

September 11, 2001 Timelines

September 11th, 2001 was a day that drastically changed and shaped both our nation and the world. Many of you reading this timeline can recall the significant ways in which life differed prior to this infamous date and the post-911 world in which we live today. However, some of us, those of our generation and newer- cannot fully grasp the gravity of these changes as we have only just grown up in a post-911 era. May this timeline be an enduring reminder for all of us to never forget the price of our freedom. Always remember September 11th.

At 8:46 AM American Airlines Flight 11, Boston to Los Angeles with 92 people onboard, crashes into the north tower of the [World Trade Center](#)

Sergeant Sean Day from the NJ State Police barracks in Bridgeton announced to his troopers that a plane had hit the World Trade Center.

Several Troopers gathered around the TV wondering how this could happen.

At 9:03 AM United Airlines Flight 175, Boston to Los Angeles with 65 people onboard, flies into the south tower of the World Trade Center

Immediately after the second tower was hit Cumberland County Emergency Response Officials assembled at the Emergency Operations Center without a call.

Troopers from the Bridgeton Barracks knew immediately that the second plane crashing into the South Tower was intentional.

Troopers from around our State responded by driving northward towards New York City.

The City was in gridlock, and a command was given to stand down so that a coordinated effort could take place.

NJ Marine Police were being wounded by boat to the NJ side of the Hudson River for medical attention.

Troopers Andy Pizzo and David Elwell were selected from the Bridgeton Barracks.

There was one slot to be filled so they flipped a coin to determine who would serve.

Trooper Pizzo won the coin flip.

Fire, EMS and Police units from Cumberland County assembled and responded to Liberty State Park at the request of State Emergency Operations Center.

9:37:46: American Flight 77 crashes into the western side of the Pentagon and starts a violent fire.

The section of the Pentagon that was hit consisted mainly of newly [renovated](#) and unoccupied offices. All 64 people on board are killed, as are 125 Pentagon personnel.

9:45: [United States airspace](#) is [shut down](#).

No civilian aircraft is allowed to take off, and all aircraft in flight are ordered to land at the nearest airport as soon as possible.

All international flights headed for the U.S. are redirected to [Canada](#) and [Mexico](#).

Canada halts all aircraft departures until further notice, except for police, military, and humanitarian flights, as part of [Operation Yellow Ribbon](#).

The operation was well underway as international flights headed for the U.S. had already started to land at Canadian airports, beginning at [CFB Goose Bay](#).

Fourteen other airports follow, including [Halifax](#), [Lester B. Pearson](#) in Toronto, [Montréal-Dorval](#), and [Vancouver](#).

THANK YOU CANADA

At 9:48AM the U.S. Capitol and the West Wing of the White House are evacuated.

The Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management secures all airfields in Cumberland County.

At 9:50AM we watched in horror and disbelief as the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

At 9:58AM an emergency operator in Pennsylvania receives a call from a passenger on United Flight 93, with 45 people on board, stating the plane was being hijacked.

Later reports indicate that passengers had learned about the World Trade Center and Pentagon crashes from their cell phones.

Three passengers on that flight were planning on resisting the hijackers and one of them was Todd Beamer.

Todd's voice was heard on an open phone line by a GTE operator just before the crash,

“ARE YOU GUYS READY, LET’S ROLL”

The resistance was confirmed by Flight 93's cockpit voice recording, on which the hijackers are heard making their decision to down the plane before the passengers succeeded in breaching the cockpit door.

At 10:00 AM Flight 93 crashes in Shanksville, PA.

At 10:29 AM the North tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani orders lower Manhattan evacuated at 11:00AM.

11:40AM the US Military is put on nuclear alert.

Fourteen people, including twelve firefighters were in a section of a stairwell in the North Tower that held together during the collapse.

They managed to climb the stairs to safety and emerged on top of the [Ground Zero](#) rubble field.

At 2:51PM the U.S. Military deploys missile destroyers and other equipment in New York and Washington DC.

7:00PM Efforts to locate survivors in the rubble that had been the twin towers continue.

Fleets of ambulances are lined up to transport the injured to nearby hospitals, but they stand empty.

The site of the World Trade Center collapse becomes known henceforth as Ground Zero.

It is the exclusive domain of New York City's [Fire Department](#) and [Police Department](#), despite volunteer steel and construction workers who stand ready to move large quantities of debris quickly.

Relatives and friends of victims or likely victims, many displaying enlarged photographs of the missing printed on home computer printers appeared around New York.

The New York Armory at Lexington Avenue and 26th Street and Union Square Park at 14th Street and Broadway becomes the center of a vigil.

At 8:41PM President Bush addresses the nation, vowing to punish those responsible for the "evil acts of terrorism on our nation."

"Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts,"

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America".

“These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve”

"The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts...we will make *no* distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

11:30: Before sleeping, President Bush enters into his journal:

"The [Pearl Harbor](#) of the 21st century took place today...We think it's Osama bin Laden."¹

Sept 14th President Bush's Speech from a rubble pile at Ground Zero:

Thank you all. I want you all to know ...

I want you all to know that American today, America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here,

for the workers who work here, for the families who mourn.

The nation stands with the good people of New York City and New Jersey and Connecticut as we mourn the loss of thousands of our citizens.

Rescue Worker: I can't hear you!

President Bush: I can hear you! I can hear you! The rest of the world hears you! And the people -- and the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon!

Our lives and the way we lived our lives had changed forever.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, *The Tonight Show* was off the air for about a week, as were most similar programs.

The first post-9/11 episode began with a still image of an American flag and a subdued opening without the usual opening credits. Leno's monologue paid tribute to those who lost their lives and to firefighters, police and rescue workers across the US.

Major League Baseball was cancelled through September 16th.

Ten days after the attacks, Mayor Giuliani was on hand at Shea Stadium for the first professional sporting event held in New York City, applauding from behind home plate as the Mets took the field against the Atlanta Braves.

Mayor Giuliani wore a split FDNY and NYPD cap that night,

We all became New York fans for the night.

The first Philadelphia Eagles game was quite different.

The usual chant from the fans was replaced with U.S.A, U.S.A.

Our freedom of travel changed and the TSA was born.

Many of our high school graduates were compelled by renewed patriotism to join our Armed Forces.

We all felt a renewed sense of Patriotism as we came together as a nation.

There was a new found respect and admiration for our first responders, firemen and policemen.

As evidence of this we are here today to celebrate the lives of those we lost and to honor those here today.

On May 1, 2011 we received some long awaited good news.

Thank you Navy Seal Team 6