



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

Moonah Place Yarralumla ACT 2600

Office of Public Affairs
Telephone: (61) (2) 6214 5973
Facsimile: (61) (2) 6273 3051

Ambassador Robert D. McCallum, Jr.
Remarks at the U.S. Embassy 2007 September 11th
Commemorative Ceremony
September 11, 2007

Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile, Deputy Secretary David Ritchie, First Secretary Les Luck, Assistant Secretary Lyndall McLean; Representatives of the Anglican, Islamic, and Jewish faiths; Representatives of the Australian Capital Territory's fire brigade and of the Australian Federal Police; members of the embassy family, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you all for joining Mimi and me today to mark the sixth anniversary of the attacks of September 11. We are here today to remember the almost three thousand people from thirty-seven countries around the world who lost their lives that day in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. Ten

of those lost were Australian. We are also here to pay tribute to the four hundred NY City and Port Authority police and firefighters who died that day, and to recognize the heroism of the thousands of public safety officers, emergency medical personnel, police, firefighters and ordinary citizens who responded in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. Mimi and I are especially pleased to have with us today Australian representatives of such first responders. This ceremony allows us all the opportunity to acknowledge and thank those here in Canberra and around the world who risk their lives daily to save and protect their fellow citizens.

Besides remembering the victims and honoring the survivors of September 11, we gather today to express our opposition to the voices of fanatical hatred and intolerance around the world, and to reaffirm our commitment to the values of individual freedom, diversity, equality, and liberty. Our struggle against terrorism is not a struggle against any nation or any religion. It is a struggle against extremism and a radical ideology used to justify brutality, violence, and murder of innocent victims for political ends.

The attitude and perspective of people around the world have changed forever. Terrorists plot attacks around the globe: the United States, Europe,

Africa, the Middle East, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia. Countries like America and Australia can no longer sit in splendid isolation behind our ocean barriers and assume the world's troubles will not reach our shores.

As President Bush said at his Second Inaugural Address:

“We have seen our vulnerability – and we have seen its deepest source. For as long as whole regions of the world simmer in resentment and tyranny – prone to ideologies that feed hatred and excuse murder – violence will gather, and multiply in destructive power, and cross the most defended border...”

Our peace and security increasingly depend on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom throughout the world. Our response to these attacks six year ago must be to work to rid the world of those conditions that breed the hatred and intolerance that lead to terrorism and murder. As we reflect upon the memory of those who died and were injured, we rededicate ourselves to win the hearts and minds of those at risk of embracing such an ideology by providing hope and opportunity for a better life.

I would now like to invite the Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile to address us as the representative of the Commonwealth of Australia.

(Remarks by the Deputy Prime Minister)

Ladies and Gentlemen: I will now request our United States Marines to approach the flag pole and, after they have raised and lowered the flag to half staff, 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 Mimi and me in reflecting on these events in your own way. As for me, in accordance with my own faith, I ask for God's blessing for the dead and injured and their families, and for each nation and family represented here today. And may God bless America and the Commonwealth of Australia.