

## **Ambassador Mull's Remarks for the Commemoration of 9/11**

**Skaryszewski Park, Warsaw, September 11, 2014**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you to District Mayor Tomasz Kucharski and all the staff of the Praga-Południe District for organizing this commemoration. It is an honor to be with you today.

Thirteen years ago, we watched with horror as almost 3,000 people from 90 countries were brutally murdered, including six Poles. We mourned, and we still mourn, the lives that were taken from us by those who sought only to instill terror and fear.

We also reacted with resolve. In the face of senseless violence, we responded with solidarity.

The perpetrators of that horrific crime, and those who still carry the banner of terrorism, would like us to be paralyzed by the memories of 9/11. Rather than be ruled by fear, we commemorate the triumph of the human spirit and our determination to never let those who perpetrate terror be victorious.

We recognize those victims who survived the attacks, such as Julita Bergman, who is with us here today. Mrs. Bergman is a Polish-American who worked in one of the towers of the World Trade Center for 18 years, and was in her office on the 82<sup>nd</sup> floor at the time of the attack. In those awful moments after her tower was hit, the fires were spreading. The air was filled with smoke. It was dark and they could barely see. It seemed as if there was no way out. Mrs. Bergman says that she survived the attack thanks to "angels" - two men who helped her get down the stairs and out of the building before its collapse.

Today, we honor the sacrifice and bravery of all the police, firefighters, and rescue workers who raced through dark corridors and into collapsing buildings to save lives. We thank all First Responders who put their lives on the line to come to the aid of others.

Today, we also offer our condolences to those who lost their family members, friends, and loved ones in later terrorist attacks in Madrid, London, Mumbai, Baghdad, Kabul, and in far too many places throughout the world.

As we are reminded daily in news from the Middle East, our nations must remain united in the defeat of terrorism. We will not be cowed in the face of the repulsive savagery and cruelty of the members of the Islamic State of the Levant, or ISIL. Together, we will confront the scourge of violent extremism. We will not waver. If terrorists think we will weaken in the face of intimidation and violence, they could not be more wrong.

Those we have lost to violence live on in us. In the families who love them still. In the friends who remember them always. And in nations that will honor them, now and forever. Today we

reaffirm our shared values and shared determination to live together in freedom and dignity, as allies, partners, and friends. Thank you.