendship are also a part of the 9/11 story. That, too, should not be forgotten.



A small crowd began to gather in Ohio University's Baker Center to watch coverage of the attacks. Later that day, the university began showing coverage in Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium.



The Red Cross was inundated with calls from people wanting to donate blood for survivors and first responders.

# Part 1: THEN



People in Athens County — officials, students and longtime residents alike — gathered for a vigil on the county courthouse steps on Friday, Sept. 14.

PHOTOS THIS SPREAD BY ED VENRICK

# That Day

.....  
*By Corinne Colbert*  
*Athens News / APG Ohio*

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I dropped my sons — then 17 months and almost 4 — at the babysitter and drove from Amesville to Athens. A few weeks earlier, I had begun a new job as communications officer for Ohio University’s College of Fine Arts.

The drive on State Route 550 was lovely, as always, the trees still covered in leaves that had the slightest tinge of fall color to come. Their tops sketched the outline of the ridges against the brilliant blue September sky.

Shortly after arriving at work, I was trying to reach someone (I don’t remember who or why) in University Communications and Marketing but getting no answer. So I decided to walk from my office in Jennings House down University Terrace to UCM’s offices in Scott Quad.

I have always loved walking on the campus, and you couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful day to do it.

But no one was in their offices at UCM. I found everyone gathered in one room, eyes intent on a TV.

To be honest, I don’t remember much after that. My next clear memory is standing on the steps above the Union Street sidewalk across from Jennings House, sobbing unashamedly in public.

Looking up at that gorgeous blue September sky.



AP PHOTO BY JIM COLLINS

# September 11, 2001

# TIMELINE

*All times Eastern Standard Time*

**7:59 a.m.** American Airlines Flight 11 takes off in Boston, bound for Los Angeles with a flight crew of 11 and 81 passengers, including five terrorists.

**8:14 a.m.** Last routine radio communication with American Flight 11; the hijacking was likely under way. The pilots had acknowledged another message 16 seconds earlier.

United Flight 175 takes off in Boston, heading for Los Angeles with nine crew members and 56 passengers, including five terrorists.

**8:19 a.m.** Flight Attendant Betty Ong uses the plane's airphone to call American Airlines' Southeastern Reservations Office in Cary, N.C. "The cockpit is not answering, somebody's stabbed in business class—and I think there's Mace—that we can't breathe—I don't know, I think we're getting hijacked." Ong continues to relay information for the next 25 minutes. One of the people she talks with is Nydia Gonzalez.

**8:20 a.m.** American Airlines Flight 77 takes off from Dulles International Airport in Washington D.C., bound for Los Angeles. On board are six crew and 58 passengers, including five terrorists.

**8:21 a.m.** American Flight 11's transponder is turned off.

Gonzalez alerts American Airlines' operations center in Fort Worth, Texas, about Ong's call. Manager Craig Marquis tells the dispatcher to try to reach the cockpit.

**8:23 a.m.** The American Airlines' dispatcher's attempts to contact Flight 11 are unsuccessful.

**8:25 a.m.** Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center receives a transmission from American Flight 11; a hijacker intending to address the passengers apparently pressed the wrong button and called ATC instead. The accidental message includes, "We have some planes."

American Flight 11 Flight Attendant Amy Sweeney begins to relay information to Michael Woodward, manager of the American Airlines Flight Services office in Boston.

**8:26 a.m.** Ong reports that the plane is "flying erratically."

**8:27 a.m.** American Flight 11 turns south. Ong and Sweeney give the seat numbers of passengers who invaded the cockpit, allowing American Airlines to identify the hijackers.

**8:29 a.m.** The Fort Worth ATC specialist contacts Boston about Flight 11.

**8:38 a.m.** Boston ATC notifies the Northeast Air Defense Sector that American Flight 11 has been hijacked. Ong reports that American Flight 11 is flying erratically. Sweeney reports that the plane is descending rapidly.

**8:41 a.m.** Sweeney reports that the passengers in coach think there's a routine medical emergency in first class.

**8:42 a.m.** United Flight 175 radios New York ATC: "Ah, we heard a suspicious transmission on our departure out of Boston, ah, with someone, ah, it sounded like someone keyed the mikes and said ah everyone ah stay in your seats." The transmission was from American Airlines Flight 11.

United Airlines Flight 93 takes off from Newark bound for San Francisco, with seven crew and 37 passengers, including four terrorists. The flight was delayed by more than 25 minutes by heavy air traffic at Newark.

**8:44 a.m.** Gonzalez loses contact with Betty Ong. Sweeney tells Woodward, "Something is wrong. We are in a rapid descent...we are all over the place."

**8:45 a.m.** Sweeney reports: "We are flying low. We are flying very, very low. We are flying way too low. ... Oh my God we are way too low."

**8:46:40 a.m.** **American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into 1 World Trade Center (the North Tower).**

**8:46 a.m.** NEADS scrambles two F-15 fighters from Otis Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts.

**8:47 a.m.** United Flight 175 changes its transponder code.

**8:51 a.m.** Last routine radio communication with American Flight 77.

**8:52 a.m.** Flight attendant notifies United Airlines that Flight 175 has been hijacked.

New York ATC begins trying to contact United Flight 175, without success.

Peter Hanson, a passenger on United Flight 175, calls his father, Lee, in Connecticut. "I think they've taken over the cockpit—an attendant has been stabbed—and someone else up front may have been killed. The plane is making strange moves. Call United Airlines—tell them it's Flight 175, Boston to LA."

Lee Hanson calls the Easton Police Department.

**8:53 a.m.** The fighters from Otis ANGB are in the air looking for American Flight 11.

**8:54 a.m.** United Airlines attempts to contact the pilots of Flight 175.

American Flight 77 turns south.

**8:55 a.m.** New York Air Route Traffic Control Center suspects United Flight 175 has been hijacked

**8:56 a.m.** American Flight 77's transponder is turned off.

**8:58 a.m.** United Flight 175 turns toward New York City.

**8:59 a.m.** United Flight 175 passenger Brian David Sweeney leaves messages for his wife and his mother about the hijacking. The message to his mother states that passengers are considering storming the cockpit to regain control of the plane.

**9:00 a.m.** American Airlines Executive Vice President Gerard Arpey learns that communications with Flight 77 have been lost — the second American flight of the day. Arpey orders all American flights in the northeast that have not already taken off to remain on the ground.

Peter Hanson calls his father again and tells him, "It's getting bad, Dad." The plane's movements are making passengers sick and people are scared. Then: "I think we are going down—I think they intend to go to Chicago or someplace and fly into a building—don't worry Dad—if it happens, it'll be very fast—my God, my God—" The call cuts off.

**9:02 a.m.** New York Center asks the New York terminal approach control tower for help in locating United Flight 175. The terminal reports that it has an unidentified aircraft coming in and descending. New York Center: "Alright. Heads up man, it looks like another one coming in."

**9:03:11 a.m.** **United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into 2 World Trade Center (the South Tower).**

**9:05 a.m.** American Airlines headquarters knows that Flight 77 has been hijacked.

**9:07 a.m.** Boston ATC urges the Air Traffic Control System Command Center in Herndon, Va., to warn all airborne Flight s to secure their cockpits. No message is sent.

**9:10 a.m.** American Airlines suspects that Flight 77 has been hijacked and concludes that American Flight 11 was the plane that crashed into the North Tower. Learning that United Airlines is also missing a plane, American grounds all its Flights nationwide.

**9:12 a.m.** American Flight 77 passenger Renee May calls her mother, Nancy, and tells her that the Flight has been hijacked, that all passengers have been moved to the rear of the plane, and Nancy should alert American Airlines. The Mays call American.

**9:15 a.m.** New York ATC notifies NEADS that the second plane to hit the tower was United Flight 175.

*Continued on next page >*

# September 11, 2001 Timeline

*Continued from previous page*

- 9:16 a.m.** Barbara Olson, aboard American Flight 77, calls her husband Ted, solicitor general of the United States. The hijackers have knives and box cutters, she says. The call is cut off, but Mrs. Olson connects again a few minutes later. The plane is flying over houses and another passenger says they are flying northeast. The solicitor general tells her about the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center; Mrs. Olson remains calm. The second call cuts off.
- 9:19 a.m.** United Airlines dispatcher Ed Ballinger, on his own initiative, begins to transmit warnings to the 16 transcontinental Flight s he is monitoring about potential cockpit invasions.
- 9:20 a.m.** United Airlines knows that Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower.
- 9:21 a.m.** Boston ATC tells NEADS that American Flight 11 is in the air and heading for Washington D.C.
- 9:23 a.m.** Ballinger transmits his warning to United Flight 93.
- 9:24 a.m.** NEADS scrambles fighters from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia to look for American Flight 11.  
  
United Airlines warns Flight 93 about the possibility of hijacking by cockpit invasion.
- 9:25 a.m.** ATC Command grounds all Flight s nationwide.
- 9:26 a.m.** United Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl responds to Ballinger: “Ed, confirm latest mssg plz—Jason.”
- 9:28 a.m.** Cleveland ATC receives a transmission from United Flight 93: One of the Flight officers is declaring “Mayday” over the sounds of a struggle in the cockpit. In a second transmission, 35 seconds later, an officer is heard shouting, “Hey, get out of here—get out of here—get out of here.”
- 9:29 a.m.** The autopilot on American Flight 77 is turned off.
- 9:32 a.m.** Dulles ATC tower notices a fast-moving aircraft on its radar.  
  
United Flight 93’s autopilot is instructed to turn the aircraft around and fly east.
- 9:34 a.m.** Reagan Washington National Airport notifies the Secret Service that an unknown aircraft is flying toward the White House.  
  
American Flight 77, five miles west-southwest of the Pentagon, enters a 330-degree turn that leaves it pointed directly at the Pentagon and downtown Washington D.C.  
  
ATC Command Center notifies the FAA that United Flight 93 has been hijacked.
- 9:36 a.m.** Cleveland ATC notifies ATC Command that it is still tracking United Flight 93 and asks if fighter aircraft have been scrambled to intercept the plane — even offers to contact a nearby military base. ATC Command tells Cleveland that the FAA is working on it.  
  
A flight attendant notifies United Airlines that Flight 93 has been hijacked.  
  
United Airlines attempts to contact the pilots of Flight 93.  
  
American Flight 77’s pilot, one of the terrorists, sets the throttles to maximum and puts the plane into a dive.
- 9:37:46 a.m.** **American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon at 530 miles per hour.**
- 9:39 a.m.** Cleveland ATC receives a transmission from United Flight 93 stating that a bomb is on board. As with American Flight 11’s call to Boston ATC, the transmission appears to have been meant as an address to passengers, but the terrorist pressed the wrong controls.
- 9:41 a.m.** United Flight 93’s transponder is turned off. Cleveland ATC identifies the plane on radar and continues to track the flight as it turns east and south.
- 9:42 a.m.** ATC Command orders the FAA to instruct all commercial and general aviation aircraft in American airspace — some 4,500 planes — to land immediately at the nearest airport.
- 9:46 a.m.** ATC Command notifies the FAA that United Flight 93 is roughly a half-hour away from Washington D.C.



AP PHOTO BY GENE J. PUSKAR

In this Sept. 16, 2001 file photo, FBI personnel excavate the site where United Flight 93 crashed after the jet was hijacked during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, near Shanksville, Pa.

- 9:49 a.m.** ATC Command asks the FAA about military intervention: "Uh, do we want to think, uh, about scrambling aircraft?" The FAA responded, "Oh, God, I don't know." ATC Command: "Uh, that's a decision somebody's gonna have to make probably in the next 10 minutes." FAA: "Uh, ya know everybody just left the room."
- 9:53 a.m.** FAA headquarters notifies ATC Command that officials are discussing whether to scramble fighters.
- 9:57 a.m.** Passengers on United Flight 93 attempt to retake the aircraft.
- 9:58 a.m.** The terrorist flying United 93 tells another terrorist to block the cockpit door.
- 9:59 a.m.** The terrorist-pilot tries to halt the passenger assault by pitching the nose of the plane up and down.
- 10:00:03 a.m.** The terrorist-pilot stops the plane's wild maneuvering. On United Flight 93's flight recorder, he is heard asking, "Is that it? Shall we finish it off?" Another voice responds, "No. Not yet. When they all come, we finish it off." Fighting can be heard outside the cockpit.
- 10:00:26 a.m.** United Flight 93's flight recorder catches a passenger's voice in the background: "In the cockpit. If we don't we'll die!"
- 10:00:42 a.m.** A passenger shouts, "Roll it!"
- 10:01 a.m.** The terrorist-pilot asks again, "Is that it? I mean, shall we put it down?" The other terrorist replies, "Yes, put it in it, and pull it down."
- 10:03:11 a.m.** United Airlines Flight 93 crashes into a field near Shanksville, Pa., at 580 miles per hour. Shanksville is about 125 miles from Washington D.C.

*Timeline assembled by Corinnne Colbert.  
Source: The 9/11.*

# Local school principal remembers 9/11/01 at the Pentagon

.....

*By Jim Phillips*

*Logan Daily News & Perry County Tribune / APG Ohio*

Today, William Noll is principal of Holy Trinity School in Somerset. But 20 years ago, on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Noll was among the people who had a ringside seat at a suddenly erupting horror.

An officer in the U.S. Navy, Noll was working at the Pentagon for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “I was executive assistant in what they call the J-8; that’s finance and budget,” he explained.

