

Topic: The Day That Changed the World

Abstract: Although I was young at the time I can still clearly remember the events that occurred day clearly in my head. The attacks the terrorists left on our country filled the air with an eerie feeling that caused feelings of fear, denial, and confusion. September 11, 2001 known as the darkest day in United States history will never be forgotten and will continue to live forever in our heads.

Keywords: terrorism, attacks, country, feelings, emotion, terrorists, East Coast, World trade Center, September 11, 2001

Throughout my childhood, I remember living through many historical events such as Presidential elections but the biggest event that I have lived through so far would be September 11, 2001. Everyday I was awoken by my mother so I could get ready for school but this day there was an eerie feeling in the air. I could see from my mother's expressionless face that something had gone wrong. So I asked, "What's wrong?" As soon as I asked she told me to turn on the television and she began to briefly describe what was going on. I just sat on my bed with such disbelief. As my mom was describing this horrendous event, I was too watching it unravel in front of my own eyes. I remember being worried about my parents and my brother who was nearly 9 months old at the time. What was going to happen to us, our family, and friends? I then began paying more attention to the events and where and why they were happening. I saw news reports about commercial sized airplanes hitting one of the World Trade Center buildings in New York City. From the instant you heard the news anchor's voices you could tell that something horrific was occurring in front of our eyes. Shortly after briefly showing the replays of the airplanes hitting the World Trade Center, the anchors would continue their coverage by interviewing people close to the action or in some way related to people near the event. Soon after this I changed the channel and saw the exact breaking news being covered by every channel. I even put on the Spanish networks to see if I could escape this harsh reality but as soon

as I did, I knew right there and then that this was even much more of a bigger issue than I had initially anticipated. Even after witnessing these events I still wasn't clear on why this was happening and who ordered such actions against the American people. I just knew that September 11, 2001 would forever be in my memory.

Although I don't exactly remember what weekday it was I knew I had to be in school in less than an hour after hearing this heartbreaking news. At this time I was living in Sacramento, California and had a field trip scheduled that same day. Our field trip was to go to Raley Field, home of the Sacramento River Cats, who are the Triple-A affiliates of the Oakland Athletics. But since such events occurred our field trip had to be cancelled and rescheduled. Upon arriving to school, I walked to my classroom to where my teacher had already welcomed numerous classmates with worried faces. Next, we waited until class started at 8 a.m. for our teacher to her explanation on what was occurring. But first the Principal spoke over the intercoms that were connected throughout the entire school campus, about the events that we might or might have not heard were occurring on the East coast of the country. She then went on to say that everything was going to be okay and then clicked off. Soon after, our teacher reassured us that everything was going to be okay and then asked if there were any questions that she would try to answer them at her best ability. What I most remember her saying was that this day felt like a bad dream you couldn't wake up from. Some asked questions while others didn't even know where to start from. They still didn't fully understand what was happening.

Later on during recess the only thing that was being talked about on the blacktop were the airplanes crashing into the World Trade Towers. As we all kept talking about it we could see that one of my friends was all shock up to the point of tears. We asked what was wrong and he continued by saying he was fearful of his mother's life because she worked in a building

downtown. When we understood what he was saying we told him not to sweat it because these planes were hitting skyscrapers on the East Coast, thousands of miles away from us. I then saw how even an occurring event thousands of miles away was now affecting people on the West Coast as well. Even though this wasn't as extreme as it might be to others, it still brought the feeling closer to home.

Once school got out I headed home and upon arriving I turned on the television to see the reoccurring news coverage in order to hear why this happened. Was it an accident? But I knew it wasn't. The attacks that day included two commercial airplanes crashing into the World Trade Center buildings which led them to collapse, a plane hitting the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and also another plane crashing down in rural Pennsylvania which was brought down by passengers onboard fighting against the terrorists that hijacked the plane. On the days that followed, airports around the world were closed for a few days and security regulations were created. As a result of these attacks, many men and women enlisted into the military as soon as they could. At this time, I was in the Boy Scouts of America and whenever we could, we would send care packages to troops overseas to show in some way our appreciation to them for what they were doing especially since their life was on the line. Every year that followed on the anniversary of 9/11 we would raise the flag half staff and have a moment of silence.

After the attacks the whole country was in a state of panic and everyone was looking for someone or something for security. Everyone was looking at the President to see how he would respond to the attacks. Soon after the attacks it would be known that the United States would fight the War on Terror but, that itself is another story. As an aftermath of these events, many hate crimes were committed against Middle Eastern people even though they might have not been connected to the attacks.

In the years that followed I in some way started to understand why the terrorists might have committed such acts of terror. As I got older some things became clearer than they once were but probably because I understood certain situations more. But still to this day, I don't fully grasp on why these attacks were carried out and why were so many people killed. Was it to make a statement? But who knows.

As I still remember looking back at the darkest day of United States history, I was also shook up even though I might have not shown it. In front of everyone I acted cool like nothing was wrong but in my head all I kept thinking was what was going to happen. In terms of us, could we do anything or were we just sitting ducks. I started thinking like this when I saw the adults around acting scared too. I remember hearing about my uncle telling my other uncle, his brother that we were going to war because of these horrific attacks. Even on this past tenth year anniversary of the attacks my aunt was still distraught over the attacks. She was saying, why did they have to kill so many people?

On the days after the attacks, I still went to school and everything was starting to get back to normal under our eyes, the kids. Even though rescuers were still looking for people in the rubble of the World Trade Center after its collapse we as kids thought everything was back to normal. We were back to our old routine of getting homework and playing four-square at recess. For us, these attacks were the past and we were moving on, I believed we might have been more worried what was going to happen on the newest episode of the hit cartoon show, Pokémon. That is how we saw it, it was just another day in the lives of the youth of the world. Although we didn't forget about the attacks we just thought there wasn't any need to talk about it even though we all shared some news we might have heard about over the evening news reports that were reporting from three areas in the country.

In some way, these attacks have all affected every one of us in some way or another even if we don't know it. For instance, both my uncle and my cousin have joined the military after the attacks and one of them still serves. Some have family serving or they know someone who has served or is serving in the military overseas. Although terrorism has died down some, it still is around and could come back at any moment again which we all hope it doesn't. I have friends that have enlisted now that they are old enough in order to serve for their country. Some still remember the attacks that happened on September 11, 2001 and that is also a reason that they joined the military.

Although the terrorist attacks have happened over a decade ago, we all still remember what happened and will never forget all the people lost in the attacks. I myself was young probably eleven years old when this happened I could still remember the events that occurred that day clearly in my mind. It was known as the darkest day in the United States history. On this day the terrorist hit the World Trade Center which was the financial building of the United States, the Pentagon which is the epicenter of the country's military, and another one of which was Flight 97 which was supposedly headed towards the White House in Washington D.C. but didn't because the passengers onboard fought the terrorist to bring the plane down in rural Pennsylvania. This was a heroic act on part of the passengers for fighting the terrorists although they knew that their life was on the line for others in Washington D.C. although they didn't know about the attacks that were occurring throughout the East Coast. Even after the aftermath of the attacks it seemed like there was a sense of unity throughout the community, everyone was there for one another even if they have never even met before. The country seemed to unite overnight and was ready for whatever was headed there way. This day will never be forgotten about as long as our country stays standing and will forever be in our hearts and heads of those

who were alive when the terrorists attacks occurred. We as a nation will never forget September 11, 2001. We will never forget the emotions involved with that day and the actions that had caused them.