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PROVIDED BY DENNIS ULMER

Good Evening Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager

I'm Dennis Ulmer, Fort Lauderdale resident and I'd like to speak about remembering September 11, 2001. It's been twelve years since that day of horror that we will never forget.

Across America on the East Coast most of us were at work, when we heard that an airplane had struck one of the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and soon a airliner struck the second tower, at that moment our lives changed forever. For our worst fears had come to pass, and we all knew that this was no accident. The President of the United States on a trip here in Florida to visit a school, was advised that it was not safe to immediately return to our Nation's Capital. America was under attack.

Police and firefighters raced to the burning World Trade Center to help those trapped and we all know what happened that day when the buildings collapsed. Airliners also struck the Pentagon and all were lost on Flight 93 when the passengers tried to overtake the terrorists and their plane crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the three attacks. As the horror sent in, we were all in shock. All airplane traffic had been stopped. America was deeply wounded.

It wasn't long however that we as a united America began to do what we always do in the face of great national tragedy. We come together and unite as one. We quickly resolved that the terrorists would not win. We were wounded that September Day, but America's resolve has always triumphed over evil, and so it did once again after September 11<sup>th</sup>. For we are the United States of America.

Those who died that day are remembered as heroes. They were not soldiers in a war, they were people at work or, going about their everyday routine, until the terrorists struck, and then the first responders who tried to help, were killed doing heroic acts to try to save the survivors.

It is fitting that today at two of the memorials, the one at the site of the former World Trade Center Buildings, has the names of those lost that day engraved on the perimeter marble wall of the two reflecting pools and water falls. Those waterfalls with their constant running water reminds us that those lost that day are remembered for the noise of the flowing water, is their voices. In Shanksville, PA, the memorial will have a 93 foot tower of voices. With forty wind chimes, one for each hero, to forever remind us that their voices will not be silenced either. The memorials also have trees, and their leaves blowing in the wind also remind us their voices beckon us to remember.

I think the families of the fallen on September 11<sup>th</sup>, wanted the elements in the memorials to echo as voices of those who were lost to them and us on that day. For by the noise that we hear at the memorials we will forever be reminded that the terrorists did not win, for those who are our heroes of that fateful day, will never be silent and we will remember them always. For when we do, it is that reminder that we are united as a people and terror will never deter us from our quest for freedom. So not only on September 11<sup>th</sup>, but every day, let us remember and hear the noise, hear their voices, for those who died and were injured, will never be forgotten, and we will always, always, remember our resolve as a great nation as we honor our heroes as well.

As the Mayor previously mentioned, The Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum will hold a brief remembrance ceremony on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 AM at the restored Fire Museum located at 1022 West Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, I hope that those listening will plan to attend.

May God Bless America, and keep us safe from harm.

Thank you.