That morning, Noll and his co-workers had seen the reports of planes hitting the towers.

“I was walking past my boss’s office and he said, ‘Bill, step in and look at the TV; a plane has just flown into the World Trade Center,’” Noll recalled. “And being a pilot, I’ve flown down the Hudson before, at low level, and circled around the Statue of Liberty to get pictures of the World

Trade Centers. And as a pilot, it had special meaning to see a plane fly into a commercial building, and we flashed on images of World War II. It was just devastating.”

As they watched, the second plane hit. “Then we definitely knew that something major was happening,” he said. The enormity of that something was hard to grasp, he added.

“We’d never seen suicide bombers that would take over a plane,” Noll said. “We’d always had hijackers; you paid attention to that. There’s a pilot, there’s communications and things in place in the cockpit to notify

people of a hijacking, but never in our common experience had we had anybody hijack a plane and commit suicide.”

As they discussed whether more threats might be on the way, Noll said, “Boom — all of a sudden a plane flew into the Pentagon.” But because of the huge size of the building and his location, “we did not even feel the impact on the inside,” he recounted. “It absolutely had no impact because I was on the opposite side of the building. ... Lights did not flash, but then you could smell jet fuel, and smoke. At that point they came on



AP PHOTO BY HEESOOON YIM

In this Sept. 11, 2001 file photo, a helicopter flies over the Pentagon in Washington as smoke billows over the building. The terrorist-hijacked airliner that slammed into the west side of the Pentagon killed 184 people.

the announcements and said, “We need to evacuate the Pentagon.””

After locking up the classified information in their section, Noll and his colleagues began making their way out of the building — with thousands of other employees.

“It was total chaos at that point in time,” he said. “Everybody was exiting the Pentagon, and as we were going out the federal police were there ... and they were wanting to get everyone away from the building, down by the river, and out of the parking lot, because there were rumors that there were still more planes airborne, and they possibly could be coming back.”

It was when he heard a secondary explosion, Noll said, that he realized it was probably not a small plane that had struck the building.

“At that point ... everybody in the military wanted to jump in and help,” Noll said. He realized, however, that too many people trying to assist would be counterproductive, and the best thing to do was to help clear the area as calmly as possible.

“We knew it was best to try to take care of the people that were freaking out,” he said. “All the cell phones were down. There were no landlines or cell phones, so you couldn’t make an outside call.” Noll and a number of other evacuated employees decided the wisest move was to try somehow to make their way to a D.C. metro station for a ride home.

“We piled a bunch of people in a pickup truck somebody had,” he recalled. “The freeways and roads were totally blocked. ... Everybody had just gotten out and left

their cars; nothing was moving. And it took me six hours to get home. We finally got onto the metro; they opened one line. So cars weren’t working, there was no communication with phones, and my kids were in school. They were put under their desks, and they were scared, they didn’t know what was going on, and my wife didn’t know what was going on. But some friends picked us up on the side of the road and moved us up to the next metro stop.”

Of the days following the attack, Noll remembers pervasive fear, strong togetherness and painful news of personal loss.

“Once we got home there was a real sense of camaraderie,” he said. “Everybody in the neighborhood kind of became really close.”

*Continued on next page >*



William Noll.

*Continued from previous page*

There was also a new flavor of fear.

“There was fear for yourself, and for the building being flown into again, but also a different level of fear — for the safety of our government, and our people, our civilians, our schools, the White House,” Noll recollected. “Right afterwards there was a lot of discussion about a ‘dirty bomb,’ that the terrorists were going to try to use radiation. So fear generated more fear, and that was there — and rightly so, because we’d never experienced anything like that. I mean, think about the World Trade Centers coming down! That’s mind-boggling in itself, engineering-wise.”

Noll’s best friend in the Pentagon — his daughter’s godfather — was a casualty of that day, bringing the ugly reality of the attacks even closer for him.

“When I called, there was no answer,” he said. “And I finally called his wife, and she said, ‘He didn’t come home last night.’ So we kind of knew that somebody we knew was a fatality.”

Noll and his Pentagon colleagues were back to work within days of the attacks, with plenty of new work to do to help with the nation’s response.

“We pulled in all the funding and acquisition submissions that needed to be done between the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, and pushed those, and briefed the chairman,” he said. “It was an immediate response on what needs to be done. Everybody’s mindset was, ‘I want to help,’ and we shifted to 16-, 18-hour days.” He remembers the oddness of checking figures on a budget of trillions of dollars, using a \$1.29 calculator.

At the same time, he said, “you have a whole different commitment to your family. You want to see the kids. The little things were important: dinners, and hugs, and all of that.”

In the years that followed, the memories of 9/11 didn’t fade away, Noll said, but were to some extent supplanted by other memories: of operational commands in the Middle East, and flying missions out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, 20 years on, Noll is surrounded in his job by children who weren’t yet in the world when the towers came down and the Pentagon was burning. Once a year he tries to explain it to them, hoping to instill a message that might help keep something like 9/11 from ever happening again.

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“You have a whole different commitment to your family. You want to see the kids. The little things were important: dinners, and hugs, and all of that.”

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“We still do a 9/11 memorial, and try to get the kids to understand what was going on — the fact that it’s not about a faith, or a group of people; it’s about radicalism, and the dangers of radicalism ... trying to understand how the radical fits in with the religious, and how you separate the goodness from the evil.”

Does the 20-year anniversary hold any special meaning for him?

“It means that history keeps repeating itself,” he answered. “And the importance of our leadership, and our government, becomes more critical every day as we govern our nation as a democratic society.”

“What’s the takeaway for our society as a whole? The reality that we’re vulnerable. I got up and kissed my wife goodbye that morning, and went to work with zero thought that my life was in danger as a military person in this country.”

If he can use 9/11 to convey any message to his students, he says, it’s this: “Respect for life. Making sure they have the right perception about tolerance, and understanding other people, so we don’t get into this situation (again). But we have to be prepared.”

# Emails from Ground Zero

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Athens native Barb Stout was in a New York coffee shop.

A licensed massage therapist and teacher, she lived on the city's Upper West Side.

She also had just been ordained as an interfaith minister.



Barb Stout.

She and other customers thought the first crash was a terrible accident. When the second crash proved otherwise, Stout went home and watched TV news coverage until the towers fell.

Stout, like so many New Yorkers, wanted to help with the recovery. She didn't go on Tuesday, realizing that volunteers would get

in rescuers' way. But on Wednesday, she headed for Manhattan — and embarked on a yearlong effort to find housing for the thousands of first responders who arrived to help at Ground Zero.

Stout, now owner of Athens Underground vintage clothing store, shared these emails from those frantic first days after the towers fell.



From: Barbara L Stout  
Date: Thurs., 13 Sept 2001  
Subject: Wednesday in NYC

**Dear Family and Friends —**

This is just an update to let you know that I am all right and to tell you a little about what it is like here in NYC, now that the world has changed.

I started this morning by going down to a local hospital to donate clothing. They had been saying on the news that there was a need for clean clothes for the firefighters and rescue workers. I went through my drawers and picked out all the large t-shirts I had, plus a lot of extra towels I had. Then I called a client of mine, who is more generously proportioned than me, and got him to donate a bunch of clothes also.

When I got to the hospital I inquired about volunteering. When I said that I was an ordained minister they told me to go down to the Chelsea Piers, where they had set up a triage center. (At that point they were only taking volunteers with search and rescue, construction

or electrical experience, medical expertise, mental health professionals and chaplains) Anyway, I got on a bus and went down. When I arrived I was signed in and asked if I could commit to staying for at least six hours. I said yes.

There were more volunteers at most times than there were jobs, but everyone felt better being there doing nothing than being home alone doing nothing. And then work did come up.

I was asked to try and gather a list of people who would be willing to put people up in their homes. There are thousands of people who have been displaced because of evacuations of apartment complexes, as well as hundreds of volunteers search and rescue people from all over the country. We got a lot of donated hotel rooms but not enough. I spent hours on the phone calling people, and telling them to call people and networking like crazy. I ended up with a pretty good-sized list and was able to place a lot of people. It was really difficult because phone service was intermittent, people's cell phones were losing power

and it was really hard to communicate amid all the chaos. However, everyone was co-operative, patient and gracious. I managed to place one young Korean family with two young children, ages 4 and 10 months. They had been evacuated from their apartment on Chambers Street. They had just moved here from Korea three days ago!

They had the therapists and chaplains working with the family members who were coming in to fill out missing person reports for their loved ones. We were asked to get name, age, description, where they worked, what floor they worked on. and any distinguishing physical characteristics. This was being compiled into a master database. What everyone wants the most is just to KNOW something, to find the name they are looking for on a list somewhere but right now they are no lists, except for the relatively short ones of people who were taken to area hospitals. There are no lists of the dead.

One person kept asking me about going to the morgue to identify a body

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(she was looking for her cousin). I told her that the main morgue is at ground zero and no one but search and rescue can go there (all true). I didn't say that there really are few bodies to identify, only parts of bodies (also true).

I ended up the night by escorting 6 firemen from Massachusetts to the Upper West Side. They were going to the Excelsior Hotel on 81st, where we had gotten them rooms for the night, and didn't know how to get there. Since I live four blocks away I decided to take them there and then get a shower and some sleep myself (which I will do when I finish this note). I plan to return tomorrow morning.

The amazing thing about this is the love, compassion, generosity and kindness that is being displayed by virtually everyone. People here are not panicking in the streets. We are somber, but orderly. We are going about our business. And everyone is pitching in.

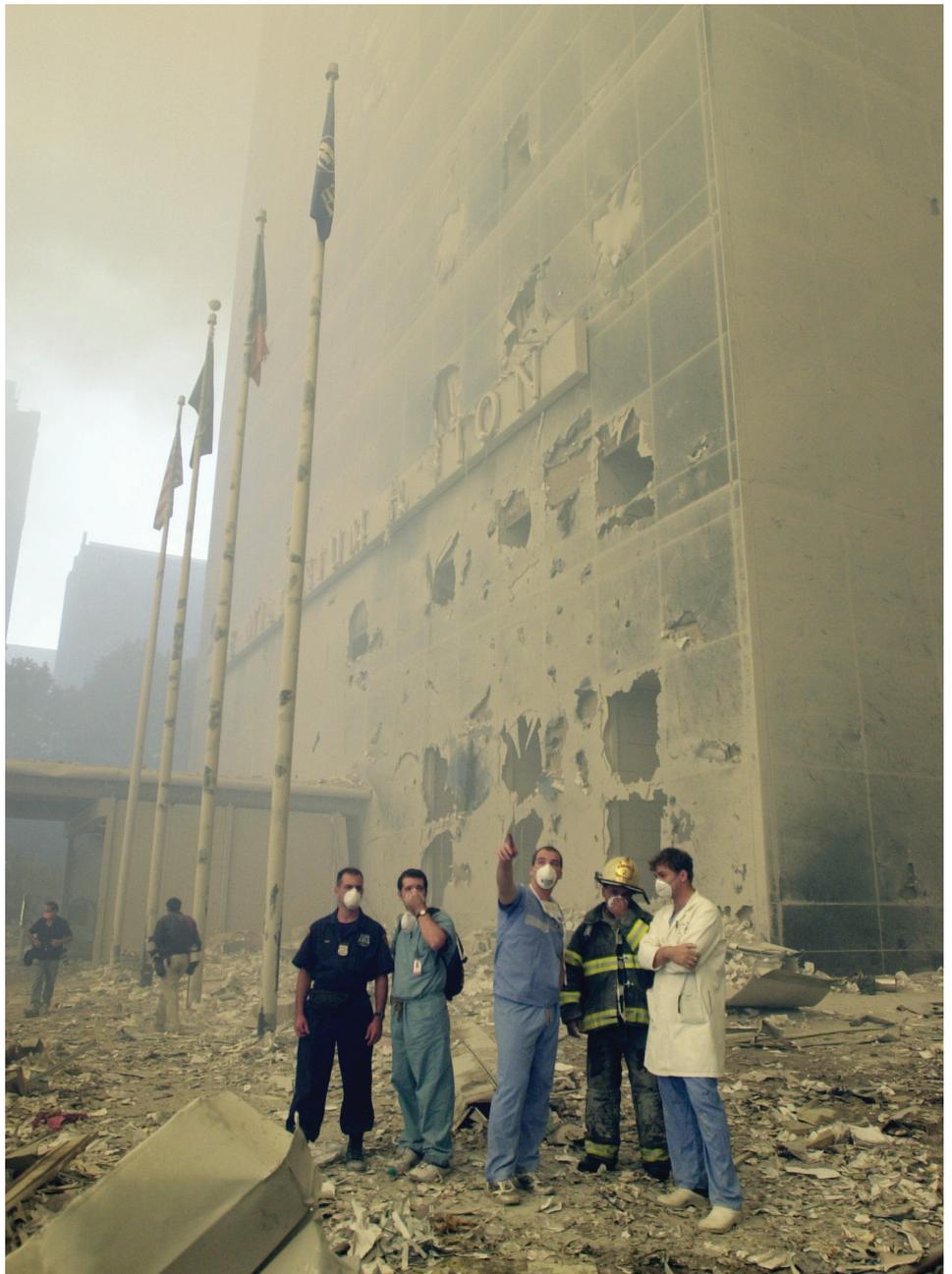
I was talking to a policeman from Pennsylvania as I was giving him a neck massage this evening. He had fallen through part of the rubble and bruised his back badly and had just been treated at the hospital. He was telling me some details about the things he has seen at ground zero. We were talking about what the meaning of all this could be and we agreed that if there is any good to come out of this, surely it must be in the increased recognition of just how interconnected we all are. What affects one affects the whole. We all matter and we all make a difference.

