

SPECIAL EDITION

# VANGUARD

Virginia Air National Guard

192nd Fighter Wing

October 2001





## ABOUT the VANGUARD

*This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for the U.S. military service. Its content does not necessarily reflect the views of, nor are they necessarily endorsed by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or the Virginia Air National Guard.*

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*Check out the electronic Vanguard on the base Intranet.*

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© The Record (Bergen County, NJ)

Photo by Thomas E. Franklin

Staff Photographer



## GOD BLESS AMERICA, LAND THAT I LOVE

The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon are historical events that will be permanently etched in human memory. Like Pearl Harbor, September 11, 2001 is "a day that will live in infamy." Every person who witnessed these events unfold will remember where they were and what they were doing, on that day, at that moment. Life for all Americans has been changed forever.

My reaction as I witnessed these horrific events was mixed. Initially, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It was surreal. It was bigger than life. Hollywood couldn't create such emotion and drama with its best special effects. My emotions went from disbelief to sadness and anger. Over the following days, however, it was inspiring to see so much goodness coming out of such tragedy. I've never witnessed so many acts of heroism and love: firemen, rescue workers, police, military members, clergy and volunteers toiling through 24-hour shifts on a "search and rescue" effort. Every American wants to help. Citizens are standing in line all over the country to give blood. Americans are flying flags on an unprecedented scale. Many citizens are having difficulty buying a flag. The stores have sold out. Political leaders, both Republicans and Democrats, are united. The image of them standing on the Capitol steps singing "God Bless America" is indelibly etched in my memory.

Patriotism is at an all-time high. Americans are united in a common cause, protecting our sacred

liberties, our values and our way of life. No force on earth can diminish our national will and patriotic spirit. History has proven that fact, and we will continue that legacy. Americans are a freedom-loving people who will prevail over any threat to our way of life. We are strong and have the fortitude, courage and resolve to stand up against the forces of evil.

Tragic events in history shape our world. This event will shape America in a positive way. We will be stronger, more united and more determined. Goodness will overcome evil. We will show the world that we stand for righteous causes and will take actions to ensure that our children will inherit a safe and secure future.

In a speech at the "Last Reunion" of our WWII heroes a year ago, I said, "Most people watch history unfold, but the 352nd Fighter Group made history." Now, it is time for the Virginia Air National Guard to make history. We have trained hard. We are ready, willing and able to perform any mission given to us by the National Command Authority.

I've never been prouder to be an American. I've never been prouder to wear the uniform. It's my great honor to serve with you in a cause that will

keep  
America  
strong and  
safe for our  
children and  
future  
generations.  
There is no  
higher  
calling!

Col. Stephen  
R. Hicks  
Wing  
Commander



Photo by TSgt Ken Wright, 192 CF

## **Thrift Savings Plan, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance**

Beginning Oct. 9, members of the uniformed services may enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) during a special 60-day enrollment period. For details, see the TSP Web site at [www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html](http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html).

The Veteran's Opportunities Act of 2001 extends life insurance coverage to spouses and children of members insured under the SGLI program, effective Nov. 1. The cost of the premium will automatically be deducted from your Nov. 1 military paycheck, unless the necessary form is completed with the Military Personnel Flight. If you are married and currently insured under the SGLI program, see the Life Insurance Program Web site [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov). There is no premium for the automatic \$10,000 coverage for dependent children.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE: IF YOU DO NOT COME IN TO THE MPF OFFICE TO DECLINE THE INSURANCE, OR REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE CHARGED FOR 120 DAYS, AS OF NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2001. IN ORDER NOT TO BE CHARGED, YOU MUST COME TO THE MPF DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER TO MAKE YOUR ELECTIONS.**

### **203d Memorial Golf Tournament**

A golf tournament will be held at Oceana Naval Air Station on Thursday, Oct. 18, to help finance a memorial honoring the 21 National Guard members killed in a plane crash in March.

