

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA**

For Immediate Release

September 11, 2009

**REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
BY CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I. DANIEL A. CLUNE
AT THE SEPTEMBER 11TH COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY**

Embassy of the United States of America
Canberra, Australia

9:40 A.M.

Minister of Defense Senator John Faulkner, Deputy Leader of the Opposition the Honorable Julie Bishop, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, Acting Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Gillian Bird, Representatives of the Christian, Islamic, and Jewish faiths; Representatives of the Australian Capital Territory Fire Brigade and of the Australian Federal Police; members of the Embassy family, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you all for joining us today to mark the eighth anniversary of the attacks of September 11th.

Today, Americans and friends are gathered at the site of the New York World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, in Pennsylvania, here, and at hundreds of other places around the globe to mark the anniversary of the attacks.

We gather to remember the victims and the heroes—to grieve for the nearly 3,000 innocent people who perished – including ten Australians – and to honor the valiant acts of courage and sacrifice of rescue workers, flight crews and passengers who showed great strength and bravery. Some sacrificed their lives. For this, we offer our respect and thanks.

Last week, in a proclamation declaring National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, President Obama spoke of the victims. He said:

They were daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, spouses and partners, family and friends, colleagues and strangers. They hailed from cities and towns across our Nation and world. On September 11, 2001, thousands of innocent women and men were taken from us, and their loss leaves an emptiness in our hearts.

Hundreds perished as planes struck the skyline of New York City, the structure of the Pentagon, and the grass of Pennsylvania. In the

immediate aftermath of these tragedies, many victims died as they sought safety.

Selflessly placing themselves in danger, first responders, members of the Armed Forces, and private citizens made the ultimate sacrifice working to assist others. During the National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, Americans across the country cherish the memory of all those who passed and honor and pray for their families and friends.

Americans also remember and pray for the safety and success of the members of the United States Armed Forces, who work every day to keep our Nation safe from terrorism and other threats to our security.

Military members assisted those in need on September 11, 2001, and serve now in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. They have left the safety of home so that our Nation might be more secure. They have endured great sacrifice so that we might enjoy the blessings of liberty.

Our service members represent the best of America, and they deserve our deepest respect and gratitude.

The threat of terrorism has denied too many men, women, and children their right to live in peace and security. As the United States works to defeat terrorists and build a more hopeful future for our children and young people across the world, we seek humility and strength. We reflect upon the lessons drawn from our national tragedy, seek God's guidance and wisdom, and, never forgetting the lost, commit to working in common cause with our friends and allies to create a safer and brighter world for current and future generations.

Here in Australia, working together, we have made great progress in the struggle against terrorism, but the loss of life in Jakarta in July, which included three Australians, and last month's revelations of a plot to invade a military base here in Australia were unfortunate reminders that our nations must continue to be vigilant.

September 11th was one of America's darkest days, but out of the darkness has risen a resolve to make this world a safer place, a freer place, a more tolerant place.

Our two nations share special ties of history and friendship. Today, our troops are fighting together in Afghanistan, where extremists planned the September 11

attacks and trained for the Bali bombings. Australian firefighters have helped us fight wildfires in California, just as U.S. firefighters helped Australian colleagues during the terrible bushfires in Victoria.

We share a commitment to the defense of democracy, an interest in global peace and prosperity, and the advancement of freedom. We thank our Australian friends for their continuing support and pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, including those members of the Australian Defence Force and the U.S. Armed Services who have given their lives in Afghanistan to prevent such attacks from ever happening again.

I would now like to invite Minister Faulkner to address us as the representative of the Commonwealth of Australia.

(Remarks by John Faulkner)

Ladies and Gentlemen: I will now request our United States Marines to approach the flag pole and raise and lower the flag to half staff.

(Marines Raise and Lower Flag. Bagpiper Plays Amazing Grace.)

I ask that you observe a moment of silence in memory of those who perished and in honor of those who survived.

(Moment of silence)

Ladies and Gentlemen: I thank you for coming to share this commemoration with us. Whatever your faith, philosophy, or tradition, please join us in reflecting on these events in your own way. We ask for God's blessing for the dead and injured and their families, and for each nation and family represented here today.

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