I am very tired right now and need to get some sleep if I can. I will try and write again and keep you up to date. Please forward this to anyone I have forgotten.

**I love you all.**

**May Peace bless us.**

**Barbara**



AP PHOTO BY MARK LENNIHAN

Medical and emergency workers, standing in front of the Millennium Hilton, look toward where the World Trade Center towers used to be.

From: Barbara L Stout  
Date: Sat, 15 Sep 2001  
Subject: Giving Thanks

**Dearest Ones—**

I am writing this to you after having just come off a 14-hour shift at the Chelsea Pier where I am working as one of the co-ordinators of an effort

(largely grassroots) to provide shelter for all those who have volunteered and risked their lives in the Search at Rescue effort at the World Trade Centers. I am scheduled to go back again in about 6 hours and should be sleeping, but after sleeping a few hours my mind is racing and I thought that sharing with all of you might help me to unwind enough to get the rest I need.

On the surface there is nothing good about the events of the last few days, yet upon reflection I realize that I have spent them in an almost continual state of gratefulness. I have never said "Thank-you" so many times. It started on Tuesday with the inward "Thank-you" to God every time I found out that another friend or colleague was safe and unharmed - every time I heard another story from someone who "should have" been there. at ground zero, and by some twist of fate was not. On Wednesday I said thank you when I found out that clothing donations were needed and that there was a way I could be of help. I said thank you when I was told that there was a need for clergy and I was directed to the Chelsea Piers.

When I arrived at the Piers, the place was filled to overflowing with volunteers. For the first few hours it appeared that there was nothing for me to do, but I was grateful to be there, nonetheless. I would rather be there doing nothing than alone at home, watching the same image over and over. Then someone asked if anyone had a large network of people they could contact to try to compile a list of available beds, couches and floors for people in need. I raised my hand and thus the temporary housing department was conceived. I have worked for the last four days with a group of people I did not know and would not have probably met in the normal course of events. They have become my second family and new best friends, and for that I say "Thank you."

I have said thank you to everyone who has offered up shelter, from large corporate hotels to individuals. Individuals have been willing to open their homes to complete strangers at a moment's notice (often being called at 2 a.m.). Hotels have offered up rooms for anywhere from 2 to 100 people.

I have said thank you to every volunteer who has been assigned to me. They have endured endless waiting in lines and trudging from site to site all over the city, to try and find a place where they could be put to work. They have been willing to wait for hours, "doing nothing," waiting for that moment when all of a sudden there was more than enough to do and they were urgently needed — even if it was "just" to escort a bleary-eyed EMS worker safely to the apartment where he or she would be showering and getting a few hours' sleep.

I have said thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who have supported me. There are people who have made sure that I was eating, massage therapists and chiropractors who have worked on my aching back, counselors who have sat and listened when I needed to talk, drivers who have helped me get home when I needed to. There are numerous people who have just handed over their cell phones, no questions about minutes or calls, when I said that I desperately need more phones to make calls about lodging.

I have said thank you to every rescue worker I have seen, from EMS, firefighters, policemen, welders, heavy equipment operators, electricians and other professionals to the "just plain folks" "with no particular credentials" who were willing to get in there and dig. The stories of what these people have seen and experienced are almost beyond comprehension. Suffice it to say that they have seen the hell that hatred can produce and yet, somehow, they have kept their own humanity and humility intact. I can't tell you how thrilled I was to place a group of firefighters from out of state, who had spent up to 48 hours in the trenches of hell trying to save lives, in a donated suite at the Plaza Hotel and how humbled I was at the modesty and humility of these guys when they tried to tell me that "it really wasn't

necessary, they didn't want to bother anyone one. they would just sleep in their trucks." I assured them that they were not bothering anyone and that we were just grateful to be able to help and support them in any small way. I said "thank you," for myself and for every citizen of New York and the rest of the world, for the work they are doing.

And last, but not least, I say thank you to all of you. I cannot begin to tell you how deeply touched I have been by the outpouring of concern and support you have all expressed. Your e-mails and phone messages have been a source of strength and support that have allowed me to keep working. Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart. I can only imagine the sense of helplessness and futility you must be feeling, being so far away and unable to "do" anything. Know that when you support me, you help me support the rescue workers.

I believe that this tragedy has also offered us an incredible gift, and that is the realization, on a deep, but very tangible level, of how truly interconnected we all are, of the truth of the statement that what affects one, does indeed affect the whole. As my new, dear best friend and co-coordinator Bruce put it yesterday, "We are all just grains of sand on the beach of life," and yet each and every one of us has a purpose and significance. The beach is diminished by the loss of any grain.

I need to go now and get some sleep. I will write again soon. I would like to close by paraphrasing Anne Frank: "In spite of everything I still believe in the basic goodness of the human heart."

**Wishing you all Peace and Love.  
Barbara**

*Continued on next page >*

From: Barbara L Stout  
Date: Mon., 17 Sept. 2001

**Hello to you all -**

I am home on a supposedly 24-hour break — but after a good sound 4 hours (which is at least double the amount of uninterrupted sleep I've had up until now) my mind is racing again. There is sooo much to do. I plan to sleep (I hope) another four hours at some point in the day, but I have zillions of phone calls to make and things to organize before I "officially" start my shift again at 10 p.m. tonight.

To bring you all briefly up to date, I haven't seen a television in 5 days, so maybe you know some of this and maybe not. (I tend to doubt the ability of TV to get the whole story straight anyway!)

Various government agencies are stepping in and taking "control" of the situation. They want to get all civilian volunteers out of the immediate area of ground zero and so it is becoming increasingly difficult to gain access. Basically, once a volunteer leaves the site in order to get food, rest or medical attention they can't get back in. Therefore volunteers are VERY reluctant to leave. They are pushing themselves beyond all limits of physical endurance. It is truly amazing and humbling to hear their stories, which at some later date I may share in part with you.

Anyway, the government is taking over and they are also trying to shut down ALL non "official" relief efforts outside of ground zero. They are trying to get people to stop setting up food and water stations and from setting up and offering services such as counseling, massage, and housing. However the PEOPLE are having none of it and are refusing to be shut down.

There are food tables lining 34th Street outside the Javitz Center and most of them are "just plain folks" who saw a need and are responding to it.

YEAH FOR THE PEOPLE!!!!

As far as our housing effort goes, here is the current status — we survived the purge!! We have officially been allowed to remain inside the Javitz building (Chelsea Piers has been completely shut down) and have been given a couple of tables and, most importantly, 2 REAL PHONES. This has taken incredible amounts of diplomacy, tact and appealing to the hearts of people (for, after all, "The Government" is really "just plain folks" in uniform — fellow human beings who are also saddened, shocked, angry, frightened and confused just like the rest of us — but trying not to show that while on the Job.) Last night I had a good chat with a liaison from the Mayor's office and he thinks we are great. He asked what he could do for us. We said we wanted a parking pass to be right in front of the Javitz Center. If we get it I plan to bring my van to the site and use it as transport to get these poor people to and from their hotels safely. (I am going to have to recruit some drivers I trust because I certainly can't do the driving myself.) We should find out this AM if we get it. Keep your fingers crossed.

Our job seems to be growing each day, not diminishing. As the word has trickled out about our existence more and more people are finding their way to us. As of 6 p.m. last night we had made over 2,000 placements. (The first night we were up — Wednesday — we only placed about 100.) I just talked to my crew and I would say that we have probably done about 300–400 more since then. We are running our operation on a 24/7 basis — and everyone is seriously overtired and under tremendous stress — but

somehow we still manage, for the most part, to be caring, patient and considerate with each other. We should treat each other like this all the time, in "real" life, and the world would be a much better place.

I understand that some of you have started a drive to "pay Barb's rent" so that I don't have to be concerned about working right now and devote myself to this full time. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I had already cancelled all clients until further notice and gotten subs for my teaching job, but now I can do so without the nagging worry in the back of my mind as to how I'm going to pay my bills.

If you want to know further ways that you can help, this is a thought that occurred to me. We could really use a small "reimbursement fund." Everyone involved in our operation, we have received no funding of any kind, other than the phone lines that we have been given at the Javitz Center, and the use of one cell phone (after Friday) at the Piers. Most of our calls have been placed on people's personal phones and their bills are going to be enormous. There is some kind of relief available through Verizon, but it won't begin to cover everything. Also people have been using their own cars for transport (and paying for the gas themselves). We have also had cab fares to get to and from the site when we are forced to go home and sleep. Anyway, if you want to help out, maybe you could create such a fund for us. Please don't call me about the details — if you can just work it out amongst yourselves and let me know the bottom line, that would be great. I suggest that my sister Julie co-ordinate this effort (Sorry for volunteering you kiddo, without asking, but I can't call). For those of you who don't know Julie's e-mail is [—].



A firefighter moves through piles of debris at the site of the World Trade Center.

AP PHOTO BY GRAHAM MORRISON

I am still unable to place any outgoing long-distance calls, but I am able to receive them. However I'm not around much, but I have outside access to my messages.

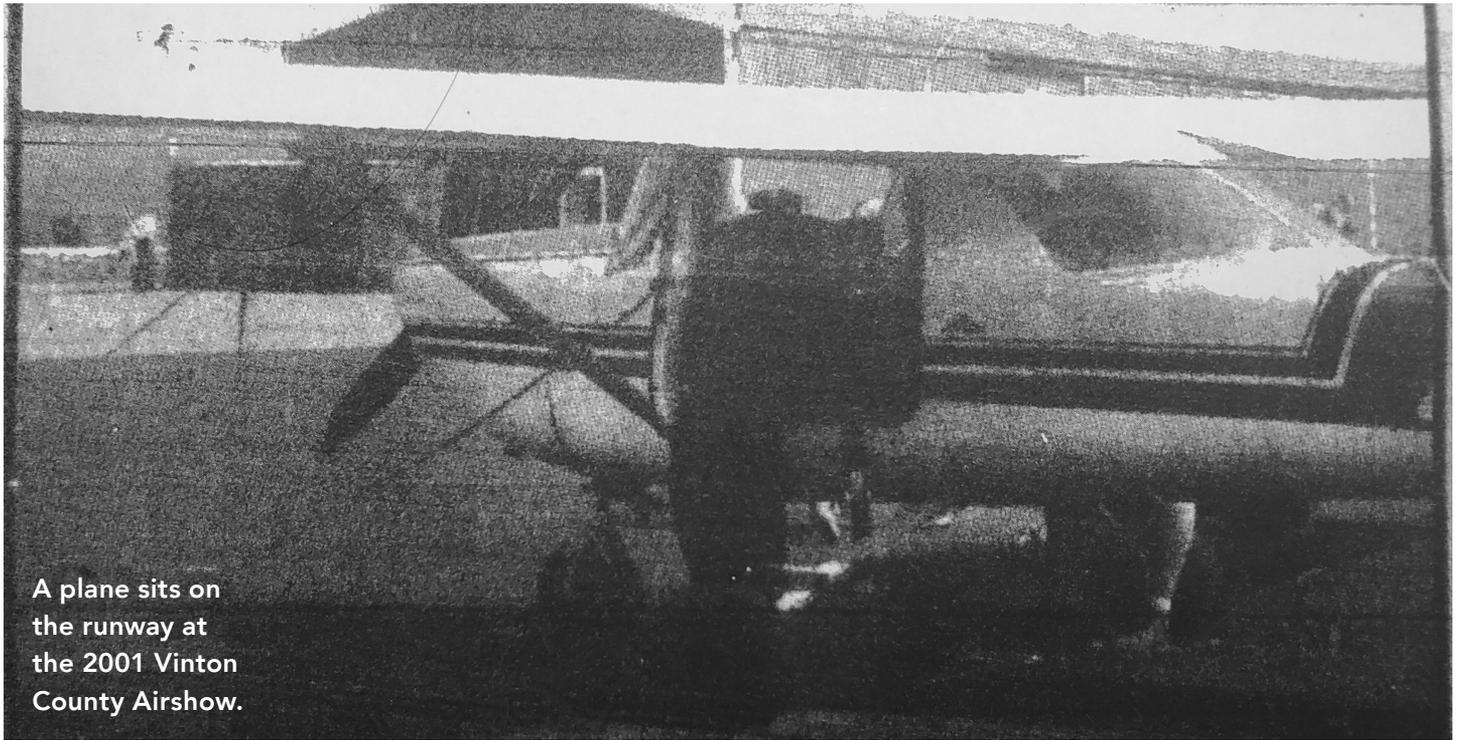
Well, I think I am ready to go catch another couple hours of zzzzzzz. My mind has calmed down I'd like to end with two quick stories. One of the massage therapist volunteers told me about working for a half hour or so giving a totally exhausted EMS worker

a massage. This poor guy had been at ground zero for nearly 48 hours straight. When she was done, he looked up at her and said, "Thank you so much. Thank you for not caring that I am a Muslim". Last night I finally left Javitz after midnight and grabbed a cab to get back here. When I got to the apartment, the driver told me that there was no charge. That he had decided to spend the day transporting any relief workers he saw for free. He was of Middle Eastern descent. This situation is NOT

about nationality, race, religion or even politics. It is about hatred and irrational thinking by a relatively small group of people. No matter what they used as a rationalization for their horrible acts, it will never justify our returning it with hatred and violence. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Darkness cannot dispel darkness, only light can. Hatred cannot overcome hatred, only love can."