The memorial will be erected in front of the 203d Red Horse Headquarters Building at Camp Pendleton. It will recognize the service and ultimate sacrifice paid by the crash victims, 18 members of the 203<sup>rd</sup> Red Horse Flight and three members of the Florida Army National Guard.

The Red Horse contingent was returning from Hurlburt Field, Fla., to its home base in Virginia Beach on March 3 aboard a Florida National Guard C-23 Sherpa when the plane went down in rural Georgia, killing all aboard.

The parklike memorial will include a path meandering through 21 trees – each tree representing one of the fallen Guardsmen. A central waterfall/pond will feature a fiberglass statue of a horse kneeling in front of a granite monument bearing 21 names, a bronze Minuteman statue, and a number of bronze plaques.

The Air Force has provided a substantial portion of the cost for the memorial, but an additional \$50,000 is still needed.

The golf tournament will be held at the Aeropines Golf Club at Oceana NAS. To register, call MSgt. Keith James at 1-757-437-4680, or e-mail him at [keith.james@varich.ang.af.mil](mailto:keith.james@varich.ang.af.mil). A Web site with information on the tournament is <http://www.varich.ang.af.mil/memorial.pdf>.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the memorial fund in other ways may contact CMSgt. William S. "Sandy" Fuller, 203rd Red Horse Flight/DPX, P.O. Box 180, Camp Pendleton, Bldg 204, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23458-0180. His e-mail address is [william.fuller@varich.ang.af.mil](mailto:william.fuller@varich.ang.af.mil).

### **ChalleNGe Prom Volunteers Needed**

The next ChalleNGe prom party will be Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach. The ChalleNGe Program is designed to help high school dropouts get their lives back on track, complete a high school general equivalency diploma program, and receive money for follow-on education and job training.

The Virginia Air National Guard hosts the party twice each year (December and June) for the graduating classes. Anyone interested in helping is invited to attend the planning meeting at the VaANG State Headquarters on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 3 p.m. For details, call 1Lt. Toni Vanderspiegel, Ext. 6012.



## **Your Reemployment Rights**

By Maj. Craig A. Carpenter, 192 FW/JA

Because of the tragic events of Sept. 11 and call-up of many of our unit members, it is important to have a basic understanding of your re-employment rights. The governing law is the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, or USERRA. It prohibits discrimination based on military service or military service obligations, and provides you with the right to return to your civilian job.

Most civilian jobs are covered by USERRA. The only exception is if your job is truly a temporary position. USERRA applies to all private employers, state governments, and all branches of the federal government. Unless precluded by military necessity, you must provide advance notice of your military leave to your employer. While this notice may be oral, it is recommended that you protect your rights by sending a letter by certified mail return receipt requested, or by having your employer sign your copy of your letter to acknowledge receipt.

You can be gone from your civilian job for up to a total of five years. Most periodic and special National Guard training does not count toward the five-year total.

If you are gone for 30 days or less, you must report back to work the first shift which begins after a safe travel time from your duty site plus eight hours to rest. If you are gone 31 to 180 days, you must provide written notice asking for re-employment within 14 days of completing your military service. If you are gone 181 days or more, you have 90 days.

Under USERRA, you have protections both while you are gone and when you return to work. If you ask for it, your employer must continue to carry you and your family on the company health plan at the normal cost to you for 30 days. The military TRICARE system does not cover members for tours of 30 days or less. You may obtain up to 18 months of additional health care coverage from your employer, but your employer is allowed to pass the full cost, including the company's share, on to you. When you return to your job, you and your family are entitled to go back on the company health plan immediately without any new waiting periods.

If you are gone less than 30 days, you should get your job back immediately. After longer periods of service, you normally should get your job back within a few days after notifying your employer of your return. When you are re-employed, you return to your job at the pay rate and seniority level you would have obtained had you not left. This means, if your peers got promotions and pay raises while you were gone, you get them too.

