

Mayor's 9/11 Message September 11, 2010

Today we are here to celebrate our 17th annual Pirates Day/Proud to be an American Day, but more importantly we are here on the 9th anniversary of that fateful day in 2001, as I and millions of others watched in utter disbelief, as thousands of innocent Americans were brutally murdered by the acts of cowardly terrorists.

Over the past nine years, we as a nation have tightened security on all fronts, in hopes of thwarting another attack. Our schools, our airports, our trains, our busses and most public buildings have implemented heightened security measures to insure our safety. We have sent thousands of men and women to Iraq and Afghanistan to defend our freedom. Many of them will never come home. I salute our troops and their families, both here and abroad, for their service and sacrifice to insure that we are able to live a free and comfortable life here in the United States of America.

Over the past 234 years, Americans have stood for freedom and will continue to do so long after we are gone. Millions of our own family members, friends and ancestors have sacrificed to insure that freedom. We celebrate them with parades and ceremonies on Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and now on September 11th. We must never forget how so many of our fellow Americans have given the "ultimate sacrifice" and pray for those that today are in harm's way. Along with that, we must give thanks, support and remembrance to the countless police, fire, emt's and just plain volunteers that were there at ground zero and are still suffering today from the ill effects of that day. This country owes them the moral & financial support that they deserve.

My only hope is that we never again have to experience another 9/11, a day that is emblazoned in the minds of us all. As we lower our flags in their honor, I leave you with this,

“WE MUST NEVER FORGET”

In memory of our fallen comrades of September 11, 2001,

**Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township**