**Peace and Love to you all,  
Barbara**

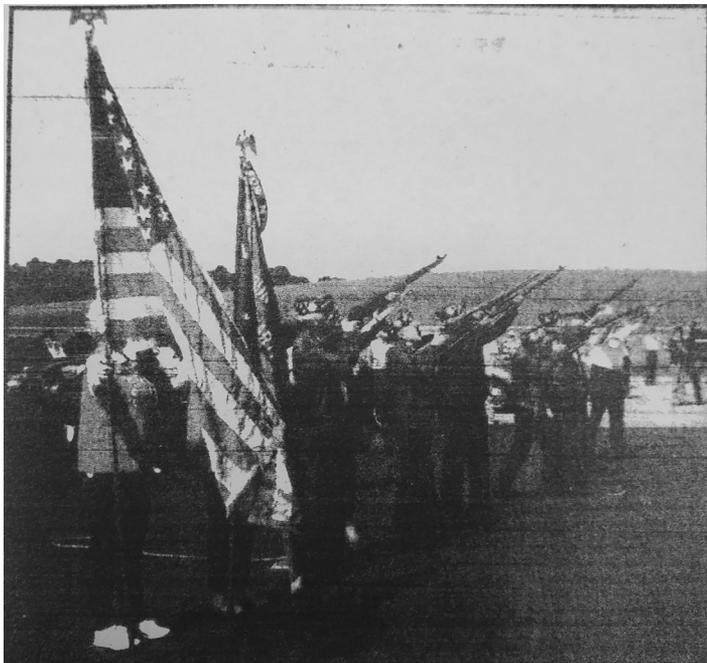
*Editor's Note: Stout continued to organize temporary housing for volunteers for the next year. Her last clients were members of the National Funeral Directors Society, who for more than a year worked in two-week rotations on remains from Ground Zero.*



A plane sits on the runway at the 2001 Vinton County Airshow.

# The grounded Vinton County Airshow

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*By Will Meyer*  
*The Courier / APG Ohio*



In many ways, Vinton County responded to the September 11 attacks like many other communities across the country.

On the Friday after the attacks, Jim Harper, a former Vinton County commissioner, offered a prayer on the steps of the county courthouse in McArthur. Later that evening, Rev. Roger Hauck held a candlelight prayer service to pray for “those who have given their lives, and to those who may.”

Meanwhile, the village bustled with a plethora of fundraisers throughout the week. Donations from the local American Red

Left: The Veterans of Foreign War Honor Guard gives a 21-gun salute at the Vinton County Airshow on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2001.

Cross chapter went toward assisting national efforts, the McArthur Volunteer Fire Department accepted donations for the New York Firefighter's Relief Fund and the local schools hosted penny drives.

In one particular area, though, Vinton County's response was unique.

The Vinton County Pilots and Boosters Association had been gearing up to host the 31st Annual Vinton County Airshow on Sunday, Sept. 16. Held annually in September, the show is known for its high-flying stunts, barbecue chicken dinners and its skydiving Santa Claus. It's touted by the association as the biggest free airshow in the state.

Nick Rupert, then president of the association at the time, was working at the Austin Powder Company in McArthur when he heard the news about the terror attacks from a coworker.

"That evening, when I got home, I turned the TV on and was just dumbfounded at what took place — more or less stunned," Rupert said.

With planes grounded and airspaces closed across the county, the Federal Aviation Administration told Rupert to cancel the airshow.

Shortly after that first call, the FAA called again and reversed its stance on the airshow, Rupert said. The pilots and

Betty Hickman paints Kyra Boyer's face. Hickman, with the West Virginia Fun Flyers, painted faces for donations to the Red Cross relief fund.



boosters began to prepare for the show — only for the FAA to once again forbid the airshow just three days before the event.

"We had everything planned," Rupert said. "We had all the chickens and food bought, and the barbecue pit was ready to go."

So, Rupert and the association put on an airshow anyway, making sure to not provoke the FAA's ire.

Jamie Chesser, editor of *The Courier* at the time, reported that the airshow was "well attended."

That year, the Vinton County High School band kicked off the show with a rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner," and the honor guard of McArthur's Veterans of Foreign War Post 5299 gave a 21-gun salute and performed "Taps."

A typical Vinton County airshow is attended by skydivers and planes that weave a web of colored smoke throughout the sky. Despite FAA regulations leaving all planes grounded, ultralight planes — planes that weigh less than 254 pounds — were still allowed to take flight during the airshow because they were not considered general aviation aircraft at the time, Rupert said. He estimated about 20 ultralight planes filled the sky that afternoon, as well as several remote-controlled planes, which were approved by the FAA.

As for other airshow staples such as skydiving, Rupert and his team had to get creative to entertain their audience.

"We had the parachute jumpers there, so we put them on a picnic table, and they jumped off it to everybody's raucous laughter," he recalled.

Face painting raised money for the Red Cross relief fund. The Appalachian Old Car Club and the Lancaster Car Club also showed off classic cars on the runway.

Because money raised at the Vinton County Airshow provides about 25% of the operating budget for the airport, the 2002 airshow was a mere blip on the radar compared to typical years.

"It was a tough year financially because we just barely paid our bills off for the show," Rupert said. "That hurt us financially. Everybody had to kick in a few extra bucks that year to make sure we paid the electric bill on all that."



The Vinton County High School band kicked off the show by playing "The Star-Spangled Banner," accompanying vocalist Regina Brooks of Belpre.

PHOTOS THIS SPREAD FROM THE SEPT. 19, 2001, EDITION OF THE VINTON COUNTY COURIER

# “We just had no idea...”

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*By Staff Reports*

The events of 9/11 — hundreds of miles away in New York City, Washington D.C. and Shanksville, Pa. — affected the residents of Pickaway County emotionally and mentally. But some had connections to people who lived in those places.

In the following days, The Herald reached out to those who could be affected to learn what they were going through and what was on their mind.

Liz Shollenberger, a Circleville High School graduate, was in White Plains, N.Y., and worked in the Bronx. Her office at the time was about 20 miles from the World Trade Center and she was not affected. However, her husband, Tim James, worked in Manhattan, only three blocks from Ground Zero.

“I had a voicemail message from him (soon after the first aircraft hit the buildings) and he was OK,” Shollenberger said of the call at around 11 a.m. on that Tuesday. “But he didn’t know how he was going to get out of Manhattan. I was worried about him.”

All bridges and tunnels leading to the

island borough were closed immediately after the attacks.

Shollenberger’s mother, Nancy, lived in Circleville at the time. She told The Herald she had frantically been trying to reach her daughter after hearing of the attacks, but could not get through. The Herald was able to reach Shollenberger at her office and relayed word that she was OK to her mother, who was greatly relieved.

Kara Gerhardt, a Circleville native and daughter of Dick and Marie Gerhardt, worked for the Department of Defense, but her office was not in the Pentagon. It was, however, only about five minutes away from there and Gerhardt was at her office when the hijacked airliner smashed into the building.

“We were watching TV when the Pentagon was hit. We felt a little shake,”

she said. “We could see the smoke, then soon, we were all sent home.”

Gerhardt said traffic was “horrendous” because of virtually all workers in Washington being ordered to leave.

“We just had no idea something like this could happen,” she said of the attacks at the time. “My heart goes out to all those people.”

Most people Gerhardt had talked to the day before were in shock and fearful that more terrorist attacks could be imminent.

“There were all sorts of emotions. No one was sure what to do. The grocery stores there were jammed. People were stocking up.”

Immediately after the attacks, Gerhardt said she tried to call her parents to let them know she was OK, but the lines were jammed and she could not get through. Hours later, however, she did successfully make contact.

In the days following the 9/11 attacks, Pickaway County was no different than the rest of the country. Members of the National Guard were concerned about being called up and there were concerns about a gas shortage or the need for other support.

In the Sept. 13, 2001 edition of The Herald, John Wells, a then Circleville resident and member of the U.S. Air National Guard, spoke about his service, which would have originally been up in February 2002.

“If I’m activated, that [discharge date] could change until this emergency is over,” he said then. “I’ve gotten used to it over the years; I went to Egypt in 1993 on about three day’s notice.”

Wells was nearly spot on with his thoughts with his prediction of military being deployed to New York and Washington D.C., as well as special forces’ action taking place in the immediate days following the attacks. The National Guard was sent to both New York City and Washington D.C. Special forces were sent to Afghanistan in October of 2001 for the first time following the attacks.

Wells said he had originally planned to retire on Sept. 10 but didn’t and that’s when things changed. A stop-loss was ordered and he stayed in the service a while longer working in a training unit.

“I had planned on Sept. 10 that I was going to march down and put my retirement papers in,” he said. “I was the oldest guy in the unit, all my friends had retired and I didn’t have anything in common with the younger guys.”

However, he wasn’t going to be denied if his unit did end up being deployed.

“I was on the phone with my unit not five minutes after saying ‘if you go, don’t go without me,’” he said.

Wells didn’t end up going overseas and retired from the military in 2003. He later became a police officer where he now serves the Village of South Bloomfield. While he never deployed, he does stay interested in world affairs.

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“We were watching TV when the Pentagon was hit. We felt a little shake. We could see the smoke, then soon, we were all sent home.”

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His son did join the military and was in his same unit and in an odd set of coincidences, was checked in to the unit by the same person.

“He had gotten deployed to Kuwait at one time,” Wells said. “The person who was checking him remembered me and asked him if he was related to me.”

Locally, a community event was held on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2001 involving Pickaway County Officials, Pickaway County Ministerial Association, local veterans and representatives from each of the county schools.

A community band of volunteers played the national anthem, the pledge of allegiance was said, along with prayers, ringing of Circleville’s victory bell four times — one for each plane — and a candle-lighting. It was estimated that between 3,500 and 5,000 people attended the event.

However, not all of the creation was one of a patriotic nature and Pickaway County was not immune to the racism and distrust toward Muslims.

In a story following 9/11, The Herald reported that an unnamed Yugoslavian native and Westfall High School exchange student was assaulted and threatened. The

student and the student’s host mother were not named in the story.

Yugoslavia is now split into several different countries, including Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, and Herzegovina and Macedonia.

The student was reportedly “devastated” by the attacks and she could empathize: her country was bombed in 1999. But she was still targeted by fellow students, including verbal threats, being hit with a basketball and sprayed by water bottles.

“I just think people need to treat her with respect because she didn’t have anything to do with this and neither did her country,” the host mother said.

Dr. Balpreet Jammu worked at Berger Hospital in 2001 and told The Herald he hadn’t been personally attacked at the time, but that he had become hyper aware.

“I don’t know if it’s really that people are treating me differently, but I know I’ve become more sensitive to glances and stares and things like that,” he said.

Jammu wears a turban still to this day and is currently employed at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and also practices at Ohio State Family Medicine in Worthington.

# 20 years of disbelief

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*By Keri Johnson*  
*Logan Daily News / APG Ohio*

Katie Hooper was home alone at her rural father's home in Glouster the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. A 19-year-old convenience store employee at the time, she was asleep. She woke up to an early phone call of her friend "screaming, 'They're bombing us.'" She turned on the TV.

"We sat there on the phone together and watched the plane hit and the second tower," Hooper said. "I got cold chills. We were both crying on the phone, like 'Oh my God, what is happening?' You didn't know what was coming."

She later heard about attacks on the Pentagon and the crash of United Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. She stayed on the phone with her friend throughout the rest of the day.

"The whole day was disbelief," Hooper said. "It was unreal — it's just so hard to even describe the feeling of what we were watching... It was like watching a movie."

The next couple of weeks were filled with unfolding 9/11 news. "It was all anybody talked about," Hooper said. She worried for her country, but also her family; her cousin, a Columbus firefighter, was "put on watch for the possibility of more attacks."

She also recalls seeing the attacks

change people, not just in words but action.

"I hate that a tragedy makes people treat people better," Hooper said. "It was different for several weeks, even months after. Everybody was different — everything. Everybody treated everybody better, everybody's guard was up a little bit more."

In December 2001, Hooper visited New York City. Her family was worried about more attacks occurring during her visit; they pleaded with her not to go. It was her first trip there, though the friends with whom she went had been before. They were "speechless" when they saw the city skyline without the towers, she said.

Despite hearing "horror stories" about New Yorkers, everyone was friendly, Hooper said.

"It wasn't at all what I heard," she said. "Everybody was so friendly and nice."

Hooper said she saw what remained of

the towers, or rather what she could from afar, as blocks were still closed off.

"On the sidewalks, there was just still so much dust and dirt and stuff, laying all over everywhere," she recalled. "It had rained and snowed, but still there was so much dust and dirt surrounding the area, the site."

