

Stand With Courage
One Nation, One Spirit
September 11, 2002

A Moment of Remembrance Vigil for the Faithful

WELCOME REMARKS

My fellow Americans, I am _____ (name, title)_____. Welcome to the Stand With Courage vigil sponsored by the (Name of organization) and the White House Commission on Remembrance. Lending support to make this event possible are: _____ (Last names and/or organization)_____.

This day, Americans and freedom-loving people across this country are gathering. We have come together to remember the victims of the terrorist attacks on our country one year ago today. We vividly remember the clouds of smoke staining the morning sky in New York City, Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania. Suddenly, the voices of thousands of innocent men, women, and children were silenced by these acts of terrorism. In the wake of these assaults, America responded with extraordinary bravery, love, and generosity for our fallen brethren. We are here to renew our commitment to their memory and affirm that they did not die in vain.

We invite the children here to please step forward and lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

Please join us to sing our National Anthem.

(NATIONAL ANTHEM)

BRIEF REMARKS

At the dawn of our independence, when our forefathers were still fighting for our nation's freedom, Thomas Paine urged those facing "the times that try men's souls" to turn their hardship to their own advantage. "The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph," he said. "What we obtain too cheap[ly], we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value." These words remain true today as we courageously move forward to the challenges we now face.

We are a people of infinite spirit. When Americans suffered a staggering blow one year ago today, we reached into the great reservoir of our nation's soul to gather strength and resolve to move forward despite our fears. Today, we gather to remember the victims, to honor those who exhibited great courage and renew our determination.

Now, with respect and honor, we remember:

- Those who died at the World Trade Center (**Bell rings**)
- Those who died at the Pentagon (**Bell rings**)
- Those who died on United Flight 93 in Pennsylvania (**Bell rings**)

We renew our unwavering commitment to the memory of those we have lost. In conclusion to this Moment of Remembrance Vigil, please keep your candles lighted as we sing “God Bless America.” Thank you for joining us in this act of national unity, and remember to continue to let your light shine, displaying to all nations the unity and power of the American spirit, which—though it may be challenged—can never be extinguished. Continue to “Stand With Courage.”

(GOD BLESS AMERICA)