Your employer is required to train you on any new equipment or techniques, refresh your skills, and accommodate any service-connected disability. USERRA does not require private employers to pay you or allow additional vacation time to accrue during your absence.

Other federal and state laws may affect your rights and benefits, and if you are an employee of a federal or state agency, you may be entitled to additional rights and benefits. For example, if you are an employee of a federal agency you have the right to take up to 120 hours (or 15 days) of paid military leave each year. A recent change in federal law allows this leave to be taken on an hour-for-hour basis, instead of a day-for-day basis.

Limited information about USERRA is available at the base legal office in Room 9 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Useful Web sites are [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org), [www.osc.gov/userra.htm](http://www.osc.gov/userra.htm) and [www.dol.gov/dol/vets/](http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets/). For unresolved issues the Virginia ombudsman coordinator for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is George R. Aldhizer (540) 434-0316 or [galdhize@wawlaw.com](mailto:galdhize@wawlaw.com).

## **Chaplain Services**

The chaplain offices are here to provide a number of services to our members in time of need. From dealing with the stress of the current situation to any personal issues that may come up as a result of a possible call up. If you need to get in touch with them please call them at 804-236-6387.

## What Does It All Mean?

by Chaplain (Capt.) Edward Moran

First came the horror in the realization that we were not watching the work of some "special effects" team for an upcoming action movie. Then came the sense of great danger as we thought of all those trapped people and how many would never get out. Then came great sadness as the body count started coming in and we began to hear from loved ones of the missing. As it became clearer that we were seeing large-scale acts of terrorism, we may have asked ourselves, "What does this all mean?"

For some people familiar with anti-terrorist training, the scenarios we train for have suddenly become real, leaving our minds and hearts reeling. Some of us have reacted with predictable anger, vengeance and desire for retribution. Some are trying to deal with the effects of the ensuing mobilization that has placed great stress on spouses and employers alike. Newscasters have left us wondering, "What *can* this all mean?" Can a senseless act of terror against innocent people have any meaning beyond the obvious political statements? A chaplain tries to look deeper.

A deeper answer to the question comes from a level we often forget. Faith in God can help us derive wisdom from this tragedy. We heard this as a theme throughout the

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***"Faith will help us live constructively with the grief and give a new meaning to whatever sadness we may feel."***

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National Memorial Service on Friday the 14th at the National Cathedral in Washington.

People of faith, when confronted by such events, might ask themselves why God would allow such horror. To be sure, the early Church asked the same question when confronted with the death of Jesus Christ. It took time and history to show us how God used His crucifixion to draw good from evil. In the early Church, what became evident were the effects of the Resurrection that became a catalyst for a worldwide movement of evangelization. It will take the same time and history to show us what God intends to draw out of such heinous acts of terrorism.

Some effects, however, were immediate. For the first time since Pearl Harbor, Americans have come together with a renewed sense of unity. The extensive show of the American flag reveals how deeply we feel as a country in responding to this act of aggression. A genuine and unabashed sense of patriotism is unmistakable. To these effects also come the stream of volunteers, donations of blood, corporate gifts and free supplies to rescuers and emergency teams that reveal the noble spirit of self-sacrifice that has made our country great and preserved our freedoms.

Perhaps it is characteristic of us



*A firefighter stands under the flag of Two World Trade Center and wonders where to begin Sept. 15, 2001, New York City.  
(U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Eric J. Tilford)*

as a people that our best comes out when we are confronted with a crisis. If we can see these immediate effects with the eyes of faith, we will certainly be ready to discern the long-term effects. Faith can give us a renewed confidence that Divine Providence will help us deal with the stress of mobilization so we can move to accomplish whatever mission we may receive. It will steady our resolve to persevere, and give us the freedom to let

go of the trivial as our priorities change. Faith will help us live constructively with the grief and give a new meaning to whatever sadness we may feel.