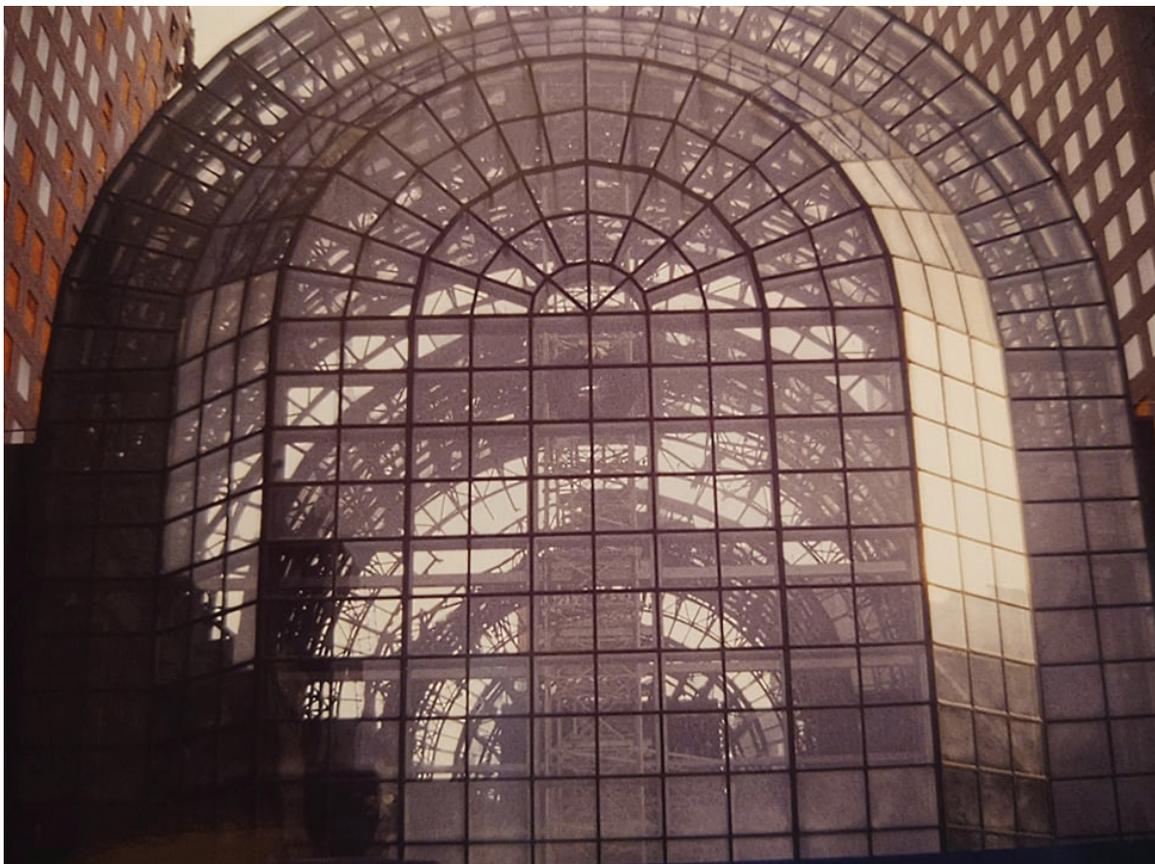
Hooper revisited New York City later and saw the 9/11 memorials with her son, who is now 15.

That same friend who called Hooper on that morning still reaches out every September 11.

"We message each other — whoever thinks about it first — to say, 'Just thinking of you today,'" Hooper said. "That morning, for both of us — watching it unfold — when it rolls around next month, one of us will message (the) other. That's how big of an impact it had on anybody able to see it."



The infamous last piece of the tower left standing.



Brookfield Place — the towers stood right behind this.  
Notice the broken windows and damage from when the towers fell.

PHOTOS BY KATIE HOOPER

# Middle Easterners in Athens pull closer together after attacks

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*By Carol Spychalski*

Originally published in the Athens NEWS September 17, 2001

“The Koran tells us about mercy. Mercy for whom? Arabs? People of the East? Muslims? Mercy for mankind. For everyone on the face of the earth.”

Seventy-five Muslim men kneeled as they listened to Abdulbaset Abdulla’s speech Friday during a vigil at the Islamic Center in Athens near Ohio University’s East Green. The vigil was organized to address and mourn the tragic events of last Tuesday. The event included the sermon and a traditional Friday prayer session.

Abdulla included a statement released by national Muslim organizations, saying, “American Muslims utterly condemn the vicious attack of terrorism against innocent citizens.”

He advised the Muslim men to go about their daily business with caution. But also he encouraged them to continue to explain the essence of Islam and its teachings to those without knowledge of the faith.

His advice, however, also was directed to non-Muslim community members.

“Do not hold an entire community hostage as a result of the wrongdoings of a group of people,” Abdulla asked. “We should try to solve our problems away from intimidation ... and offer concessions to accommodate the needs of people.” He said he hopes that then we might find a more peaceful world to live in.

Abdulla ended his statement by asking for prayer for all victims and their families. It is “important to remember,” he said, that innocent Muslims also worked in the World Trade Center and rode those doomed airliners. Thanking everyone, both inside and outside the Muslim community, for his or her emails and calls of support, he then led the prayer session.

A man from the Middle East who asked not to be identified lived with his family until this past Thursday separate from other Muslim families. He had been worried about what he viewed as a hostile atmosphere on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday morning he awoke and left his

apartment to attend classes at OU and realized that he had been a victim of vandalism and harassment.

“Go home.” That was the simple message written on his car in soap and left for him or his wife and children to find. The man immediately called the police and then began his search for a new apartment, he said.

He, his wife and his young children all moved on Thursday to an apartment near other Muslim families where he said he feels safer.

The “entire community helped,” said Abdulbaset Abdulla, making the move “quicker and easier.”

Explaining why he felt the need for an immediate move, the man said, “I prefer to move from my place because it is hard to leave my family when I go to school.”

He attempted to keep his children from knowing about the incident, he said, but they overheard him and his wife discussing the issue.

As for the events of last Tuesday, he said that he has talked with his children but



PHOTO BY ED VENRICK

Muslim men met Friday afternoon at the Islamic Center on the Ohio University campus to pray and express sorrow for the September 11 terrorist attacks.

does not allow them to watch coverage of it on television.

“It’s terrible to see that picture” of the World Trade Center towers struck by the planes and later collapsing, he said. “It’s terrible for anyone.”

As his opinion of Tuesday’s events, he said, “We are completely against these actions. It was an awful thing and we do not support such people.”

Still, he said, he and his other Islamic community members are “in a bad situation.”

Abdulbaset Abdulla echoed that sentiment.

“I feel as if I am carrying two weights and [non-Muslims] are carrying one. I’m in the same boat as anyone else, horrified, but then I am a target, too,” he said.

“To me, this is my country,” he explained. “But now I wonder, maybe I should quit this country. Maybe this is not the right place for me.”

Abdulla, however, said he is grateful for the support the Muslim community has received. “On Tuesday we all thought, ‘We are targets.’ but now it’s not as bad as we thought.”

He is thankful, he said, for the help of the Athens community. “We have received much more support than harassment,” he said.

Local law enforcement and government officials have said they intend to respond aggressively to any harassment or vandalism directed at Muslims in the area.

OU President Robert Glidden visited the mosque Wednesday, speaking and answering questions for about an hour. Other campus offices have also moved to help, such as the Ohio University Police Department and the dean of students, Abdulla said.

“It helps and makes us feel good to know that the university is not ignoring us,” he added.

He also expressed a sense of relief that the Athens community does not behave the way 300 people in Chicago did last week. An angry mob rushed a mosque, a place of worship, and had to be dispersed by police.

“The students here are smart. The community is wonderful. They are different from that,” Abdulla said.

Amid the support, however, there’s still fear. Abdul-Qudir Wiswall, a Muslim student from New Jersey, said that his wife has not left the house since Tuesday.

“I went out and bought myself pants instead of wearing the traditional clothing anymore right now,” he said. He explained that his wife will not take her head covering off, however, because of her religious convictions.

Wiswall’s 8-year-old daughter also likes to wear the traditional head covering “just like her mother.” On Wednesday, she stayed home from school, and on Thursday she returned in a baseball cap.

“She cried when she couldn’t wear her scarf. And it was hard to explain to her why she had to change her head dress,” he said.

As the United States struggles forward in the face of destruction, so does Athens’ Islamic community.

“We’re just as appalled as anyone else,” said Wiswall. He remains strong in his Muslim beliefs, however: “My family has benefited from the peace of Islam.”

# In their own words

*Readers share their memories of 9/11*

Joe Gay  
Athens, Ohio

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September 11 was going to be a challenging and exciting day.

I knew that based on my own plans but had absolutely no premonition of the events that would dominate the day, and indeed the year to follow. My plans were to drive to northern Michigan to go salmon fishing with a fellow local firefighter.

First that morning, though, I had things to attend to. I was scheduled to be at work briefly and had a report to prepare. So 8:30 AM found me at the computer keyboard pecking away. After a while, the

phone rang. My wife, Claudia, answered and said, "It's Chuck." Chuck was one of my oldest and best friends. We grew up together hanging around a fire station in the suburbs of Houston. We lived, ate, and slept fire department when we were young. He went on to become a professional firefighter and paramedic with the Houston Fire Department and I ended up spending 50 year as a volunteer firefighter.

Chuck was not a morning person. It was unusual for him to call that early. He started the conversation with something like, "They did it on purpose. They were aiming for the building." I said, "Slow down. What are you talking about?" Chuck replied, "Don't you have your TV

on? Turn it on. Planes just crashed into the World Trade Center." (I think both towers and been hit by that time.)

I turned on the TV to watch for a few minutes. Chuck and I discussed some of the technical aspects of the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) operations. One of us speculated that there would probably be firefighter fatalities but neither of us anticipated mass casualties among firefighters. I then needed to get off the phone and get on with my work. The towers had not collapsed at that point. Chuck closed with the comment, "You know, things will never be the same again."

When I got to work, I mentioned to one of my coworkers that I was a little



distracted by the events in New York. She said, “You know the buildings collapsed, don’t you? Both of them.” I said, “That means 500 firefighters are dead.” Of course, that turned out to be an overestimation of the immediate firefighter death-toll, but it was in the ballpark.

A few hours later, we headed off to Michigan. The accommodations were poor and the fishing a little disappointing. Media access was poor so I can’t say we were fully informed about 9/11 events. We ended our trip earlier than planned and headed back to Athens. It was then I became really focused on 9/11.

The New York Times published brief biographical sketches of most of the deceased victims of the 9/11 attack over the course of the following year. I tried to read the bios of all the firefighters and probably managed to read bios of close to half of the civilian victims. I think it was these bios that really conveyed to me the tragedy of the event.

The impact of 9/11 was felt by fire departments across the US. In addition to their own emotional reactions, firefighters across the country were faced with federal government- mandated training in dealing with terrorist incidents including those involving biological agents or hazardous

materials. Training was mandated in what was termed Incident Command Systems (ICS). The trainings were useful but demanding in terms of time. ICS is a sound concept but somewhat inflexible in structure and not well suited for small fire departments and minor incidents.

Several months after 9/11 the Athens County Firefighters Association convened the fire departments of Athens County for a memorial service at the Fairgrounds. The department I was a member of — the Richland Area Fire Department — like most of the departments present brought apparatus to the event. Around the time Taps was played, my department was alerted for a run. A member of another department later told me that one of the most haunting moments of the event was hearing our sirens and air horns fading off in the distance and echoing off the hills. The call was for a car that had run into a house. No one was injured. We pulled the car away from the house as a precaution against fire. When we completed the task, we got a round of applause from the spectators. In my entire career, I can recall applause for firefighters at only two other incidents, both occurring in Houston. One was a dramatic rescue of window washers from a multi-story building and the other

a rescue of a very wet and bedraggled cat from a house fire.

Ironically, my narrative ends with fishing, too. Every year I go to Texas to go deep sea fishing. I often fish from a boat named the Dolphin Express. The boat had a previous career as an excursion or fishing boat named the Dorothy G and operating out of New Jersey. It was apparently popular with FDNY firefighters. On 9/11, the Dorothy G’s captain took her to lower Manhattan and assisted with evacuations. The following morning, members of FDNY in Brooklyn who were familiar with the boat went to the captain’s house and ask him to take them to lower Manhattan. The conventional routes were not open. The captain agreed to do so and took a group of firefighters. A photographer happened to be a long and took a number of pictures. Those pictures and the narrative of the trip are posted in a little memorial in the cabin of the Dolphin Express. Typically, I get to see that several times a year and reflect again on the events of that day and the courage and sacrifice of the firefighters. Often heard or read when firefighters discuss 9/11 is the phrase “Never Forget.”

The current communication deals with the operations of FDNY, one of the largest professional fire departments in the U.S. There are approximately 1 million firefighters in the United States. Of these, 750,000 are volunteer firefighters. Athens County is served by 14 fire departments. Of these 12 are volunteer departments, and almost all of these are seeking additional members. If you have a desire to be of service to your community and you have a taste for activities that are challenging and may also involve a degree of danger, think about joining your local volunteer department. Be forewarned it will involve a time commitment, training, demanding and sometimes dangerous physical work, missed sleep, and a certain amount of boredom. But based on my own 50 years of experience, I can report that it will also be very rewarding.

# Craig Wellman

## Circleville, Ohio

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Sept. 11, 2001 started out as a typical day for myself and our staff, I remember thinking how perfect the weather was that day and enjoying it.

We usually had the radio on in the mornings before we would get busy and heard that a plane had hit the tower and thought, “how could someone hit that on such a clear day?”

We decided to get a small TV from my parents’ house next door and when we turned it on, we saw the second plane hit the tower and then knew it was no accident.

Obviously, like everyone else, we were glued to what went on the rest of that day and I immediately started to think what we could do to help people deal with what had happened.

