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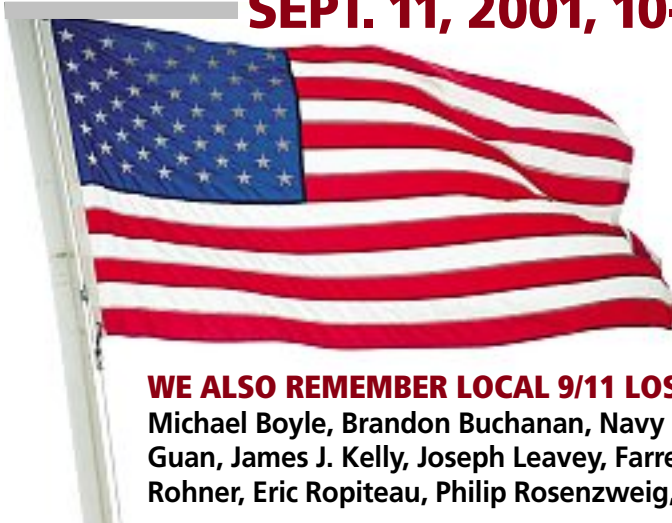
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

WE REMEMBER

Words our readers used to share their 9/11 memories

Never forget • World Trade Center • something just exploded • a gaping hole in one of the towers • planes hitting buildings • people jumping to escape flames • people leaving, covered with dust • smoke billowing out of the Pentagon • incredible destruction at Ground Zero • the smoke from lower Manhattan • changed the way I view a cloudless sky forever • heroic yet horrible crash of Flight 93 • realized it wasn't a movie • first responders rushing in • crushed by 110 stories • Shanksville, Pa. • the smoke and people running • horrible smell of the black smoke • a third plane hit the Pentagon • huge hole gaped in one tower and a ton of smoke poured out • implosion of both the towers • U.S. fighter jets circling the skies above New York City • unbelievable images • attacked on our own soil • smoke clouds enveloped the whole skyline • Where is it? Where did it go? Where is the building? • color drained from my teacher's face • stunned • incredible devastation • everyone was scared • controlled response • tears ran down my cheeks • nightmares for weeks • shock and horror • filled with trepidation • fear on the faces • tears turned to anger • weight of deep sadness • insecurity • incredible devastation • didn't know what was going to happen next • frantic • sketchy details • confused • lost in maze of unknown • didn't know what to do • magnitude of disaster • unimaginable catastrophe • the end of heaven and hell took over • sense of freedom and safety altered • horrific events • enormity of tragedy • must be at war • how could such a thing happen in America? • this was actually happening • heartbreaking events • nothing would ever be the same • not just a bad dream • don't think anyone believed they could ever fall • disconnected from a new reality • burned into our memories • changed forever • loss of innocence and security • fear of unknown • hard to pull ourselves away • end of our comfortable existence • burning a hole in soul of our country • madness that ensued • what could I do, anyway? • our world's being rearranged • glued to TV • pictures on the screen sent chills down my spine • left for home in fearful tears • hugs and tears fueled by fear • moved around in disbelief • devastation unfolds • gasps of horror • pain and anguish • heavy hearts • a stifled scream • confusion and concern • tried to make sense of the pieces of news • never felt so isolated, vulnerable, scared • helplessness • very frightened • never slept a wink • that's when I lost it • could not sleep that night • why was I spared when others were not • couldn't quite take it in • still cringe when I hear low-flying planes • heart heavy and mind numb • everything seemed different • bizarre events we were witnessing • thought of the passengers on the plane • the innocent people working on top floors of that building • tears filled my eyes • sickened to see the towers fall • still haunts me today • never-forgotten day of horror • gut-wrenching feeling • American tragedy • seemed to be a horrible joke • unthinkable happening • modern day of infamy • looked at each other with disbelief • watched with horror • people looking for answers • people needed hope • 9/11 changed our church • watched as tragic day unfolded • no contact home was possible • fielding phone calls from unit members • the order to recall all unit personnel • advised that no calls could go through • phones were jammed • having to go into D.C. to fetch my wife • concerned for my beloved aunt • too hard to find people • no idea for two days where her husband was • finally reached Anne and told her I was OK • trying to contact family • people left to wonder and wait • making sure we were safe • did not know where they were • my son faced hatred and prejudice born of ignorance • worried for my two sons • unbuckling my son so I could hold him in my arms • called my husband at work • thankfully, he was not on duty that day • often wonder if she made it out of the towers alive • wondering where my son was in New York City • cried with relief • fearing for family and friends in the U.S. • trying to get news about my mother-in-law • thankful that my brother survived • called home when we could get through • my calls to them wouldn't go through • they were all OK • scrambling to get home • sympathy on four weary travelers • safe in a sister country • welcome to the world, U.S.A. • not allowed to travel freely • kindness and compassion shown by the Irish people • the Swiss people were wonderful to us • extremely sympathetic Icelanders • the flight attendants sobbed • closed all borders • trapped in a "foreign" country • our son had taken an earlier flight and was safe • a sign carried by a Swiss gentleman said, "We are all Americans" • set up cots on the drill floor • guards armed with rifles • fear about flying • Boston airport a ghost town • all U.S. air traffic grounded • never got to the top of the twin towers • flowers and candles in front of American embassies • watched (from 37,000 feet) the tragedy unfold • when we arrived in D.C., everything was chaos • unknown if the bridge was a target • stranded in Atlanta for a week • buses commandeered by the National Guard • cousins had to walk home and it took hours • tourists running for pay phones; others falling to their knees • only hope was to get back to Rochester • walked through the store feeling guilty for being there • flight canceled • Red Cross gave us sandwiches • airline offices crowded and noisy • "camped out" overnight at airport • someone found buses to transport us • perfect strangers who came together that awful day • hugging one another • how united we all were • disgust that someone could do this to us, our country • gathered around TV • a wreck when she finally got home • campus abuzz • looking for semblance of stability • very difficult to comprehend what was happening • but for a twist of fate • donated a couple of dollars • sent everyone home • offered prayers for the souls that were lost and for our country • asked God for his protection for all of us • beginning of a new world order • if we could only turn back time • asked to go donate blood • all of us must not hate one another • work for a better, safer world • going forward has been the challenge • find a sane way to deal with this new world order • this great nation • never take it for granted again • my country under attack • cowardly terrorists • most impressive show of patriotism • Pledge of Allegiance took on new meaning • decided to volunteer • many brave and selfless men and women who serve to protect us • our unity solidified • pursuit of freedom for all • country is in danger • entire airport sang • senseless loss of life • ultimate sacrifice • so many sons and daughters, gone • among the missing • would not be coming home • good people lost • lost a college friend • everyone knew someone who knew someone lost • client perished • he had just moved to one of the top floors • those last conversations • last thoughts and words • so many lives lost and broken-hearted families • 346 firefighters died heroes • God Bless America