Take time this week to pray often. Our President has given us a great example. Reacquaint yourself with a faith community if you have fallen out of practice with weekly church attendance. This is an opportunity for the kind of renewal that has made us great as a people so that the words "In God We Trust" can truly mean something once again.

Don't let the significance of these days slip by or be missed in all of the increased demands of the day. As an old Sunday School teacher once said to me, "If you pray, you will be ready for whatever comes your way."



# Osama bin Laden:



In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York and Northern Virginia, millions of Americans are asking one broad question: Why? What's Osama bin Laden got against us?

The first step to understanding the "why" behind the attacks is to understand a little about the suspected "who" that perpetrated them. Bin Laden is a shadowy figure born around 1955 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He's the youngest son of some 50+ children of Muhammed bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi construction magnate of Yemeni origin.

In 1979 bin Laden received a civil engineering degree from a Saudi university. He left Saudi Arabia that same year to fight against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. He received CIA training and set up training camps for Mujahedeen rebels during that 10-year conflict. In the mid-1980s he helped found a group to funnel money and fighters to Afghanistan. Egyptians, Lebanese, Turks and others joined these Afghan Muslims in the struggle against a Soviet ideology that spurned religion.

In 1988, bin Laden established al Qaeda — "The Base" — now considered a worldwide terror organization with an estimated 3,000 members. The avowed goal of al Qaeda is to "unite all Muslims and

establish a government which follows the rule of the Caliphs (the immediate successors of Mohammed)," according to a U.S. government fact sheet on the organization. Al Qaeda seeks to overthrow nearly all Muslim governments, because bin Laden regards most of them as corrupted by Western influences. It also wants to liberate Islam's three holiest places — Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, and Jerusalem.

After the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, bin Laden turned his attention to the United States and its allies in the Middle East. He also worked against the Saudi royal family. He was ordered out of Saudi Arabia because of anti-government activities in 1991. When he left Saudi Arabia, bin Laden took refuge in Sudan and there he set up businesses and staged international terrorist activities. In 1996, Sudan expelled bin Laden due to threats of U.N. sanctions for his complicity in an attempt to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. After being ousted from Sudan he set up base camp in Afghanistan where he has been since.

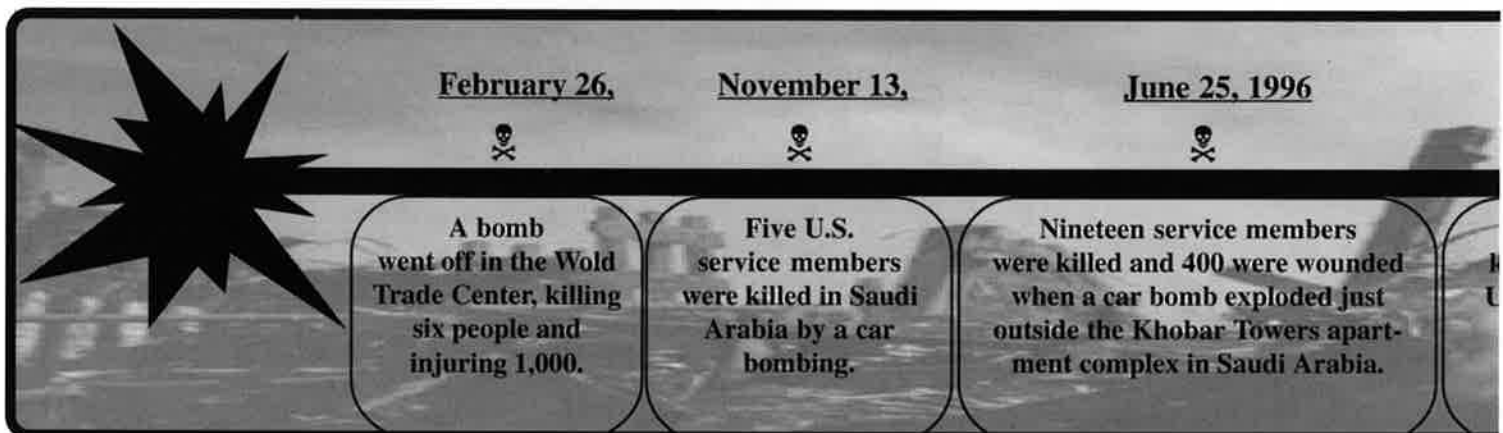
What is his particular grievance against the United States? According to CNN's Peter Bergen, author of a forthcoming book on bin Laden, *Holy War, Inc.*, bin Laden is most enraged by the American military presence in Saudi Arabia. Bin Laden was incensed when the Saudis invited U.S. troops to their defense after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Bin Laden—like many Muslims—considers the continued presence of these armed "infidels" in Saudi Arabia the greatest possible desecration of the holy land. Bergen says that is why he sponsored bombings of the American