We decided to open up our building for the next two days; we put out a remembrance book for people to share their thoughts and lit a candle in remembrance. We had a good amount of

visitors come in and mostly talk and share their time with each other. I think in the long run, it helped me as much as them to process that terrible day.

In 2017, I had the opportunity to visit the 9/11 Memorial and museum, and if you have never been there, I strongly encourage you to make the trip. It was the most meaningful and reverent place I have ever been.

I remember remarking that throughout the entire time in the museum. Everyone, even kids, was quiet and reverent, which was amazing to me, but also made me feel good about our citizens in this country.

# Mary Ann Gordon

## Logan, Ohio

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I remember the fear as if it was yesterday, not for myself but for my family.

And I remember that no matter what else might happen that day, my family and I would go on as we would any day.

After my daughter caught the morning school bus, I fell asleep on the couch. When I awoke a short time later I saw on TV the first tower after being hit by the plane. I thought at first it was a movie. I then realized it was real.

Then I saw the second tower hit. I thought about going after my daughter at school, but I didn’t go. I decided life would go on as planned.

I had planned to buy shoes at Lancaster Mall, but it closed down. But I wasn’t

going to let terrorists ruin my life, so I found only one store open. It was Kmart, and I bought shoes.

My son was in the Army Reserve, and I was worried about him. I phoned him to see if he was OK, and he was. His commander had put his unit on alert for the next 30 days.

I came home and picked up my daughter from school. A lot of kids were picked up earlier by their parents.

I asked my daughter if she was scared. She said, “Yes, but I’m still going to the fair tonight.” She said, “They’re not gonna tell me what to do.”

While she was at the fair I had to go to a meeting in Lancaster. When I got to Main Street, there was a boy on the street yelling, “Extra, extra, read all about it,” just like in the old days. The Lancaster Gazette had put

out a special edition. I still have it.

I came home and picked up my daughter.

My husband was in California at the time. He wasn’t going to call until Sept. 12. I wanted to call that night but I didn’t. I wasn’t going to let a terrorist attack change my plans.

I remember that during that day when I was driving, I kept my eyes on the sky for planes. I didn’t see any, and I was glad.

I was a nurse, and I worked 11 p.m.–7 a.m. When I got to work at the nursing home, I found out the daughter of one of my patients worked in Tower 1. I spent most of the night with her, waiting for news. At 6:30 a.m., her son-in-law called from New York to say that her daughter was sick, and didn’t go to work Sept. 11. It was a long night for her.

It was a long day for me.

## Betty Cather Logan, Ohio

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### I grew up in Logan and graduated from Logan High School.

When I married I moved to the Cleveland area and lived in a suburb of Cleveland. The day of 9/11 my husband was in the hospital for pre-op testing. They immediately put the hospital on lockdown. We were not allowed to leave, and there was no one allowed to come in. He was in a room for the pre-op

testing; I was out in the waiting room. They did allow me then to go back into the room where he was, because it was going to be quite a long time. The plane that circled, and that I assume is the one that crashed in the Pennsylvania field, was the plane that they were concerned about. And that's why they did the lockdown on the hospital, because had that plane hit in our area, then that hospital would have been needed for any treatment. So then we sat and watched the planes hit the towers on the TV, in his room... It was a little on the strange side

to be locked down into a hospital during that time. My husband understood exactly what was happening. He said, "We're under attack." And we and the doctors watched the towers go down, and then they let us leave at the end of the day. Up until then we were stuck there, period. My daughter-in-law lived in Maryland. She called my daughter who lived in our area to see if they had emptied the schools, so to speak; in their area they evacuated the schools. They told people to come and get their kids and get them out of there.

## Brenda L. Brown Athens, Ohio

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### I remember coming to work that day and doing ads, and it was just another day — or so I thought.

As I recall, there was a commotion in the newsroom and I saw everyone standing in front of the television that was in the newsroom for sports events and breaking news. Everyone was in shock, saying that planes had crashed into the World Trade Center.

I remember watching as the towers collapsed and people screaming and a scene of total chaos.

We watched in horror as people leapt to their deaths to keep from being burned alive from the fires created by the crashes. I can't imagine the shock of being in that situation and the gratefulness of those who made it out. And all the ones who sadly lost their lives, including the first responders who were trying to rescue those who were trapped.

It was a very sad day that will forever be etched in the minds of anyone who witnessed this terrorist attack against our country.

I think the thing that gave me hope throughout this horrific ordeal was the message from President George W. Bush, saying that "these acts of mass murder

were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong. ... This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. ... None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world."

We can never change the past, but we can't let our fear of another attack prevent us from getting on with our lives and striving to make the world a better place, even if it is just our little corner in it.

*Editor's note: Brenda Brown is a graphic designer for APG Ohio.*

# Doug Clifford

## Crooksville, Ohio

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**“Turn on your TV.  
You gotta see this.”**

Those words belonged to John Toeller, the K-8 teacher whose classroom was next door to mine. Well before John became the respected administrator who recently retired from the Crooksville K-8 School, he was an outstanding teacher and coach.

My classroom television was off because my students and I were involved in one of the unique lessons that took place in Fishing 181, as my middle school special education unit had come to be known. We were doing map studies, in which my students used highway maps of the 50 states to locate major cities, interstate highways, lakes, rivers, and neighboring states.

The maps and kids would be spread across the carpeted classroom floor as

shouts of discovery would spontaneously puncture the air. “Mr. C, Kentucky Lake is huge!” “The capital of Texas is a boy’s name!” “Have you ever seen the Rocky Mountains, Mr. Clifford?”

As much fun as it was to watch my students travel across this nation state map by state map, I could tell from John’s expression and tone of voice that something out of the ordinary was afoot on the television. When the screen showed a jet airliner rammed into the side of the Twin Towers, my first thought was it had to be a special effect for a new action movie.

When I keyed into the audio portion of the broadcast, the explanation made me feel as if our nation had been robbed of the security that America had always known. As the terrible events of that day mounted and thousands of lives were erased like the chalk on a classroom blackboard, I found

myself hearing the echoes of a long-ago American tragedy that took place in November 1963. I was a student then, but 9/11 found me in the role of the teacher.

While a presidential assassination stole a nation’s innocence, 9/11 took our security and buried it in the rubble of the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and the wreckage of a jetliner in a Pennsylvania field.

Inevitably, the teachers at Crooksville K-8 School did what they always did best, and that was to reassure our students as we progressed in the days following 9/11. However, I could not shake a nagging dread for the future. I realized this attack would become the war for the football players on my team and even the middle school students walking the halls of Crooksville K-8 School.

*Perry County Tribune outdoor writer  
Doug Clifford is a former teacher.*

# Judge Luann Cooperrider

## Perry County

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**It was a cool September morning, the kind where you wear a sweater in the morning and forget all about it by noon.**

My husband John Gillogly and I were walking our then young son Cooper to Thornville Elementary. We all said goodbye and said “have a great day!”

I then stopped for my usual cup of

coffee at Coop’s Corner and headed to the courthouse in New Lexington. As I walked into the courthouse that morning all of my staff were huddled around a small Sony Mega Watchman television watching what would be the most devastating moments in the history of our country.

We were shocked and saddened. Our country rallied around each other in our own way. Several years later in 2014 my adult college son Cooper and I decided to take a road trip. My husband, Cooper’s dad, had passed away suddenly in 2013. On the one-year anniversary of

John’s death we started our road trip.

On our way home from Washington D. C. and Gettysburg we found ourselves following the road to the Flight 93 National Memorial on the Lincoln Highway in Stoystown, Pa. This memorial commemorates the crash of United Airlines Flight 93, which was one of four aircraft hijacked in the Sept. 11 attacks. Our journey began as a way to grieve and create new memories within our own hearts. We ended our journey on that field on a hill in southwestern Pennsylvania remembering 40 heroes and proud to be Americans.

# Michael Jayne

## Pike County

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On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I was a young kid here in Waverly at Pike Christian Academy – naïve to the horrors about to take place a few hundred miles away.

I remember my teacher being brought a note from one of the school secretaries and a few hushed words were exchanged. A little bit later, I remember the same secretary returning with a second note. My teacher left the room crying and shortly afterwards, my classmates started leaving early as their parents rushed to pick them up. My parents were unable to pick me up early, and I was one of the last students left at school that day. My mind couldn't comprehend in the slightest what had happened and I didn't even have a second thought about it.

Later that day while at home, my parents sat me down and tried to explain to me what happened. They had both been in New York City a few weeks prior (on top of the World Trade Center even) and had brought me home a snow globe with the towers inside. They told me that the buildings had fallen down and that "some very bad men did some very bad things and a lot of people went to Heaven." A child, of course, does not fully understand what that means. I could tell that something bad had happened, but I didn't understand the impact of that day until many years later.

As we reflect on the 20th anniversary of this tragic event, a question to consider is this: How has this event impacted those individuals who are too young to remember a world before 9/11? I've come to realize that I'm part of an age group

that exists as the youngest Americans to have any memory of the attacks, even if it is not a clear or vivid memory. Those who were adults on 9/11 tend to remember exactly where they were when they saw the news footage or heard about the attacks. Those who were older children or teenagers might have memories similar to mine, but their memories are clearer, as they understood to an extent what was happening. Those that are younger than me, and were alive in 2001, have no memory at all of that day.

Studies show that 97% of Americans age 8 or older at the time can remember exactly where they were when they heard the news. In fact, many consider 9/11 to be the event that sets the Millennial generation, whose members were born between the early 1980s and mid-1990s, apart from the next one, Generation Z, born beginning in the late 1990s. Either you remember it and the emotion that goes with it or you don't, and if you don't, then you're in Gen Z.

Many younger Americans have grown up in a post-9/11 world, where developments like stricter airport security measures and the U.S. war on terror have always been a reality. They are unfamiliar with the ways that 9/11 changed the world and everyday life. When I myself became a teenager with a passion for history, I started to notice this.

Having always been fascinated with the events of that day, I've discovered many connections, even locally, such as a woman born and raised in Portsmouth who perished onboard the hijacked Flight 11 with her daughter; and that Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon, was steered off course by the hijackers in the skies over Pike County.

Now as an adult, I live in Dayton and work for American Airlines. I was forced



Michael Jayne.

to see the events of that day through a slightly different lens. Originally hired as a Flight Attendant, I worked on Sept. 11 of last year with a Captain and Flight Attendant who knew many of the crew members working on the four hijacked planes that morning. Through their stories, as well as my initial training, I developed a greater respect for the eight pilots and 25 flight attendants who died that day - who worked with passengers and ground support up until the very end to protect the civilians they served, and to thwart the hijackers' plans.

Recently I was promoted to Inflight Training Specialist and teaching new-hire Flight Attendants about the events of that day is now part of my job – from discussing the heroes of Flight 93 to explaining the creation of TSA and Homeland Security. While some of my students are older than me, many were born after that defining 21st century moment, so while the attack may seem like yesterday to those old enough to remember it, to many young adults, it's history.

9/11 changed our lives. It changed how we live — how we travel, how we regard foreigners, how we feel about one another — it changed our beloved country and the rest of the world, too. I think it's important to talk about it and to educate young people about that day because no matter how much time passes, even 20 years later, 9/11 still remains personal.

# Southern Ohio's connection to American Airlines Flight 77

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*By Corinne Colbert  
Athens NEWS / APG Ohio  
and Patrick Keck  
News Watchman / APG Ohio*

As residents of southern Ohio watched the news from New York with horror on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, another tragedy was beginning in the blue skies right over their heads.

American Airlines Flight 11 had taken off from Washington, D.C., at 8:20 a.m. It was a regular route to Los Angeles, and the flight's first half-hour unfolded as expected as the plane flew over Virginia and West Virginia before crossing the southern tip of Ohio.

At 8:51 a.m., the pilot acknowledged a

transmission from air traffic control.

At 8:54 a.m., 34 minutes after takeoff, American Airlines Flight 77 suddenly turned south toward Kentucky.

Sometime in those three minutes, terrorists gained control of Flight 77. The precise time and place of the hijacking are not known, but official sources indicate

that it occurred somewhere. The National Transportation Safety Board's Flight Path Study for Flight 77, dated February 19, 2002, identifies the hijacking on a point in southern Ohio, as does The 9/11 Commission Report.

Laying their maps over a map of Ohio counties places the hijacking and turn



GRAPHIC BY CORINNE COLBERT

This FBI map shows the flight paths for each of the hijacked flights. A map of Ohio counties has been added to show the approximate area where Flight 77 changed course — over Meigs, Pike and Scioto Counties.

toward Washington, D.C., over Meigs, Pike and Scioto counties.

The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, however, says that the hijacking likely took place in Kentucky.

While we may never know exactly where the hijacking began, we know how it ended. As air traffic controllers continued to try contacting the cockpit, the terrorists directed Flight 77 toward the Pentagon.

One of the passengers was Barbara Olson, wife of then-U.S. Solicitor General Ted Olson. She called her husband from the flight sometime between 9:16 a.m. and 9:26 a.m., telling him that the flight had been hijacked by men with knives and box cutters. She and all the passengers had been corralled in the back of the plane. When the call cut off, Mr. Olson tried to reach then-Attorney General John Ashcroft.

A few minutes later, Mrs. Olson was able to reconnect with her husband, who told her about the World Trade Center crashes. She remained calm and did not indicate that their plane would meet a similar fate.

