

Sept. 11: Breaking news

Odd, isn't it, how a moment 20 years ago can feel centuries old — and at the same time seem like yesterday? The morning of Sept. 11, 2001, is one of those moments for me.



Elizabeth Cook

The Salisbury Post's newsroom was putting together stories and photos for that afternoon's paper when Chris Crowell rushed in and said a plane had struck one of the Twin Towers in New York City.

Chris was our tech guru, but he'd gotten the news the old-fashioned way — a phone call from his wife, who heard it on the radio.

Weird, thought those of us who stopped long enough to listen. Must've been an accident, a fluke.

Someone turned on the TV so we could see what was going on. Minutes later, we watched with the rest of the country as another airliner crashed into the second tower. The ball of fire that erupted would be seared into our collective memory.

This was no fluke. Something deliberate had happened, something we had never imagined. Within minutes, it became clear. The United States was under attack by terrorists.

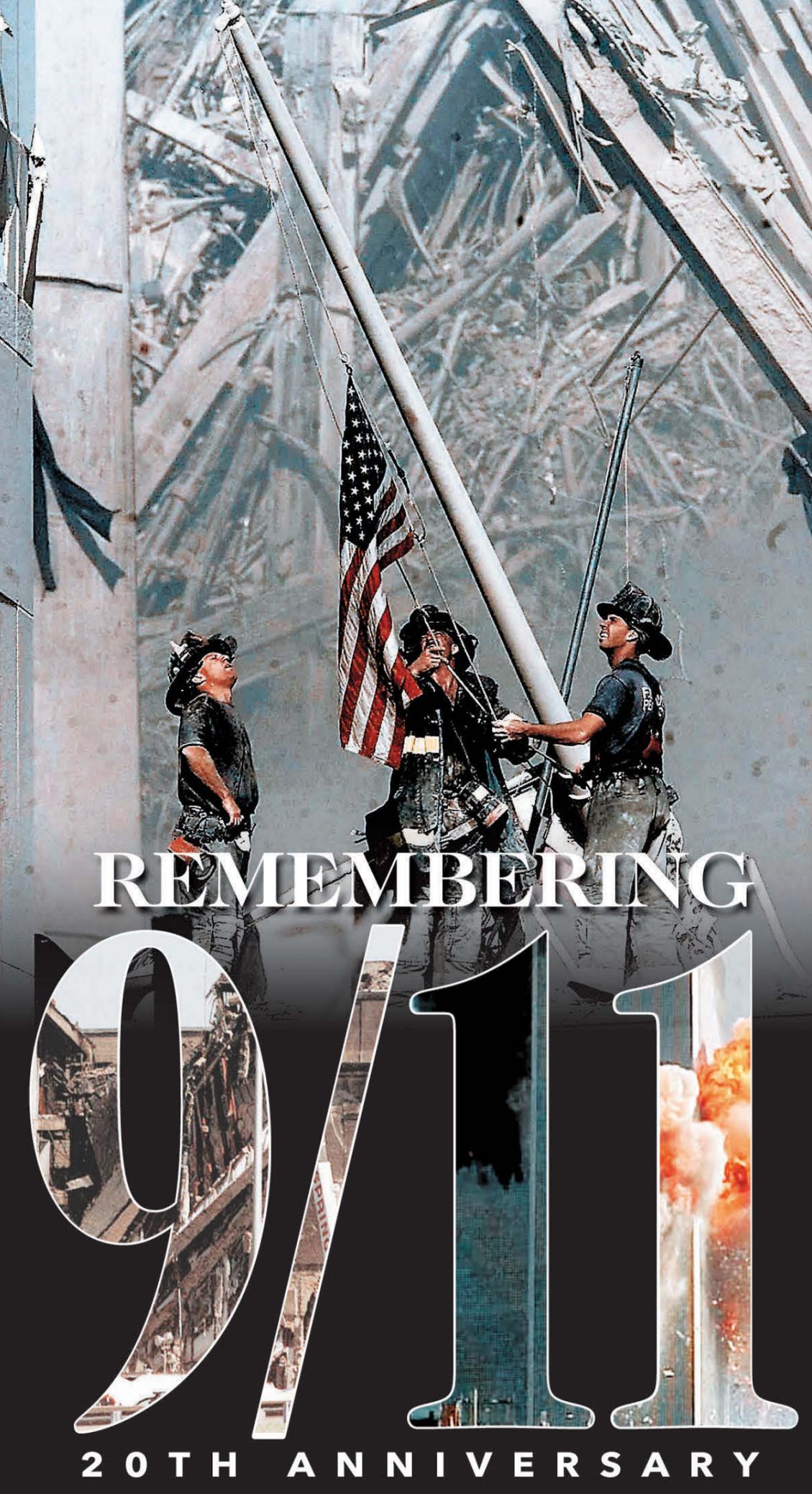
And we had a paper to put out.