Port side view showing the damage sustained by the Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer USS Cole. DoD photo.



The site of the 2 Khobar Towers apartment complex in Saudi Arabia, which killed others at Dha



# War With America

military facilities in Saudi Arabia, why he has tried to destabilize the Saudi government, and why the embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed on Aug. 7, 1998—eight years to the

day after the first American troops were dispatched to Saudi Arabia.

Bin Laden is also furious about American support for Israel. He detests Jews and views the United States as the Jewish lackey. (“[Jews] believe that all humans are created for their use, and they found that the Americans are the best-created beings for that use,” bin Laden has said.) His supporters seem particularly exercised by Israel’s reaction to the current intifada or uprising, Bergen says. Bin Laden also can’t tolerate American alliances with moderate Arab governments in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

It is important to note that mainstream Muslims denounce bin Laden’s bloody-mindedness. He and his allies are part of a

minority sect and follow a very strict Sunni Islam. Bin Laden and his followers are alarming, experts say, because they don’t want anything from us. They don’t want our sympathy. They want no material thing we can offer them. They don’t want to participate in the community of nations. They are motivated by religion, not politics.

“Allah ordered

terrorist truck bombing of United States military living quarters during Operation Southern Watch in Saudi Arabia. DoD photo.



Workers clear debris and rubble following the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in downtown Nairobi, Kenya. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Joe Bela)



us in this region to purify the Muslim land of all non-believers, and especially in the Arabian Peninsula...,” bin Laden told ABC-TV’s John Miller in 1998 at an undisclosed location in Afghanistan.

“Being killed for Allah’s cause is a great honor achieved by only those who are the elite of the nation. We love this kind of death for Allah’s cause as much as you like to live. We have nothing to fear for. It is something we wish for,” he told CNN’s Peter Arnett in 1997.

The Sept. 11 attacks underscored those statements. “These men hate the United States with all of their being, and we must not underestimate the power of their moral commitment,” said Dr. Tony Kern, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and former director of military history at USAF Academy. “Napoleon, perhaps the world’s greatest combination of soldier and statesman, stated ‘the moral is to the physical as three is to one.’ Our enemies are willing— better said anxious—to give their lives for their cause.

We as American service members have pledged to give our lives if necessary in defense of our country and what it stands for. The stage is set and the eyes of the world are watching. This could be our finest hour.

August 7, 1998



People were killed in the bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Late 1999



A terrorist was captured trying to enter the U.S. from the Canadian border in the Pacific Northwest in late 1999 just before the millennium celebration. The alleged target: Los Angeles International Airport.

October 12,



A small boat containing a suicide bomber pulled up alongside the destroyer USS Cole anchored in the port of Aden, Yemen. The bomb blew a hole in the Cole, killing 17 sailors and wounding 39.

