

that we witnessed, all that we have experienced—on that day and the days following.

That is what we remember all across America today.

In my home State of South Dakota, there will be a number of small services, including a memorial ceremony at Mount Rushmore.

In Seattle, WA, citizens will march to a downtown fountain that became the city's unofficial memorial after September 11. Thousands of flowers had been left there. Those flowers were gathered by the city and composted. Each marcher will receive a bulb, in mulch generated by the original memorial flowers, to plant.

Birmingham, AL, is dedicating a new memorial walk. San Francisco is unfurling a 5-mile long banner along the city's coastline.

From Portland, ME, to Portland, OR, people are pausing, and paying tribute. All tolled, more than 200 communities are holding events of some kind. In one way or another, all Americans have the opportunity to commemorate our Nation's loss.

And, of course, some people will simply go about their business—and that in itself is a powerful testimonial to our ability to go on.

Today is also a day to remember that our national tragedy is the combination of thousands of individual tragedies.

I think that sentiment was best stated by Janny Scott, a reporter on the Metro desk of the New York Times, who was responsible for assembling a number of the "Portraits of Grief" that sought to capture the essence of each of the victims.

She wrote about "the individual humanity swallowed up by the dehumanizing vastness of the toll," and what she called "the preciousness of each life's path."

This morning, in New York, former Mayor Giuliani began the process of reading the names of everyone who perished on that day. If one name is read every 5 seconds, it will take over 4 hours to list every loss.

We also remember the individual acts of heroism: Firefighters who rushed up to help others get down; the passengers and flight attendants on flight 93, who showed us that we don't ever have to surrender to evil.

Seeing their selflessness inspired something similar in all of us. In South Dakota, one ranch couple—themselves struggling—sold \$40,000 worth of cattle and donated the proceeds to the victims. Similar acts of selflessness took place all over the country. Millions of hands reached out to those who had lost so much, until, by the act of reaching out and grieving, and remembering, we all came shoulder to shoulder as we understood the extraordinary nature of the loss.

The terrorists who brought down the World Trade Center thought they could shake the foundation of this country. They didn't understand that the foun-

dation isn't concrete and steel; it is our people, it is our commitment—our commitment—to freedom and democracy, and to each other.

So today, we remember those we lost, and we rededicate ourselves to preserving the memory of their lives, and to defeating the terror that took them.

Our military men and women in Afghanistan and those fighting terror around the globe carry with them our pride, and our hopes.

In the most fateful struggles in human history, freedom has triumphed over the worst forms of tyranny, and we will defeat the tyranny of terror as well.

On March 11, 6 months after the attack, Valerie Webb, a 12-year-old who had lost her only living parent in the World Trade Center, flipped a switch, sending two towers of light rising into the darkness over Lower Manhattan.

Someone compared that memorial to a national votive candle. Others compared it to the lives that were lost: beautiful, powerful, and fleeting. On April 14, as planned, that temporary memorial was extinguished.

At sunset tonight, in Battery Park, New York's mayor will light a flame to commemorate the victims of that day. Unlike the towers of light, that flame will not be extinguished—it will be eternal.

That flame will burn within sight of another eternal flame—the symbolic flame from the torch held by the Statue of Liberty.

Those two eternal flames carry with them two eternal promises.

The torch held by the Statue of Liberty is our Nation's promise that we will never yield in our determination to be a light to all those who seek freedom.

And the flame that will be lit tonight is our promise that though we may be slowly, steadily walking the path from remembrance to recovery—we will never forget.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN RECOGNITION OF THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the hour of 12 noon having arrived, the Senate will now observe a moment of silence in recognition of the events of September 11, 2001.

(Thereupon, the Senate observed a moment of silence.)

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CARNAHAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I was very proud of the efforts of Alaskans in response to the disaster on September 11 of last year. Although we are thousands of miles from New York, they immediately reacted.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, later this afternoon in my home State of Vermont, the chief judge of the Federal district court, Judge William Sessions, will have an immigration ceremony, and I might say that I can't think of anything more fitting. We will have memorials and other events throughout the State of Vermont today, just as we will in other States.

Many of us had been at the Pentagon earlier this morning, heard the moving statements, and saw the resolve of the men and women who protect this Nation. We heard our President and Secretary of Defense and others.

It is right that throughout the country we have different events to mark this occasion.

I want to especially compliment Judge Sessions for what he is doing in Vermont. If there is anything that speaks to the resiliency of this Nation, the greatness of this Nation, it is welcoming immigrants, saying our borders are not sealed, our borders are open.

We want to welcome people who will continue to make this country great, just as did my paternal great-grandparents and my maternal great-grandparents who came to this country not speaking any English but who sought employment and a new life. My grandfathers were stone cutters in Vermont, immigrant stock. My wife was the first generation of her family to be born here in the United States. It is immigrants who have made this Nation strong.

What Judge Sessions is doing is telling us that our borders and our country and our arms are still open to the mix of people from throughout the world who will continue to give us the diversity we need, just as our Constitution gives us diversity and guarantees that diversity in the first amendment. We now have new Americans who will be here with the same rights and privileges the rest of us have, and the Nation will be a better place for it.

I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I know a lot of Senators wish to be heard. While I won't ask unanimous consent that this be done, I would urge that the Chair recognize members of both parties in alternating fashion to