

FEATURE

10 Years Later

BY EVAN SPIRES
News Editor

In the last month, America has joined to commemorate the tenth year anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.

The events that took place that day changed almost everything, from our economy, to our security standards, and our foreign policy. With the scars of 9/11's attacks finally beginning to heal, we look back as a nation on the day that no one saw coming.

It has been a decade since the unforgettable morning when two American Airlines were flown into the World Trade Center, with one plane hitting each tower. Two other planes were involved in the attack, with one hitting and severely damaging the Pentagon.

The other headed for the White House, but was overthrown heroically by the planes' passengers and crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The worst of the attacks was at the World Trade Center, where 3,000 people lost their lives.

Heroic members of the New York Fire Department (NYFD) were dealing with a small time street fire when the first plane crashed into the North Tower. The airliner crashed in the upper section of the building, trapping all people above the plane. After a frantic evacuation was established, a second plane crashed into the middle of the South Tower. This was even worse as anyone in the upper half of the South Tower were trapped.

With many people in both towers' lower sections evacuated, the South Tower gave in and collapsed, created a storm of dust and smoke throughout Manhattan. In time, the North Tower fell in turn and the chaos was greater.

As volunteers gathered to help remove the wreckage and rescue any survivors, it became apparent that this was no accident,

and it was also clear who was responsible.

Soon after the attack the terrorist group Al Qaeda, which initially denied involvement, claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Almost immediately the United States launched the War on Terror, which began with troops being sent to Afghanistan to displace its oppressive Taliban government, and capture or kill Al Qaeda's leader Osama bin Laden.

Later in 2003, deployments would be made in Iraq in order to displace its own oppressive government, to further the campaign. On May 2, 2011, in a large compound in Pakistan, Osama bin Laden was found and killed by members of the elite Navy SEAL Team 6.

After months of intelligence confirming bin Laden's location, the Navy SEALs trained for several weeks, practicing the layout of the compound and the elimination routine. President Obama issued two Stealth helicopters to bring in the SEALs and carry out the mission.

With five casualties, including bin Laden himself, and no Americans hurt, the SEALs brought out bin Laden aboard a Navy Carrier, where his DNA was confirmed, and his body was dumped into the Mediterranean.

In the years following 9/11, recovery and reconstruction has been slow but steady. The clearing of wreckage and debris didn't stop until May 2, 2002.

The war in both Iraq and Afghanistan have taken heavy tolls in lives and greatly hurt the national budget. Even so, America's spirit is higher than its been in a long time, and bin Laden's death only brings further relief to the tenth year anniversary of the tragic day.

A memorial is being built at Ground Zero, which will depict the events of 9/11 in great detail. It is scheduled to open Sept. 11, 2012.



The scene of the Twin Towers in New York on fire after being hit by airplanes on Sept. 11, 2001.



Robert Peraza pauses at his son, Robert David Peraza's, memorial. His son was killed in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