At 9:29 a.m., the autopilot was disengaged. Controllers at Dulles airport noticed a target on their radar flying east at a high rate of speed.

At 9:34 a.m., the Secret Service was notified that an unknown aircraft was flying toward the White House. Around the same time, Flight 77 made a 330-degree turn that points it directly at the Pentagon. The terrorist pilot set the throttles to maximum and put the plane into a dive.

At 9:37:46 a.m., the plane plowed into the Pentagon at 530 miles per hour, killing six crew members, 53 innocent passengers

and five terrorists, and 120 people on the ground. The youngest victim was 3; the oldest, 71.

Seven years later, President George W. Bush dedicated the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial located just outside its Arlington, Virginia location.

The memorial includes benches inscribed with the name of each person who died that fateful day, to ensure that none of them will be forgotten.

“As we walk among the benches, we will remember there could have been many more lives lost. On a day when buildings fell, heroes rose,” Bush said. “We’ll always honor the heroes of 9/11. And here at this hallowed place, we pledge that we will never forget their sacrifice.”

And in southern Ohio — as everywhere around the world — a blue sky was never the same.



PHOTO BY STEVEN COLLINS

The National September 11 Memorial and Museum remembers victims' birthdays by placing flowers in their engraved names.

# Part 2: NOW

# *How 9/11 has improved*

# PUBLIC SAFETY at the local level

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*By Jim Phillips*

*Logan Daily News & Perry County Tribune / APG Ohio*

After 9/11, funds from the newly created Department of Homeland Security began flowing to states, counties and cities, allowing first responders to obtain many new resources — with mixed results.

A giant mobile communications unit, for example, provided by the feds for use by 11 southeastern Ohio counties, spent most of its time sitting in a garage, and was eventually rendered obsolete by the Multi-Agency Radio Communications Trunking System (MARCS), which allows many different agencies to communicate with each other on a designated radio bandwidth.

For the most part, though, 9/11 seems to have improved performance of local public safety agencies — though that improvement hasn't always focused purely

on stopping terrorism. Rather, the legacy of 9/11 for local police, fire and emergency personnel seems to have inspired broadly heightened vigilance, streamlined communication among agencies, and greater commitment to keeping tabs on communities to prevent crimes and disasters before they happen. And this legacy has gone beyond first responders, leading to increased preparedness among government offices in general.

Perry County 911 Supervisor Derrick Keylor, for example, noted that after 9/11,

the federal government began requiring every county agency to create a continuity of operations planning blueprint so local government will be ready to keep functioning through any type of major, widespread emergency.

“What it boils down to is, each county office had to develop a plan,” Keylor explained. “How would they stay open during a crisis? Let's use the auditor's office as an example. They would play a key role in any disaster locally; they're the county's financial arm. Their



FILE PHOTO BY DUSTIN FRANZ

Athens County sheriff's deputy Steve Sedwick posed with a Homeland Security-supplied mobile command center worth more than \$660,000 in 2021 currency.

responsibility would be to see that money from the county continues flowing downward, that employees still get paid.”

The auditor's office is also responsible for issuing checks related to the Department of Job and Family Services' Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) program, which provides work support and other services to low-income families.

“Every county office has to have a plan so that it can maintain its core services to the public,” Keylor said.

Perhaps the most immediate and practical improvement for local police, fire and emergency services has been the push for communications interoperability — a fancy term that means letting them all talk to each other easily via radio. Prior to 9/11, inter-agency communication was a Babel of different frequencies; 20 years later, the MARCS system has been widely adopted across the state.

“A severe inability to communicate between the responding agencies created significant confusion in coordinating rescue efforts during the 9/11 tragedy, and was one major learning experience for public safety agencies across the United States,” recalled Hocking County Sheriff Lanny North. A big part of Ohio's

response to this was to move forward energetically on MARCS; now, North said, “In Hocking County, nearly all public service agencies utilize MARCS.”

Local agencies have also, since 9/11, been doing a lot more thinking ahead about possible terrorist scenarios, and beefing up security for potential targets, including key infrastructure such as water and electric utilities.

Perry County's Keylor said the first step in this process was to review each facility and determine a risk level — “How vulnerable is it, not necessarily to attack but to infiltration?” The Village of Roseville, for example, once got all its drinking water from just four wells.

“In a terrorist attack, someone could have put something into any of those four wells, and the village had no ability to connect to another source for water,” Keylor pointed out. “So 9/11 made municipalities and governments go out and look at those weaknesses, and build plans on how to improve or protect their basic infrastructure.” Today the village buys its water from Muskingum County.

Potential targets might also include large, prepublicized gatherings of people, such as an Ohio University football game,

or Athens' annual uptown Halloween street party, which in its heyday would draw thousands of outdoor revelers into a small, tightly packed section of the city.

Since 9/11, Athens County Sheriff Rodney Smith said, “Every time we have a mass gathering, we park big trucks, so that somebody can't just run their cars through a big crowd. And we have officers on top of the buildings observing, just to make sure there are no mass shootings and we can react to that very quickly. We have armored vehicles, so if there is a sniper, say, in any town we can go in under fire and try to deal with the situation without getting a lot of people killed.”

One of the conclusions drawn after the 9/11 attacks was that they might have been prevented with better advance warning from intelligence gathering. That lesson has not been lost on local law enforcers, who say they pay more attention nowadays to collecting, and sharing with each other, the little bits of evidence that, when combined and analyzed, may alert them to a crime before it is committed. While this approach has on a few occasions put police onto the scent of an actual potential terrorist threat, it's more often been helpful in stopping more garden variety crimes or catching their perpetrators.

Sheriff North said 9/11 “gave local law enforcement agencies a new and heightened awareness towards terrorism, from both foreign and domestic terrorists. Through increased training, officer awareness of suspicious activities is more prevalent today... Officers are more prepared to respond and investigate these types of emergency situations.” He gave as an example the case of a Logan woman, who in 2019 was indicted on charges including aggravated arson and terrorism after she used an explosive device to set fire to the Hocking County Courthouse. Her cause was personal rather than ideological (a grievance over an ongoing legal battle), but the damage she caused was just as real as if she'd been politically motivated.

*Continued on next page >*

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Both North and Smith praised the Intelligence Liaison Officer program of the Ohio Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, which set up eight homeland security regions statewide. Partner agencies from the local, state and national level meet regularly and share intel and tips, gathered from a variety of sources including social media; the top area of focus is terrorism, but the data sharing also helps improve enforcement in other types of crime.

“With the technology and the software that we have now, there are crimes that we have solved that we wouldn't have known about 10 years ago,” Smith said. “We do DNA here now. So if we have a suspect in a crime we run DNA. There was a murder that we had in Chauncey. We knew about the murder on a Friday; they ran the DNA on a Monday; and we had a suspect Monday night.”

Smith added, however, that for him perhaps the most welcome impact of 9/11 on law enforcement has been an increased emphasis on community policing – staying in constant close touch with each individual community, to be aware of potential problems.

“If we have the pulse of each community and neighborhood, I think it builds trust... and lets us deal with community concerns more efficiently, and collect vital intelligence to deal with concerns including potential terrorist actions,” he said. “We’ve had situations where we’ve found somebody trying to build pipe bombs; things like that – just through community policing and knowing the pulse of your neighborhood and community, you find out things that you probably wouldn't know about if you weren't literally getting out of your car and talking to people.”

North said he thinks the biggest change 9/11 brought to law enforcement was “being aware that terrorism isn't something just seen in other countries; knowing that it can happen locally as well. That's why we train and prepare differently than we did before; if the need ever arises, we are better prepared to protect our communities.”



Two knives and an explosive device were seized from the apartment of a 31-year-old Logan woman in April 2019, after she was arrested in connection with an attack on the Hocking County Courthouse. She was later indicted on charges including one count of terrorism.

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A heart and initials drawn in condensation on the National September 11 Memorial in New York.

PHOTO BY STEVEN COLLINS

# The Next Generation

.....  
*By Keri Johnson*  
*Logan Daily News / APG Ohio*  
*and Alex Hulvalchick*  
*Athens Messenger / APG Ohio*

All history is contemporary history.

— *Benedetto Croce, Italian philosopher and historian*

History teachers and professors face common dilemmas regarding the September 11 attacks. For many, 9/11 is not history, but a vivid memory.

“I know it’s 20 years ago but on some level it’s very much in the present day,” said Ingo Trauschweizer, a history professor specializing in military history at Ohio University.

And yet as that day moves farther into the past, teachers must find ways to convey the sense of shock and explain profound changes that for their students are normal life.

Mark Chapman, a social studies teacher at Athens High School, remembers looking at his class one day during a lesson on 9/11 and thinking, “Holy cow, most of you weren’t even alive when that happened,” he said.

“It’s probably harder for students to understand how widely encompassing 9/11 was to all of our lives,” said Chapman. “The discussions we’re having as a country about the role of freedom versus security and how those two were going to co-mingle with each other.”

## *“Flashbulb memories”*

Emma Wright teaches American history and psychology at Federal Hocking High School in Athens County. She described 9/11 as a “flashbulb memory,” a vivid and enduring impression of an emotional or traumatic event.

“I don’t remember what we did the day before,” she said, “but I remember a lot of details (of that day).”

Wright, originally from Logan, remembers her middle school principal announcing that something had happened, and then watching classroom TVs airing the events as they unfolded.

“I remember feeling scared,” Wright said. “I thought about this family that my family had met on vacation who was from New York.... Before I understood what had happened, I was already making connections, like ‘Who do I know that’s there?’ It was terrifying.”

Jessica Pennington of Athens, also recalls watching the attack on the towers on a classroom TV. A high school freshman at the time, she witnessed the events during her world history class.

“We were just kinda sitting in class, going through notes, and another teacher came into our classroom and said, ‘Hey, turn on the TV,’” Pennington said. “So our teacher flipped on the TV and we just started watching. I remember seeing the second tower be hit and then the principal came around and told all the teachers to turn everything off. And then as soon as he was (gone), they turned it back on again.”

It was a shared experience of awe, Pennington said. At first, the attacks seemed like an accident. She recalls her peers being scared, “freaking out.”

Trauschweizer, on the other hand, didn’t hear about the attacks until hours later, when a friend called him. He had been studying for exams at the University of Maryland, only 15 miles from the Pentagon. Trauschweizer knew people who were in the Pentagon that day through his research, but his proximity to the attacks didn’t hit him until he ventured into the capital days later.

Wright’s was inspired to teach history in part because of what her teacher said to her that day.

“[She] said, ‘This will be in history textbooks for the rest of your life. It’s going to be with you forever,’” Wright recalls. “I remember being like, ‘Whoa, this is a big deal.’”

As a foreign student researching military history at the time, Trauschweizer had both an outsider’s and a professional’s perspective on how the attacks changed the way we think about war. Less than a week after the attacks, President George W. Bush first used the phrase “war on terror” in speaking about America’s response. Instead of a fighting a particular nation or other state actor, U.S. troops were fighting an idea — making the War on Terror hard to conceptualize, Trauschweizer said.

“There were all sorts of discussions immediately on campus and elsewhere about ‘Is it a war? Is it not a war?’” said Trauschweizer.

In his military history classes, Trauschweizer and his students explore 9/11 through the lens of the War on Terror as a whole. Discussions center around abstract topics like strategy, giving a buffer for students to make the topic less personal. Some students, though, have a deeply personal connection to the subject: On average, six students in Trauschweizer’s classes are veterans, most of them of the War on Terror. One

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The focus is less on the attacks themselves — for example, Wright said she avoids showing students footage of the events — but on their impact: the rise in hate crimes against Muslims, passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, the War on Terror, even economic uncertainty.

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Navy veteran, Trauschweizer recalls, told him that when they came back, veterans wanted a normal life that was not defined by their service in the war.

### *A new generation*

Chapman used to center his lessons on 9/11 around reflection and remembrance. Students would discuss where they were when they got the news and what impacts they saw in their own lives and the lives of those around them after the towers fell.

He, Wright and Pennington all said that because students no longer have first-hand experience or knowledge of the attacks, it’s more challenging to help students understand and connect with the impact of those events.

“It has an emotional charge with it,” Chapman said. “There was a real somber nature and students still have that out of respect, but it wasn’t that personal reflection.”

Although today’s students feel less emotionally attached to the event, teachers said, they often don’t realize how much they’ve been affected until the topic is addressed in class.

Personal stories are one way to make the events more real. Wright shares first-person accounts, like poems and stories. Pennington talks about her cousin, Tony, with whom she was very close. He was one of the first people she thought of as

she watched the attacks in 2001, because he was in the military. His unit mobilized within 24 hours, and he served tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq — the latter from which he did not return, she said.

The focus is less on the attacks themselves — for example, Wright said she avoids showing students footage of the events — but on their impact: the rise in hate crimes against Muslims, passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, the War on Terror, even economic uncertainty.

(Students may be able to relate more to 9/11 because of the coronavirus pandemic, Wright noted. Although it’s not a sudden, violent attack, the pandemic is also shared, world-changing traumatic event that has triggered increases in hate crimes, major economic changes and partial rethinkings of society, she said.)

Americans’ way of thinking represents one of the biggest changes from 9/11, according to Chapman. Americans “took security for granted” and didn’t often consider their home unsafe. After 9/11, that sense of security was essentially destroyed.

