

There were no phones. No cars. No way to get back home to his flat except to walk. And so he walked. He walked 18 miles, back to his apartment. When he arrived his girlfriend was home mourning his death. And when she opened the door, Jeff—covered in dust—looked like a ghost. They stood crying at one another. And then, he dropped to one knee and he asked her to marry him. That is how he answered the question, “what do you do now?”

In the days and years since, they have married. They have a son. Jeff has left the glamorous lifestyle of high finance and show business, for a quiet life in a small town, where he teaches math. He has committed to the things that matter most to him: his wife, his child, his community, and to educating the next generation. He can never make sense of that day, and he will never be able to accept why he was spared when so many other good people perished. But in the days and weeks that have followed he has rededicated himself to doing the things they might have done if they had lived: living a free and good life.

Each day since that terrible day offers each of us the chance to do good things that help others. In the face of the question of September 12—what do I do now? There is no answer other than: I will be better.

In the 10 years since September 11, survivors of terrorism around the world have struggled just as Jeff has to understand what happened, and why, and how to stop it from happening again. Free people have come together from New York to Nairobi, Bali to Belfast, Mumbai to Manila, Lahore to London, and many other places and nations afflicted by terrorism. We have all been more careful at our borders. We have been more aware in our intelligence. We have been more aggressive in our response to terror.

But we have been more than that. We have looked inward; and we have looked outward. We have been more inclusive of religions—learning each others traditions, hosting Iftars together, celebrating Ramadan and renewing our commitment to religious tolerance. We shared our thoughts and hopes and beliefs even more freely through our political processes. We innovated and built new ways to communicate—social media—that connected us to more people around the world than ever before in human history. We made more friends. And we invested more than ever in our alliances and in our communities around the world. We gave more aid. We supported more charities. We welcomed new Countries like South Sudan. And we celebrated the spirit of democracy among the people of Tunisia and other nations in this Arab Spring.

We fought even harder against agents of hate, and fear, and intolerance wherever they lived. Tens of thousands of us have served this cause, often putting our lives at risk in difficult and dangerous places. We've lost some of our best and bravest men and women. And all of us have invested billions of dollars to save the world from killers like Osama Bin Laden, and those who followed his sick beliefs.

The terrorists wanted us to respond in terror—to be afraid to live as we had, and to believe as we did. In the 10 years that have followed, we have done just the opposite. We went back into our office buildings. We went back onto our airplanes. We came together in our temples, and churches, and Mosques. We lined up at our ballot boxes. We volunteered to serve our nations. And we gathered publicly without fear, whether to enjoy the simple pleasures of a football game, or a concert, or a barbeque. And we came together each year on this day to remember those who we lost, and to rededicate our lives in their memory.

Today members of the Embassy did not mourn. They went to the Arboretum and planted new trees to make the world cleaner and more beautiful. They ran around Lake Burley Griffin to raise money to help those suffering from heart disease. We joined with our Australian friends to volunteer at homeless shelters, and with organizations throughout this City to live the principles and freedoms we cherish.

Around the world, we resisted the natural instinct of people when attacked to withdraw and close off; our response has been to reach out and embrace.

Confronted with hate, we choose not to hate.

Confronted with death, we choose to live.

Confronted with fear, we choose to hope.

We have done, as Jeff did 10 years ago tonight. Faced with unimaginable fear and death, he knelt to pledge his faith in love.

Thank you.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND HARVEST
FOODBANK OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin and to honor all those who worked to make this exceptional food bank successful over the last quarter century.

In the summer of 1984, the dream of a food bank in Dane County became a reality when the Southern Wisconsin Regional Foodbank, Inc., eventually renamed Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, was created. It wasn't until 1986 that the first warehouse was established in Madison, but by the end of the year nearly three million pounds of food had been donated to 85 partner organizations. Over the next two decades, the food bank saw an explosion of increased services and growth, including countless new partnerships and programs, awards, and food distribution topping 6.8 million pounds by 2009.

Today, Second Harvest works hard to address the issue of hunger in our community. They handle 20,000 pounds of food per day, distributing over 8 million pounds through 350 partner agencies in sixteen Wisconsin counties annually. Second Harvest also operates services like the Kids Café and the Backpack programs, which provide food, nourishment, and health education to children. These programs are essential because statistics show that over 43% of those who do not have access to adequate amounts and types of healthy foods are children. Furthermore, the food bank operates thirty Mobile Pantry Program sites and has a long-standing partnership with the local NBC affiliate for their annual holiday food drive, providing an additional 1.5 million meals for families facing hunger.

Over the years, numerous people helped to make Second Harvest Foodbank an ongoing success. Today, a dedicated board of directors and admirable staff work to assist over 141,000 people in southwestern Wisconsin who continue to lack proper nutrition. It is without a doubt, however, that the impact that Second Harvest makes on our community

would not be possible without the ongoing generosity of volunteers. These inspirational and essential workers average over 5,000 hours of monthly service, equaling the work of 30 full-time employees. Further, each hour of donated time equals 63 meals, and with over 62,000 hours donated volunteers have helped share more than 3.9 million meals.

It is hard to overstate the positive impact that Second Harvest has had and will continue to have on our community. For the fifth year in a row, Charity Navigator rated Second Harvest with four stars, highlighting its commitment to returning 94 cents of every dollar donated back to support the charity. Last year, with the help of so many donations, the food bank shared over 8.1 million pounds of food and each of their five different programs saw great success and growth.

In the words of Second Harvest's President and CEO, Dan Stein, “It is possible to end hunger.” From Juneau to Green County, Crawford to Jefferson County and everywhere in between, Second Harvest has been a beacon of hope for our community and a model for charitable organizations. I proudly join those across Southern Wisconsin, the entire state, and the nation in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Second Harvest Foodbank and in thanking the employees, volunteers, and donors for their exemplary service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER LAFAYETTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR BEING NAMED NATIONAL CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday September 13, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for being named National Chamber of the Year by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.

This distinguished honor is awarded to chambers with superior member relations, operation management, and leadership within their community. The Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has excelled in these areas over the past year. Panel members and former award recipients around the country determine which chambers are deemed most worthy to receive this title. I am very pleased our Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce was ranked as the best in the United States this year.

On August 4th, 2011, Lafayette's chamber was informed of this monumental accomplishment. This is the chamber's second national honor this year. Before receiving National Chamber of the Year, the Lafayette Chamber was given five stars by the United States Chamber of Commerce. Only one percent of chambers in the entire United States can claim this elite ranking.

The chamber's contributions to Lafayette and the surrounding areas continue to foster development and stability in the business arena. I thank them for their continued efforts to strengthen our community. The chamber is absolutely deserving of this esteemed award. On behalf of the people of South Louisiana, I offer my sincere congratulations.