



REMEMBERING 9/11:

Join Us for a 20th Anniversary Tribute to 9/11 Victims, Survivors & Heroes

By Lt Col P. Walker Pearce-Percy, Commander 312th Airlift Squadron, Travis Air Force Base

If you are like me and you were alive 20 years ago, then the events that transpired on 9/11, 2001, are seared into your memory forever. The day will always be remembered as many things and one that changed the course of our country. 9/11 was a wake-up call with an attack on American soil and a staunch reminder that the United States is made up of citizens who will always stand and be counted when called upon for survival. For many, it is in their nature to help those in need and give, sometimes with the ultimate sacrifice of life, to ensure the livelihood of others and the way of life we are so blessed with here in the United States.

When I think on and remember 9/11, the words of Colin Powell, retired four-star General and former Secretary of State, “You can be sure that the American Spirit will prevail over this tragedy,” always ring loud and true. The American spirit has prevailed. The

American people have stood strong, whether it be on the front lines of the war on terrorism or in memorializing the lives of those who perished on that fateful day and on the days that have followed.

Since 9/11, over 700 memorials have been created in honor of the citizens and first responders who lost their lives on that tragic day and in honor of those who sacrificed in the war on terrorism. In the Town of Los Gatos there is also a memorial that does the same, honoring military, first responders, and Los Gatos High School graduates Todd Beamer and Mark Bingham, two heroes aboard United Flight 93 on 9/11.

The Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation will be hosting a ceremony Saturday, September 11, 2021, at The Flame of Liberty Memorial located at the Los Gatos Civic Center to honor, respect, and remember those who lost their lives defending our way of life 20 years ago. In that same ceremony, a dedication of the Wall of Gratitude will take place to shine a light on those who have generously given to create the grounds on which the ceremony will be held. It has been 20 years since those attacks took place, and for many, myself included, it is as though it happened just yesterday. This ceremony will be a time where we can all come together to reflect, show gratitude, and look to the future which we have all been so graciously provided by those who have taken a stand.

Lt Col P. Walker Pearce-Percy is a member of the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation and will comment on his Air Force military experiences since 9/11 at the Commemoration. For more information about the Veterans Memorial & Support foundation, visit honorAvet.org.