We were shaken, but we had a job to do. With one eye on the TV, we went to work.

The Post was a daily afternoon newspaper in 2001. As the editor, I was responsible for making sure we finished putting all the pages together in time for the Post's carriers to deliver papers in the afternoon.

This was not exactly a stop-the-presses moment; deadline was more than two hours away. But it was a go-to-the-pressroom

See **Breaking**, page 6



Teaching students about 9/11

By Chris Miller
Stanly News and Press

On what appeared to be just an ordinary Tuesday 20 years ago, Ashley Carter was watching "Good Morning America" in her living room while studying for an English exam she was about to take at Stanly Community College later in the morning.

Following a typical commercial about an upcoming "Nightline" episode, ABC quickly cut to GMA anchors Dianne Sawyer and Charles Gibson for a very atypical announcement: There was a report about some sort of explosion at one of the World Trade Center towers in New York City.

Millions of Americans, including Carter, watched in stunned silence as more information gradually trickled in revealing the full nature of that day: Two airliners, hijacked by terrorists, were flown into both towers while another flight crashed into part of the Pentagon and a fourth, intended for the White House, crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

"It was very sobering," said Carter, who was a few months removed from graduating from North Stanly High School.

When Carter arrived at SCC, everyone was standing in the hallways, quiet and glued to the televisions as the world-changing events unfolded in real time. She recalls that her teacher's husband was a pilot and so during those initial hours, she was worried about his condition and if he was safe.

Carter, who now teaches history at North Stanly High School, remembers that Sept. 11, 2001, was an abnormally quiet day as so many people were trying to process several unresolved questions: Why did this happen? Who orchestrated it and for what reasons?

Janet Lancaster was

See **Teaching**, page 9



Jeff Barney, with an escort ship in the back, stands on the deck of the USS Enterprise. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Mocksville native was on Navy carrier when towers were hit

By Mike Barnhardt
Davie County Enterprise Record

How do you do a U-turn in a ship that is over 1,100 feet long and weighs nearly 95,000 tons?

If you're in command and realize that terrorists had just killed thousands of your fellow United States citizens, you do it as quickly as you can. And you don't wait for the usual chain-of-command protocol, you just do what's right.

Jeff Barney of Mocksville was aboard the USS Enterprise, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, as the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, unfolded.

Like the other 5,000-6,000 Navy personnel onboard, Barney was looking forward to the next few weeks. After completing bombing missions over Iraq, they were headed to Capetown, South Africa, with an equator-crossing ceremony and a stop in Rio de Janeiro for some R&R along the way. They had been in the Persian Gulf for two



Barney talks about his time aboard the USS Enterprise during 9/11.

months. Barney was in his office when another petty officer called and told him

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'I'VE NEVER GOT OVER IT'

New York native Nat Oliveri, owner of Mama Mia in Clemmons, continues to deal with the memories of 9/11

By Jim Buice
For the Clemmons Courier

Nat Oliveri can't believe it has been 20 years since 9/11, but for the New York native, it doesn't ever get any easier.

"I've never got over it," said Oliveri, who was in the city on Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorist attacks brought down the World Trade Center. "I deal with it every day."

Indeed he does. Oliveri, who owns and operates Mama Mia Italian Ice in Clemmons with his wife, Kathleen, has set up a corner of the shop with memorabilia, photos and other information as a remembrance and a way "to keep these people's heroics and memories alive."

Oliveri said he sees a wide range of emotions from those who see what he has created when they come through the front door of the business, which is located in a small strip center on Lewisville-Clem-



JIM BUICE/FOR THE CLEMMONS COURIER

Nat Oliveri sits in the back left corner of Mama Mia Italian Ice in Clemmons, where he maintains an area as 'kind of our tribute' to 9/11.

See **Memories**, page 11

Veterans reflect on 9/11, conflict in the Middle East

By Carl Blankenship
Salisbury Post

SALISBURY — Bernie Sahadi was devastated when the planes hit the World Trade Center in 2001.

The career Marine was stationed in California. Turning on the TV to see the footage on the morning of Sept. 11, he asked, "Is that real?"

It was real, and the attack set off a chain of events in the entire U.S. military. Sahadi said everyone was called into base, there was a head count, everyone was told to get their gear ready and take care of anything they needed to before departing. Most of the daily work stateside stopped.

