

FFWPU USA: Love Your Enemy - Remembering 9/11 - The September 11 Attacks

Naokimi Ushiroda
September 9, 2022



"Now is the time to change everything. America and Americans must take the lead in practicing 'Love your enemy,'" said True Father after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. This Sunday, we remember the 21st anniversary of the devastating attacks that claimed nearly 3,000 lives and deeply impacted America and the world.

Prior to 9/11, True Father had planned a World Clergy Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremony of 12,000 couples on September 22 at Madison Square Garden. The events of 9/11 meant canceling the ceremony, but it also challenged the inter-religious and world peace premise upon which it was based. In the days after the World Trade Center's destruction, Unificationist leaders and American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) clergy who were in town for the ceremony ministered directly to bereaved families, as well as to police, firefighters, and others at the site of the attack. Many even went out on the first night.

In the immediate wake of 9/11, Unificationists sought True Father's guidance. He was in Kodiak, Alaska, at the time, where Dr. Chang Shik Yang, then the Special Emissary to the Americas, reported True Father remained alone in prayer for the next three days and did not appear in public. True Father soon canceled the clergy Blessing and on Sept. 18 flew to New York City.

"Jesus was on the cross, now America stands on the cross of the world," True Father said upon his arrival, urging religious leaders to take the lead in responding to the 9/11 attacks. "They must unite beyond their religion and guide the political leaders of their nations." True Father asked Unificationists to convene an assembly in October on the theme "Global Violence: Conflict and Hope," and on November 15 he proclaimed Cheonju Pyeonghwa Tongil Guk (the Nation of Cosmic Peace and Unity).

Just as Christianity emerged from the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and the Unification movement rose from the rubble of the Korean War, True Father saw a new world appear from the devastation of 9/11. He notably said, "God's heart embraces even His own enemy, and will never denounce or cut him off ... If you have such great love that you can love even your enemy, that power will melt everything."

"Families, nations and the whole world are full of resentment, hatred, and conflict," he said. "Resentment creates more resentment, and hatred creates more hatred. This way the conflicts in the world cannot come to an end. Only love of the quality of God's love can make the real difference. It can simply melt all resentment, all hatred, all evil. Only such a love can bring this world back to God and to peace ... And we are the ones to be the carriers of such love throughout our life."

September 11, also known as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, gives us all a time to commemorate those who lost their lives in the terror attacks, give thanks to the brave first responders who put their own lives on the line, and reflect as we continue to practice this transformative concept of world peace: love your enemy.

You can read the full 2022 White House proclamation on Patriot Day [here](#).



BRIEFING ROOM

A Proclamation on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, 2022

SEPTEMBER 09, 2022 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

On September 11, 2001, ordinary Americans performed extraordinary acts of heroism. Firefighters and police officers rushed into crumbling buildings and raging fires to save others. EMTs, construction workers, colleagues, and strangers tended to the wounded. Passengers and crewmembers gave their lives to thwart another attack. And a generation of women and men answered the call of duty by joining our Armed Forces to defend our freedom and our democracy.

These patriots — people of undaunted courage, uncommon resolve, and unwavering perseverance — are forever ingrained in our national character. They are reminders that we are a great country because we are a good people. On this Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, we pay tribute to the heroes and victims who lost their lives on September 11, and we recommit ourselves to the spirit of unity, patriotism, and service that carried our Nation through in the days that followed.

Before they were national heroes, the women and men we honor were already heroes to so many others. They were the mothers who tucked their kids into bed at night. They were the fathers who drove the neighborhood carpools to school. They were the daughters who made their parents proud and the sons who lifted up their friends. To the families around America whose pain is especially personal on this day: Our entire Nation, including Jill and I, holds you close in our hearts and sends you our love. I know from personal experience that memorials can bring everything back as painfully as if it happened today — the moment you got the phone call — no matter how many years go by.

On this day, let us honor the memory of the innocent victims we lost and carry on the legacy of the selfless heroes who served our Nation on September 11 and in its aftermath. Let us also recognize the members of our intelligence and counterterrorism communities who worked with dedication and determination to deliver justice to Ayman al-Zawahiri, the emir of al-Qaeda and a key planner of this and other cruel attacks against our people.

I invite all Americans to observe this day with service; you can find opportunities in your community by visiting americorps.gov/911-day. Unity is what makes us who we are as Americans — it is our greatest strength. When we come together on this day, and every day, we demonstrate that even in the darkness, America remains a bright beacon of light and hope for the world.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89),

the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day,” and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, the Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized “National Day of Service and Remembrance.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2022, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I call upon all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. I invite the Governors of the United States and its Territories and interested organizations and individuals to join in this observance. I call upon the people of the United States to participate in community service in honor of those our Nation lost, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time to honor the innocent victims who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

Remarks by President Biden at a Reception for the Democratic National Committee

SEPTEMBER 09, 2022 • SPEECHES AND REMARKS

[Next](#) >

Stay Connected

EMAIL ADDRESS*

example@example.com

ZIP CODE

ZIP Code

Sign Up

[Opt in to send and receive text messages from President Biden.](#) ↗