SEPT. 11, 2001, 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY COVERAGE INSIDE



SPECIAL REPORT

Coverage inside includes an explanation of this cover, some readers' memories of that terrible day, some never-before-told stories of 9/11, some tales of resilience in the face of tragedy, and a list of local events. **4A-9A**

ON THE WEB

Go to DemocratandChronicle.com for a multimedia package that includes video of local residents talking about 9/11 and readers' stories about 9/11 — from the ordinary to the extraordinary.

WAR ON TERROR

According to an AP tally, at least 35,000 people have been convicted as terrorists in the past decade. **21A**

BORDER PATROL

Post-9/11 security concerns have divided lives along the border. **22A**

SPEAKING OUT

Guest essayists discuss various impacts of 9/11. **25A**

MY WORDS

Local mom writes about daughter born on Sept. 11, 2009, and the reaffirmation of life. **2C**

WE ALSO REMEMBER LOCAL 9/11 LOSSES Victims with local ties include — but aren't limited to — Shannon Adams, Richard Bosco, Michael Boyle, Brandon Buchanan, Navy Cmdr. William Howard Donovan Jr., Thomas Duffy, Jeremy Glick, Andrew Golkin, Cindy Yan Zhu Guan, James J. Kelly, Joseph Leavey, Farrell Lynch, Ruth McCourt, Peter Mulligan, Dennis O'Berg, Todd Pelino, Deborah Ramsaur, Scott Rohner, Eric Ropiteau, Philip Rosenzweig, Michael J. Simon, Jeffrey Smith, Melissa Vincent and Zhe Zeng. Read more about them, **6A**

IN OTHER NEWS

DRIVING THE ECONOMY

The business of making things is alive and semi-well in the region, and high-tech manufacturing is considered a future growth engine. **Page 1E**

CITY SCHOOL BOARD VOTE

We help you get ready for Tuesday's important primary vote on who will guide the City School District. **Page 1B**

NFL: WE GET YOU READY FOR KICKOFF

Sal Maiorana previews the season and breaks down the Buffalo Bills position-by-position; Bob Matthews offers his predictions for the upcoming season. **Page 1D**

BLISSFUL WORKS

Henrietta native Harry Bliss' work has been on *New Yorker* covers, in children's books and in his own cartoon strip. This month, he'll be speaking at the Library of Congress' 2011 National Book Festival. **Page 1C**

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