"Unless it was a critical emergency, it wasn't happening," Sahadi said.

Sahadi said the readied state started to taper down after about a week. Initially, higher-ups in the Marine Corps chain of command thought service members would be deployed somewhere immediately.

"You just sat there twiddling your thumbs, reading



Al Rosero, seen here in Iraq, joined the Marine Corps in 2003 out of high school and was in New York during the 9/11 attacks.

all the message traffic," Sahadi said.

After troops were deployed to the Middle East, Sahadi would spend a year in Iraq and four in Afghanistan as a master sergeant infantryman. Sahadi was part of third battalion, fifth

Marines when the battalion was deployed during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

One of his duties, after hostilities died down, was recovering stashes of Iraqi dinars from seven banks that allegedly had stashes that belonged to Saddam

Hussein.

Sahadi retired from the Marine Corps in 2004, after 25 years of service. He worked for General Electric and later went back to Afghanistan as a contractor working for the U.S. State Department. He was

a military adviser mentoring Afghan police and soldiers, teaching SWAT tactics, basic driving and using armored Humvees.

Sahadi said he is glad the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan, though he disagreed with the way it was done.

Al Rosero was still in school when the towers were hit. His experience was different from Sahadi's. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2003, straight out of high school and well into the conflict in Afghanistan.

The attacks may have contributed to him enlisting, but he saw the military as his only opportunity out of school. He had no other plans, no family business to work for and did not want to take a menial job.

"I was in New York when that happened," Rosero said. "It was part of the reason why I joined, but not ultimately the only reason."

Rosero signed up after the attacks, knowing he would be sent overseas.

He spent 18 months in the Middle East as part of a force readiness unit on a ship. He left the mil-

itary after eight years in service as a sergeant. He contrasted his experience with Sahadi's, saying the unit on the ship was there to support people on the front lines.

"There's different groups in the military. Bernie's group was out into the middle of combat," Rosero said.

Rosero said his unit was always at the ready, with flak jackets on and equipment at hand.

Looking back on the conflicts in Afghanistan, he said it feels like the military went there and was doing something, but now it is back to square one.

"It makes you question what you were doing a little bit," Rosero said. "It doesn't really make me feel bitter. It's something you can't control."

Rosero said he has never regretted joining the military and serving helped him find work when he was discharged. When asked if he was OK with long hours and hard work for his first job interview, he told the interviewer: "I'm a Marine."

He was hired.

Experts say political leanings largely drive perception of end of war in Afghanistan

By Natalie Anderson
Salisbury Post

SALISBURY — Following the end of the war in Afghanistan, political experts say the state of American politics today shows the perception of the withdrawal and its execution will be viewed in a partisan lens.

Navin Bapat, chair of the curriculum of peace, war and defense at UNC-Chapel Hill, said following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the idea for the U.S. to act was an "incredibly popular pol-

icy."

Rep. Barbara Lee, a Democrat from California, was the only federal lawmaker to oppose a broad authorization to carry out the war in Afghanistan that was presented just days after Sept. 11, 2001.

But as the war continued and fatalities grew, America began to see a "fairly steady erosion of support" for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, Bapat said.

Michael Bitzer, a politics professor at Catawba College, said data show polarization really

began in the 1990s, when both parties became "more sorted and ideologically coherent."

While the Republican party is shifting further to the right, Democrats are confronting the tensions between moderates and liberals. These shifts set the stage for a "very divided election" in 2000 between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

"The division was evident," Bitzer said. "It's only gotten more intense, more deeper in the divide. It's getting to the point where members of one

party view the other party as the enemy."

But following the 9/11 tragedy, Americans can recall a sense of unity and patriotism as they grappled with witnessing an attack on the nation. Bitzer says some of that unity began to break down when the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003 for the first stage of the Iraq War. President Bush's reasoning for invasion was the belief Iraq harbored weapons of mass destruction and that the U.S. needed to end former Iraq President Saddam Hussein's support

for terrorism in the region.

Bitzer said while Americans supported retribution against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, it's when they learned there weren't weapons of mass destruction in the region that "things began to fall apart."

Overall, the policy of removing the U.S. from Afghanistan for good is popular, Bapat said. But criticism stems from the perspective of how the withdrawal was executed. Combine that with the

See **Political**, page 7

A Moment of Silence



On this solemn anniversary, we honor the victims, the survivors and the first responders of September 11, 2001.

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Mocksville, NC

Mocksville man worked with Afghan citizens



Jeff White, left, stands at Ramadi, Iraq, with the director general of fire/EOD for Anbar Province, Joe, his interpreter, and a guard with a gun.