More assaults and incidents against Americans in the past decade ↗

VANGUARD  
October 2001

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# A Single Airplane Symbol of Change

By David Bradley  
The Loudoun Easterner  
(reprinted with permission)

Tuesday night a plane flew over our office. In the old world that was such a common occurrence that I would not have noticed it. Living and working within a few miles of one of the world's largest airports we saw, heard and felt international flights taking off and landing every day. Their comings and goings were a part of that hectic, humming world we all lived in prior to Sept. 11.

Two Tuesdays ago, after I finished writing what became a depressing laundry list of acts our friends and neighbors were forced to take to try to protect us from an unknown enemy, I stepped out into what was the last warm, clear summer night we'll see for quite some time. The sky was like black satin: smooth, dark, marked only by the glimmering pin pricks of a thousand stars.

In the old world that sky would have been filled with dozens of lights from planes coming in and out of Dulles Airport. Instead there was a single light winking off and on to me from 20 thousand feet up. It traveled in a long oval, beginning directly overhead, traveling east almost to the horizon, somewhere near Washington and the Pentagon, and then back again. And again. And again.

It was my moment of clarity, the first time I felt the chilling elbow of this war dig itself into my ribs. Suddenly what separated me from all the horrors of that day was a lone fighter patrolling the night sky over my little patch of suburbia.

Since then I've tried to spend

extra time with my kids. We've gone camping, played a lot of games, and talked about the horrible things I'd hoped I'd never have to discuss with children. Trying to explain why

anyone would fly an airplane into a skyscraper to a little girl normally more concerned with ice cream and cartoons is even more difficult than it sounds.

Last night I sat down with my children and watched my favorite kids video, "The Iron Giant," the story of a mysterious 100-foot robot who comes to earth and befriends a young boy, Hogarth. The Giant has incredible power. He is virtually indestructible, but only uses his massive weaponry in self-defense. I love the story because it's funny, it's smart, and it demonstrates in a subtle but unmistakable way that we can all choose between good and evil.

"You be what you decide to be," Hogarth tells the Iron Giant, as the robot struggles between the temptation to be horrific weapon or a Superman. In the end the Giant decides it is better to die a super hero rather than to live the life of a killer.

"I am not a gun," the Iron Giant decides, hurling himself against an oncoming missile, knowing he may die in his effort to save Hogarth and his town. "I am Superman."

This war we've been pulled in to won't be won by brave talk or by flag waving, as well-intentioned and important to our own morale as they may be. It will be won by men and women all over the

world who have made the decision to become super heroes. They will risk their lives to do what they know must be done to make the world a safer, saner place.

It's a new world and, at least for now, it's not a very pretty one. There may be other horrors to come, other nightmares out of a clear blue sky meant to split us apart, break down our will, and dull the sharp edge of our current resolve.

If our resolve, our determination and our deeds in the coming days don't match the strength of the proud words we speak today, neither will be worth much in the long run. If we can not stick together over the long road that lays ahead of us, then we will lose the war. It's that simple.

So let us be resolved, and remain resolved. Let us stay together, through all the good and all the bad that is surely to come. Let us keep in mind, and appreciate, and support, all of those people who do all the things that keep this country as wonderful as it is.

To that pilot patrolling the night sky over Virginia at the end of a day when so many of us wanted to crawl into our beds and hide our heads, I say thank you. From a man who never had to wear a uniform or fire a weapon in battle, but has learned to understand all that that entails and all it has given to me and my family, thank you.

You are Superman.





# We'll Go Forward From This Moment

By Leonard Pitts  
The Miami Herald  
(reprinted with permission)

It's my job to have something to say.

They pay me to provide words that help make sense of that which troubles the American soul. But in this moment of airless shock when hot tears sting disbelieving eyes, the only thing I can find to say, the only words that seem to fit, must be addressed to the unknown author of this suffering.

You monster. You beast. You unspeakable bastard.

What lesson did you hope to teach us by your coward's attack on our World Trade Center, our Pentagon, us? What was it you hoped we would learn? Whatever it was, please know that you failed.

*Did you want us to respect your cause?* You just damned your cause.

