

**State Rep. Tom Tangretti**  
**Remarks, anniversary of 9-11-01**

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There is no doubt that the purpose of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist acts was to tarnish the ideal of America, at least in the eyes of the world.

The hijackers hoped not just to punish America for some imagined wrong that had been done, but also, to point up the vulnerabilities of the society we have built here, and quite possibly, to destroy that society from within.

In that, their plan was an utter failure, because in the end, Sept. 11 did more than any event in the past half-century to promote the incredible strength, resiliency and advantages of our society.

In the eyes of most of the world, Sept. 11 did not tarnish the ideal of America, but gave it new luster.

Moreover, in this country, Sept. 11 strengthened, not weakened, the professions of patriotism,

community service and brotherhood that for many of us had become rote and cliché.

Sept. 11 renewed those commitments, not just in words, but in action.

Americans found new heroes, and a new commitment to their country, their families, their communities and yes, even their God.

Most importantly, Americans proved, once again, that the Constitution we live by, the allegiance we pledge, the laws we respect, the rights we protect and the faith we proclaim, are not just words, but the beliefs we actually hold sacred and the principles we actually live by.

Americans proved once again that our way of life is the envy of the world not just because we have the loudest voice or the richest economy, but because our way of life actually works -- better than any other experimented with in human history -- at providing **all** people with the dignity, humanity, opportunity and honor they desire and deserve.

This first anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 is certainly a time to grieve once again for the lives that were lost, for the lives left behind that were forever changed, and for the certain amount of security and peace that has been taken away from all of us.

But it is also a time once again to celebrate what the terrorist attacks did not, and could never, take away from us.

And that is the nature of what America, and Americans, truly are.

*Someone* ~~was~~  
A ~~African emperor~~ once said: "Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph."

We should be proud that in spite of Sept. 11 – and in many ways because of it of it – America, and Americans, continue to represent for the world those who do act; those who are not indifferent because they do know better; those who trumpet

the voice of justice when it matters most; and those who, on behalf of the entire world, will always remain committed to making it impossible for evil to triumph, ever.

I thank God that I am a citizen of this great nation, and that I continue to have the privilege of serving my fellow citizens.

We are a nation of heroes, a nation of courage, a nation of honor, a nation of commitment, a nation of right.

Our nation is an example for the world.

Sept. 11 did not change that.

It proved it.

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