

More than 300 firefighters and rescueworkers died as well in New York, along with thousands they were trying to save. As the buildings fell, the sound, said one survivor, “was like the roar of the devil.”

September the 11th was a day of great horror and great heroism. It was the first day of a long struggle against determined enemies. It was the first day in which this mighty Nation will hunt down the killers and their like one by one and bring them to justice.

It’s the saddest day in the history of law enforcement. In his final moments, trapped in rubble, Officer Dominick Pezzulo called out to one of his fellows, and he said, “Just remember me.” The last voice he heard was Officer Will Jimeno, promising him they would never forget. So, Dominick, today we remember—we remember courage and bravery and sacrifice.

Sacrifice like that of John—Police Officer John Perry, who retired on September the 11th. Early that morning, he had turned in his badge at the 40th Precinct. A moment later, he heard the sound of the first attack and the radio traffic that followed. He put his badge back on and was last seen directing people to safety at the bottom of the tower.

I have the police shield of another officer who died on that day. His name was George G. Howard. His mother gave me this badge. She gave it to me in love for George, but she gave it to me because I’m confident she wanted her President never to forget what took place.

We call all those we honor today, those who lost their life in 9/11 and those who lost their life before and after 9/11, heroes—because they are heroes. Their families are proud of them and always will be. Yet there’s not a husband or wife here today or a parent or child who would not trade the honor to have them back. In a eulogy for his son who died on September the 11th, one father said, “I know he’s in good hands, but I wish he was in my hands.” We know how you feel.

There are more than 700,000 sworn law officers across America. When the oath is administered, they accept great responsibilities and accept great risk. Even in the most routine moments on watch or patrol, you protect us. Even on the quietest day, the next call

may send you into extremes of danger. America is grateful. You just need to know, America is grateful.

We have confidence in our law enforcement because we know the kind of men and women we select and we know the nature of the men and women we train for the job. They’re the ones who face down threats, who place themselves between the innocent and the guilty, who step into scenes of chaos and violence thinking only of whom they can help.

No one goes into police work for the money, nor does anybody put on the uniform expecting a life of ease. You take the job because you respect the law and you know that someone has to do the challenging work of enforcing it. Fortunately, this great country, America, has never been short of such men and women and your devoted service, and we are very grateful.

Every day in every place in America, we can be thankful for the integrity and courage of our officers of our law. Today we give thanks for the special courage of the fallen, those whose watch ended with their lives. America cannot fully repay our debt to them and to the families. We can only acknowledge that debt, which we do today with pride and affection of an entire nation.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. on the West Grounds at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Steve Young, national president, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP); Aliza Clark, president, Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary; Officer Vernon Baker, chaplain, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, who gave the invocation; Officer Daniel Rodriguez, New York City Police Department, who sang the national anthem; singer Marc Anthony; Officer Will Jimeno, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; and Arlene Howard, mother of Officer George G. Howard.

### **Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Jammu and Kashmir, India**

*May 15, 2002*

The United States condemns the terrorist attack carried out by militants in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday. On behalf of the American people, I extend my condolences to the

families of the victims and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, whose citizens were killed in this attack.

Yesterday's attack was also aimed at destroying opportunities for South Asia to build a future that is more stable, more peaceful, and more prosperous. We will not allow terrorists to succeed in this larger mission. The United States will not yield in its determination to work with the people of South Asia to fight terrorism and to build a better future.

**Statement on the Proposed “Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2002”**

*May 15, 2002*

I was pleased to meet this morning with the leadership of the United Jewish Communities (UJC). We share a strong commitment to see passage of the CARE (“Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment”) Act. The UJC and more than 1,600 other organizations—ranging from America’s Second Harvest to the YMCA—support this important piece of legislation, which will spur charitable giving and create a more level playing field for faith-based and community organizations.

America should stand by the charities that support people in need and in crisis. Giving to many charities—and particularly to social service organizations—is down, while the demands on them remain great. The Senate should pass the CARE Act, and the Congress should send me legislation that I can sign that will help support the vital work of thousands of faith-based and community-based charities across America.

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Subsidy Budget Authority Necessary To Support America West Airlines**

*May 15, 2002*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, I hereby request the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a \$429 million Federal credit instrument for America West Airlines. I hereby designate this subsidy budget authority, currently estimated at \$172 million, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Reallocation of Funds Previously Transferred From the Emergency Response Fund**

*May 15, 2002*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

In furtherance of the provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund.

This reallocation within the United States Postal Service reflects revised requirements related to the anthrax incidents that affected-