*Did you want to make us fear?* You just steeled our resolve.

*Did you want to tear us apart?* You just brought us together.

Let me tell you about my people. We are a vast and quarrelsome family, a family rent by racial, social, political and class division, but a family nonetheless. We're frivolous, yes, capable of expending tremendous emotional energy on pop cultural minutiae — a singer's revealing dress, a ball team's misfortune, a cartoon mouse. We're

wealthy, too, spoiled by the ready availability of trinkets and material goods, and maybe because of that, we walk through life with a certain sense of blithe entitlement. We are fundamentally decent, though — peace-loving and compassionate. We struggle to know the right thing and to do it. And we are, the overwhelming majority of us, people of faith, believers in a just and loving God.

Some people — you, perhaps — think that any or all of this makes us weak. You're mistaken. We are not weak. Indeed, we are strong in ways that cannot be measured by arsenals.

## IN PAIN

Yes, we're in pain now. We are in mourning and we are in shock. We're still grappling with the unreality of the awful thing you did, still working to make ourselves understand that this isn't a special effect from some Hollywood blockbuster, isn't the plot development from a Tom Clancy novel. Both in terms of the awful scope of their ambition and the probable final death toll, your attacks are likely to go down as the worst acts of terrorism in the history of the United States and, probably, the history of the world. You've bloodied us as we have never been bloodied before.

But there's a gulf of difference between making us bloody and making us fall. This is the lesson Japan was taught to its bitter sorrow the last time anyone hit us this hard, the last time anyone brought us such abrupt and monumental pain. When roused, we are righteous in our outrage, terrible in our force. When provoked by this level of barbarism, we will bear any

suffering, pay any cost, go to any length, in the pursuit of justice.

I tell you this without fear of contradiction. I know my people, as you, I think, do not. What I know reassures me. It also causes me to tremble with dread of the future. In the days to come, there will be recrimination and accusation, fingers pointing to determine whose failure allowed this to happen and what can be done to prevent it from happening again. There will be heightened security, misguided talk of revoking basic freedoms. We'll go forward from this moment sobered, chastened, sad. But determined, too. Unimaginably determined.

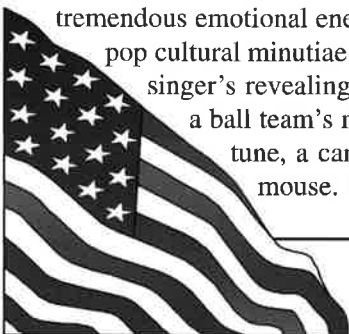
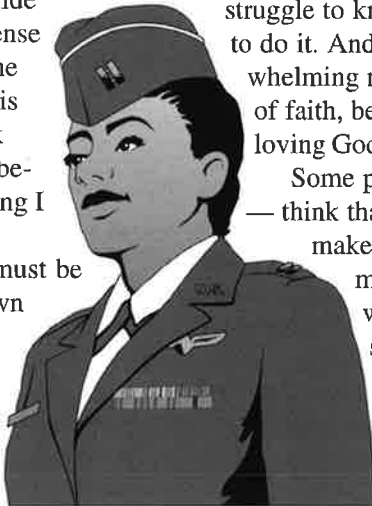
## THE STEEL IN US

You see, the steel in us is not always readily apparent. That aspect of our character is seldom understood by people who don't know us well. On this day, the family's bickering is put on hold.