Jeff White of Mocksville talks about his time trying to help the people in Iraq and Afghanistan.

By Mike Barnhardt
Davie County Enterprise Record

armor when leaving the camp.

“Some of the Iraqis were pretty stand-offish,” he said.

He remembers a particular Sunday morning when he was working outside of the camp, a day when widows gather to ask the governor for favors.

“Here I am, a farm boy from Mocksville, with these 200 Iraqi women. I was always paranoid, because insurgents dressed up as women ... and women were beginning to be bombers.”

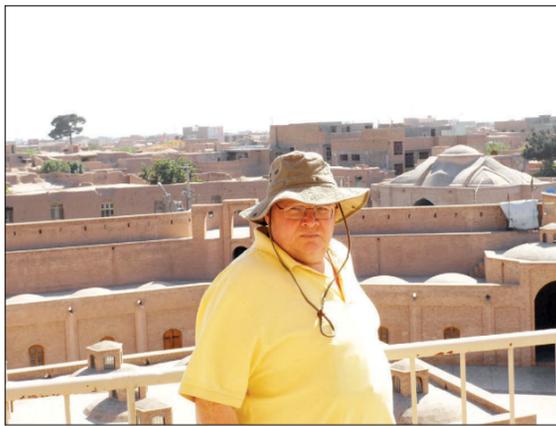
The sounds of bombs going off were almost continuous, he said.

White served his time in Iraq and came home.

He couldn't find a job. His personal life was disintegrating.

He was offered a state department job in Afghanistan, but turned it down.

“I was sure I didn't want to die yet.”



White visits the Citadel of Herat in Afghanistan.

But by January 2012, he had taken a job with a private company to provide services to Afghanistan.

No military escorts here as he had in Iraq, just a farm boy from Davie County trying to help Afghans build parks, bridges, roads and other infrastructure.

“Their sewers were open ditches outside of the streets.”

Eight Afghan engineers worked with White, sometimes others. Later, he wrote recommendations to help some of those engineers get visas to move to the United States.

“The Afghan people I worked with, they would have taken a bullet for me.”

When he noticed they were leaving the office daily to pray, he asked them why. They didn't want to offend him. White told him he was a guest in their country, they could pray inside the office.

“They didn't see the need for violence any more than I did. They were no more a terrorist than I was. We enjoyed each other's company.”

It wasn't like that in every province. He remembers morning meetings

at one when some of the Afghans would brag about catching suicide bombers the night before. He wondered which side they were on.

“I wasn't sure if they were Taliban or not. I felt sure that at some point, the Taliban were part of it.”

Corruption was rampant. Monies meant to help the common people often stayed in the hands of those in charge. People here have no idea what real corruption in government is like, he said.

His time in Iraq abruptly came to a halt when he suffered an aortic dissection. He had passed out, and those with him couldn't find a pulse in his extremities. White doesn't remember much, but because he wasn't associated with the military, the U.S. military base

See **Citizens**, page 7



As we mark the solemn anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, we remember all of the people whose lives were lost and forever affected by the tragic events of that day. Mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and friends, their memories live on with their loved ones and their fellow Americans.

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Thank You

On the 20th Anniversary of 9-11, we pause to remember those who gave their lives on that tragic day. We also want to honor the local First Responders who give so much each day for the people of Davie County... many as volunteers.

Thanks to each of these groups and their families for their dedicated service.

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- DAVIE COUNTY EMS
- DAVIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
- NORTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL



Local educators look back at classroom experience

By Carl Blankenship
Salisbury Post

SALISBURY — Tonya Brinegar German was outside with an earth science class at South Rowan High School when the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

The class did not know what happened when they went back inside, but it was grim. Another teacher told her to turn on the TV. The students had questions and she had no answers.

“That was one of the times as a teacher you are just a real person with them,” Brinegar German said. “I told them I did not know what was going on and we can see what we can find out together.”

Brinegar German, now the principal at East Rowan High School, said everything that teachers had planned that day went out the window and school was not the same for days after as the country crept back toward a sense of normalcy.

“A lot of people just wanted to be with family,” Brinegar German said. “That’s what students needed at the time.”

Brinegar German said it was a time to listen to the students speak about how it was affecting them and their families.

It was a time for teachers to be vulnerable as well. Brinegar German’s brother was in the Air Force at the time, and she had a 2-year-old daughter. She was concerned for both of them.

“I would share those moments with my students,” Brinegar German said.

One thing that does not stand out to Brinegar German with the older students is how many left that day.

