



Office of the Mayor

Thurman Bill Bartie

9/11 Speech on September 11, 2023

On this day, 22 years ago, 9-11-2001 United Airlines Flight 175 and American Airlines Flight 11 departed from Boston en route to California. However, hijackers commandeered the flights and at 8:46 AM, Flight 11 crashed into floors 93 to 99 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Then 17 minutes later at 9:03 AM, Flight 175 struck floors 77 through 85 of the South Tower at the World Trade Center in New York City. American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon, and passengers did all they could to prevent the hijacking of United Airlines Flight 93 before it crash-landed in Pennsylvania.

These four acts of terrorism against the United States of America were carried out by 19 hijackers from the militant Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda and they too were casualties carrying out this horrendous act.

These attacks caused 2,977 individuals to lose their lives across New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania. 2,753 died at the Twin Towers, 184 at the Pentagon and 40 persons when Flight 93 crash-landed in Pennsylvania.

First Responders rushed into the Twin Towers to rescue survivors and resulted in three hundred and forty-three firefighters and first responders paying the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11.

We pause here this morning in Port Arthur, Texas to remember all who lost their lives to the senseless acts of terrorism. We pray strength to all of America as we continue to experience violent acts against the fabric of American Democratic processes and freedoms. As we reflect and pay homage to First Responders here in our fair city and the Golden Triangle, we solicit the indulgence of all citizens to join us in this moment of gratitude to those who

serve us in the capacity of First Responders. We also ask your continued prayers for survivors' of 9/11 casualties.

22 years later we still face terrorist attacks, however, many are domestic. The hate fellow Americans express for each other is reprehensible and should be eradicated. In 2023 the overt acts of racial insensitivity and intolerance, the behaviors of January 6, 2021 or any attempt to overthrow our Democratic society is a true facsimile of 9/11/01.

Let us as true Port Arthurans, real Texans, and true Americans move toward "universal love for all" and respect for mankind for we are all God's Children!

Thank You First Responders and all supporting personnel who make our lives meaningful each day; knowing you're just a phone call away.