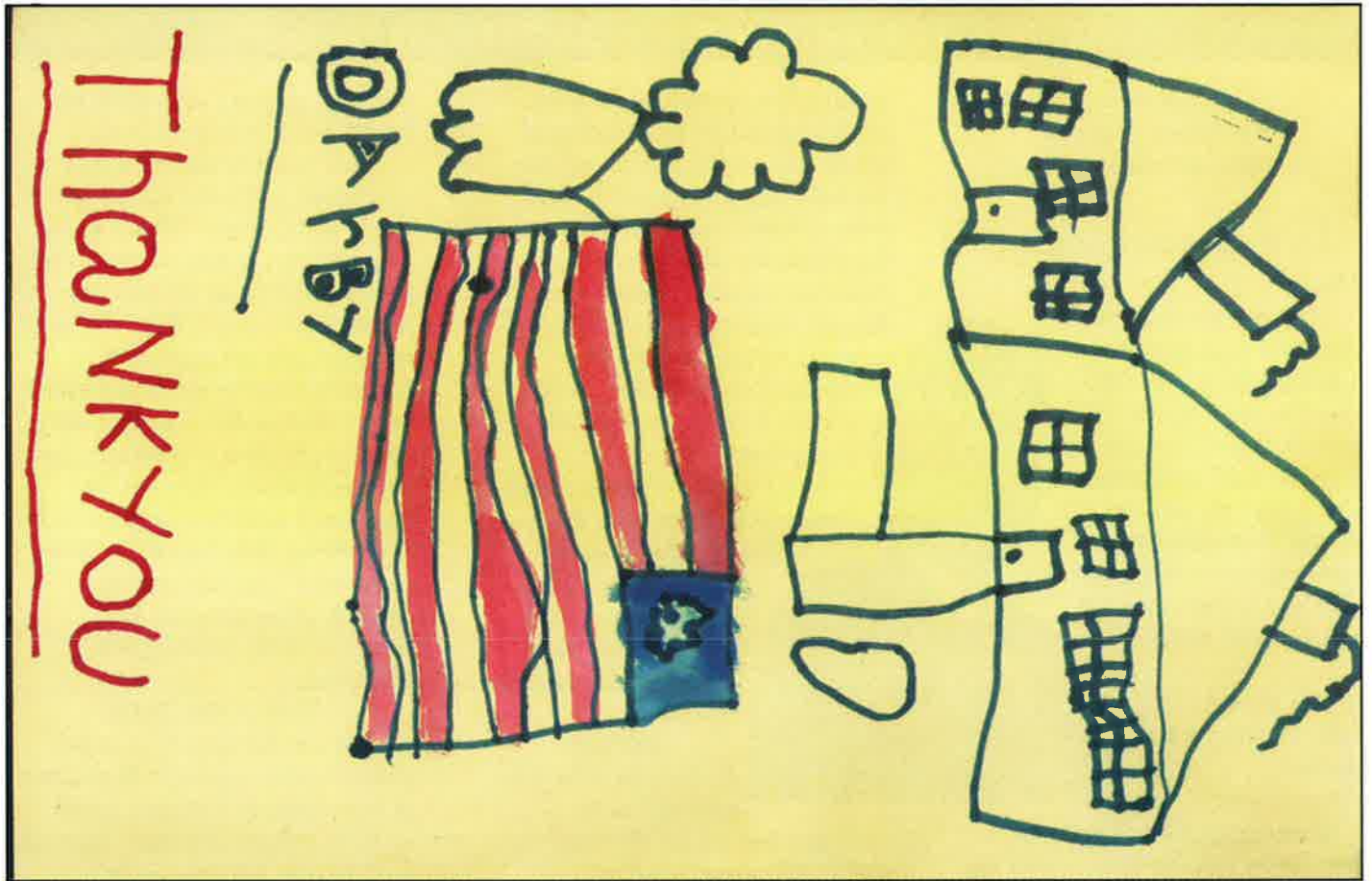
As Americans we will weep, as Americans we will mourn, and as Americans, we will rise in defense of all that we cherish.

So I ask again: What was it you hoped to teach us? It occurs to me that maybe you just wanted us to know the depths of your hatred. If that's the case, consider the message received. And take this message in exchange: You don't know my people. You don't know what we're capable of. You don't know what you just started.

But you're about to learn.



*This drawing was dropped off at the front gate guard shack a few days after the Sept. 11 attacks.*



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