“People can look at textbooks and see pictures of Pearl Harbor or pictures from the Civil Rights Movement and students typically tend to think of that as ancient history for many of them,” said Chapman. “And so it’s trying to keep the memory of it alive in relation to current world events and everything.”

# The long road home from Ground Zero



*By Alex Hulvalchick  
Athens Messenger / APG Ohio*

Three Nelsonville firefighters were among the thousands of emergency personnel who traveled to New York to assist at Ground Zero following the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

Three Nelsonville firefighters were among the thousands of emergency personnel who traveled to New York to assist at Ground Zero following the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

In the 20 years since their service, one has since passed while another has become ill from the chemicals and debris he was exposed to.

Former Capt. Jeff Williams, Lt. Tim Carr and firefighter Bob Baughman raced to New York City the morning of Sept. 12, 2001, to assist in any way they could with rescue efforts. After eight hours of travel, their vehicle was the last one over the George Washington Bridge before the city was sealed.

Upon their arrival, the men asked firefighters on scene who they should be reporting to. The answer they got was nothing short of heartbreaking.

“They said, ‘They’re all dead. Everyone in charge is dead,’” Williams recalled in an article published by The Athens Messenger on Sept. 13, 2001. “So then I

asked, ‘What do you want us to do?’ and they said ‘start digging’ so we grabbed our tools and started digging.”

The men worked on 12-hour shifts, sifting through rubble searching for survivors and victims alike. The Athens Messenger reported at the time that search and rescue dogs were struggling to find survivors because the debris piles were so deep. Emergency personnel formed human chains to move rubble that was cut from larger pieces with hand tools. Once a few layers had been cleared, the dogs were able to search.

Heavy equipment was used to remove layers of debris in hopes of finding pockets where survivors could be found. Rescuers’ power saws burned up right away and were left in stacks by the rubble. Once all the saws had become useless, Williams said, volunteers began using their hands to dig through the piles of collapsed building material.

“We started with our hands and just kinda dug until my hands were bleeding. We just didn’t have anything that first night or day,” explained Williams.

By Friday, Sept. 14, the main task was finding the site of the former command center, Williams said in previous Messenger articles. The command center had been moved from its initial location due to safety concerns, only to be buried when the second tower collapsed. The possibility of finding firefighters and police personnel there was a driving factor in the search.

“We know where that was and know there were many firefighters in that area, we are trying to find them and get them out,” Williams told The Messenger.

On their first day on scene, Williams was there when two survivors were found — a development that lifted the spirits of rescuers, many of whom were searching the rubble for fallen comrades. Numerous New York City firefighters and officers were in the towers assisting civilians when they collapsed. According to Williams, about 200 New York firefighters had been lost, including their chief.

*Continued on page 50 >*



PHOTOS THIS & NEXT PAGE BY SAMANTHA TAYLOR

The Nelsonville Fire Department holds a remembrance ceremony each September 11, a recognition of the department's personal ties to the attacks. In these file photos, a Nelsonville fire truck hoists the United States flag over the Public Square on Sept. 11, 2017. Then city firefighters and emergency responders salute during a moment of silence.



“Nothing, nothing can prepare you for this,” Carr told the Messenger in 2001. “The pictures running on CNN don't even begin to do this justice.”

The three men returned to Nelsonville in early October, but Williams was called back to the pile by rescuers he had impressed. He stayed two weeks in New York City, working alongside city emergency personnel.

“They just put me in their gear, gave me their radios, just took me in,” said Williams. “Like I was just a brother. Like I was a New York firefighter.”

Williams returned to Ground Zero six times to assist with the cleanup and was with the same three firefighters on each trip. Each year around the anniversary of the attacks, Williams meets up with those three firefighters. The men hunt deer together and catch up, sometimes in New York and sometimes in Ohio. Williams says seeing them is what helps him the most.

### *Paying a price*

Those reunions are increasingly precious as time passes, not only because the men are aging but because Ground Zero first responders were exposed to more than 2,500 toxic substances including diesel fuel, asbestos, lead, crystalline silica and hydrogen sulfide.

“You have to remember that everything in the whole world that was ever, ever made burnt at the same time,” said Williams. “And when that smoke was coming up, there was different compounds and elements that were made that they didn't even know about.”

Dr. David Prezant, chief medical officer and co-director of the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, reported in 2015 that more than 2,100 Fire Department of New York first responders were on disability for ailments connected to 9/11. Most of those illnesses were respiratory or cancer.

Tom Woods of the FDNY said that of 7,000 firefighters who worked at Ground Zero in 2001, only 1,500 are alive today.



The flag hangs over a bell in the Nelsonville Public Square. The bell, which belongs to the Nelsonville Fire Department, was used in the remembrance ceremony.

Among those who have died is Carr, who committed suicide in 2009; he had been Nelsonville fire chief for six years. (Baughman did not return calls or messages asking for comment for this story.)

Of Williams' group of four men, three — including Williams — have experienced 9/11-related illness. One has stomach cancer; another has bladder cancer. Currently, all three men are in remission and “all still here and kicking,” Williams said.

Williams' lungs are damaged, as are his joints. Doctors believe that he breathed in cadmium, which is deteriorating the cartilage in his joints. Williams was told in 2011 he would likely be wheelchair-bound within three years. Since his diagnosis, Williams has made yearly trips to Panama to receive placental stem cell treatments he says enable him to remain mobile.

“Whenever God wants me to go, I'll go but I'll tell you what, I'd go back and do it again,” said Williams. “It defined my whole life.”

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## Editor's Note

By Corinne Colbert

*This column was originally published in the Sept. 13, 2001, edition of the Athens NEWS. Terry was the editor of the NEWS at the time; he was still editor in 2019, when he reprinted it for the attacks' 18th anniversary. "I still think it's a worthy message even though nobody in a position of authority listened the first time," he wrote then.*

*At 9:45 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush was aboard Air Force One, speaking to Vice President Dick Cheney by phone. Notes of the call recorded Bush stating, "We're at war ... somebody's going to pay."*

*The War on Terror that began with the invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001 has cost more than 1 million lives.*

*The vast majority of those were civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.*

*More than 7,000 American service members have died in post-9/11 military operations. Over three times as many post-9/11 service veterans have died by suicide.*

*Osama bin Laden eluded capture for almost 10 years before he was killed by U.S. Navy SEALs in Pakistan.*

*The last week of this publication's production coincided with the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, ending 20 years of war.*

*The Taliban once again controls Afghanistan.*

*"Never forget," we say. To which we might add: "Never again."*

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# Don't lose the human perspective

.....  
By Terry Smith

On an Internet newsgroup, a parent from Hoboken, New Jersey, posted a message shortly after noon on Tuesday. She jerked into sharp, personal focus the impossible tragedy that had been playing out all day on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

"A lot of my daughter's friends' parents work in the World Trade Center," she wrote. "When I went down to the school, it was mayhem... A bunch of kids had walked over to the river to watch. Who can blame them, but it gave me a heart attack."

It broke my heart, too, to visualize children watching their parents die.

Let's not forget the human lives destroyed Tuesday, Sept. 11, or their families who are grieving.

Let's not send those thousands of victims of terrorism through an ideological rendering plant, transforming skin, blood, heart and soul into abstract hatred, pretexts and polemics.

Let's not commit the same monstrous crime that the terrorists committed, in negating human life, in pursuit of a lifeless ideal.

Let's not avoid looking at our own

foreign policies that elevate political gamesmanship above flesh and blood, and fuel the sort of cold, killing hatred that was wrought on America Tuesday morning.

Let's beware the cold calculations that utilize numbers instead of names, and employ mundane terms like "collateral damage" as stand-ins for the slaughter of innocents, whether they're passengers on a jet airliner or hungry children in Iraq.

Let's find the fiends responsible for Tuesday's terror, and those who harbored them, and make them pay for what they've done. But let's avoid indiscriminate retaliation that kills the innocent, and recklessly unleashes the gods of war.

Is that asking too much? Will too much care in exacting justice prevent the accomplishment of that justice? Perhaps, but taking exquisite care that we're precise in our retaliation, however severe its execution, will show the world and ourselves that we're not terrorists. It will provide a shining counterpoint to the psychosis of abstraction that allows fanatical terrorists to fly a fully loaded airline into a crowded skyscraper,

in apparent pursuit of a demented formula for salvation.

As a school assignment, my sixth-grade daughter was asked to write her own feelings about the tragedy Tuesday evening. This is part of what she wrote:

"Every day I hope for world peace. I hope someday we will all be equal, and there will be no more fighting, killing or anything else of that kind. The world won't be the same anymore... The way the feeling will live inside of me will be a memory I won't want to remember. People who had family in those buildings or on those airplanes will never be the same. This is the first thing in my lifetime that will be history."

Most of our lives will be changed by Tuesday's events. Our children's, too. Unimaginable pain for the survivors and their families, and heartbreak for all of us.

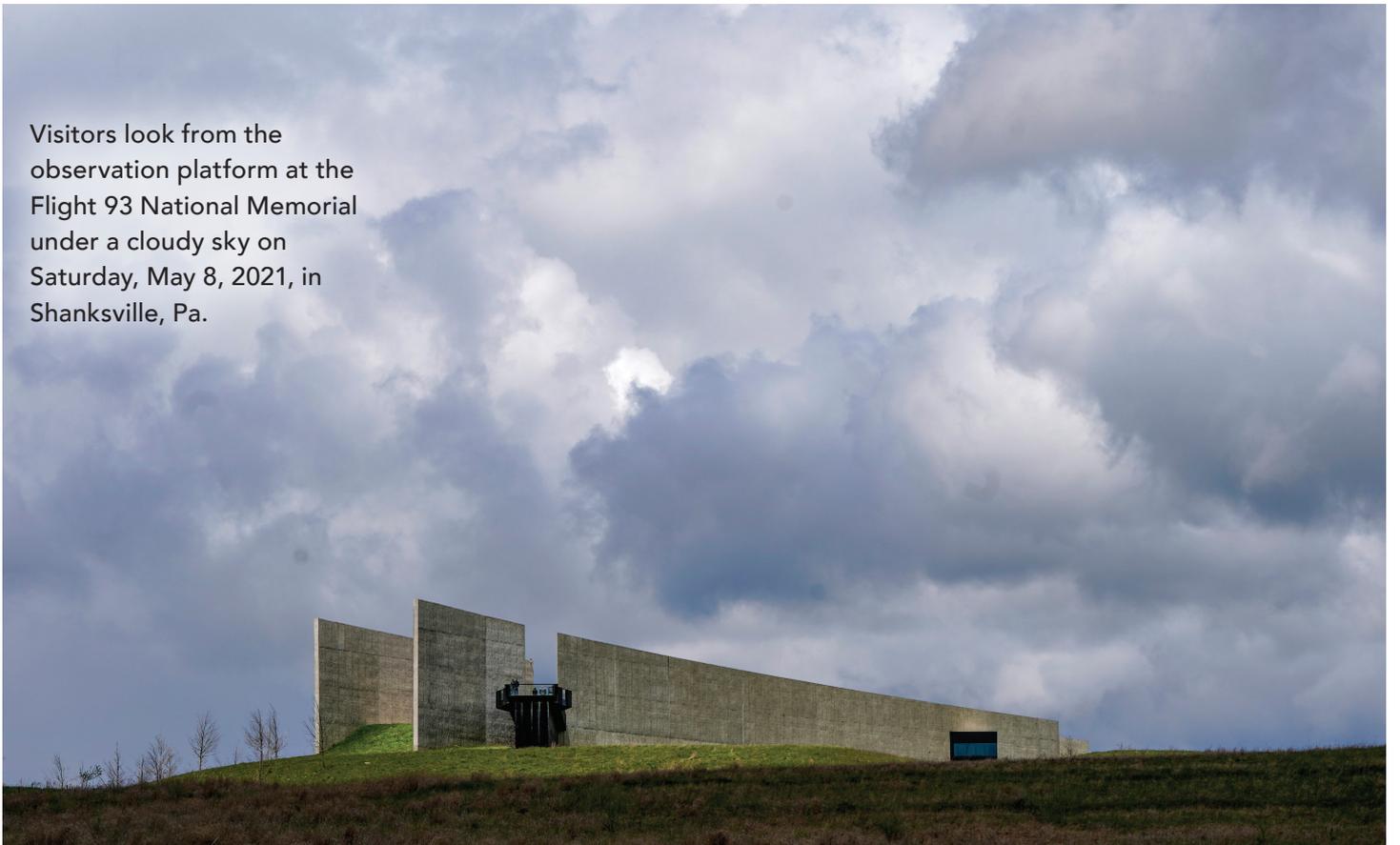
We must find a way to bring justice to those who committed Tuesday's attack, and anyone who aided them. But let us never forget the horrific consequences of valuing an untouchable, unlovable ideal above innocent human life.



A woman reaches for of the benches of the Pentagon Memorial at the Pentagon in Washington on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014.

AP PHOTO BY PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS

Visitors look from the observation platform at the Flight 93 National Memorial under a cloudy sky on Saturday, May 8, 2021, in Shanksville, Pa.

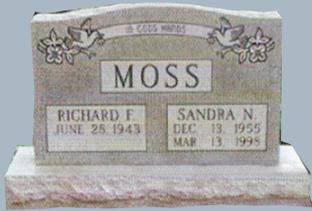


AP PHOTO BY KEITH SRAKOCIC

One World Trade Center  
soars over the site of the  
fallen towers.



PHOTO BY STEVEN COLLINS



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