

9 – 11 – Senator Faulkner

Thank you, Mr Clune.

Today, September eleventh, we remember a day of fear, and of great sadness.

A day of shock and disbelief, of grief.

A day, too, of courage, of heroism.

A day on which the very worst in human nature was met with the very best. When so many rushed to help those in danger, at the risk and for some at the cost of their own lives. When stranger comforted stranger, when the international community set aside differences to stand together with the United States and the more than ninety other countries whose citizens died on that day.

Eight years ago, the people of New York and Washington, of the United States, and of so many, many countries around the world, countered the tactics of terror with bravery, with kindness for each other and with resolute determination to ensure a more peaceful and more secure future, for our own nations and around the world.

Australia and the United States have been partners in that effort – as we have been for more than sixty years.

The Bali bombings, and the recent bomb blasts in Jakarta in July, have been stark reminders for Australians that geographical distance is no guarantee in today's borderless struggle; that the tragedy of September 11, 2001 was not an isolated act, and that terrorism's aims are not military or strategic, but purely and simply to cause harm for the sake of harm and fear for the sake of fear.

Today, as we remain resolute in our determination to build a future in which people around the world can live in safety, in freedom, in peace and prosperity, we remember those who died on September 11, 2001 – and those who have died since, both victims of acts of terrorism and members of our emergency services, as well as the armed forces of Australia, the United States, and many other nations.

They, and their families, are in our thoughts today.