Theresa Pierce, a retired teacher and two-time Teacher of the Year for Rowan-Salisbury Schools, remembers her fifth grade class dwindling to only about six students shortly after the first plane hit.

She taught science and history as part of a team at Granite Quarry Elementary. She can’t remember who told her, but she remembers someone coming to her room, whispering the country is under attack and for her to lock her door.

She had no idea what had happened and it reminded her of growing up in the nuclear age, learning about possible attacks.

She locked her door and stayed calm, but they could tell something was wrong as they were called to check out one-by-one.

The few who were left ate lunch in silence, still not knowing what had happened. Pierce did not get in front of a TV or learn what had happened until after dismissal. After everyone was home safe the staff got together to learn what had happened.

“We all went to the office and we were briefed and watched TV,” Pierce said.

Pierce said it was devastating. She remembered her father talking about fighting in World War II and being thankful the war never reached the civilian mainland. He died shortly before 9/11.

Pierce said in the days following it was too hard to even begin to explain what had happened to elementary students. If she had been teaching high school the situation would have been different because it was a historic event happening in

front of them. They would have watched what was going on and talked about it.

“There was a dark cloud for a long time,” Pierce said, adding she remembers pleas to give blood and join the military, as well as the sudden lack of violence on TV.

Many students did not come to school for a few days and she was hesitant to take her students outside for science experiments. Teachers were encouraged to talk to students about their feelings.

Pierce taught about the attacks every year after, and eventually she saw students who were too young or were born after the attacks.

“They didn’t get it and that’s OK,” Pierce said. “I told them to go find somebody in their family and let them tell their story.”



East Rowan High School Principal Tonya Brinegar German



Theresa Pierce is a retired teacher and two-time Teacher of the Year for Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

So many lives were lost and the towers no longer stand but... our nation united on that day 20 years ago.

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Events of 9-11 hit too close to home for Stanly Chamber group

By Charles Curcio
Stanly News and Press

The 20th anniversary of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, brings many people who remember the day back to the moment where they were when planes hit the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

Like the assassination of John F. Kennedy or the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger, many Americans can recall how they received the news of the terrorist attack.

With a small group of Stanly residents, 9/11 was forever seared into their memories because of their proximity to one of those places which was under attack.

An annual event Stanly citizens continue to go to involved members of the local Chamber of Commerce meeting with North Carolina's members of the House of Representatives. At these events, according to former chamber director Marianne Bright, members from across North Carolina met with representatives to discuss current issues.

"They have this whole list of speakers they would line up," Bright said.

The meetings took place in the Cannon House Office Building, located across the street from the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

All the state's representatives were there, including Robin Hayes, who represented the state's 8th District, which includes Stanly.

The person who took the Stanly contingent outside was one of Hayes' aides, future congressional representative Richard Hudson.

"At the podium I think they said, 'Out of an abundance of caution, we're going to go ahead and have you all evacuate this room because we heard there was a fire at the Pentagon,'" Bright said.

Before they left, another

person got to the podium to report about the planes hitting the World Trade Center in New York.

As they were being moved out of the building, they tried reaching home with cellphones, but to no avail. It was hours before they could get a message back.

Sherrill Smith, owner of S&D Construction, said he remembered the first person the group could reach was Kathy Valentine at the Bank of Stanly. She used local landlines to get the word out to families that the group was safe.

The Pentagon was a building where the group had just been, not 24 hours before. A general had called Stanly's group to see if they could move their visit up to the day before 9/11, which she said gave her "the feeling of being blessed by a higher power."

"We knew we were not meant to be in that building on the 11th."

Keith Arbuckle, the former CEO for Home Care of the Carolinas, was also with the group the day before. He remembered all tour buses being inspected that day by the State Department "because they were worried about terrorist activity."

In the middle of the park, Arbuckle remembered a spot called by staffers the "Atomic Hot Dog" stand as a possible meeting place for spies during the Cold War.

Smith also said he remembered seeing planes go over their heads the day before when at the Pentagon. Someone in the group asked the tour guide if the air above the building was restricted airspace.

"They said, 'No. They fly over it all the time,'" Smith said.

One of the members of the group, she said, had his beeper and cellphone with him. However, the battery in the cellphone was dead. This person got a message on his beeper to call his son

as they were all listening to someone speak.

The news had already been on television, the way most at the time saw the events of 9/11, but there were no TVs in the 300-seat meeting room in which the chamber event was taking place.

Security came in and announced the building needed to be evacuated, but this member went out a different door and was separated from the group.

"We go out the other door and I'm counting heads like a kindergarten teacher," Bright said.

Unable to find this person, whom Bright would not identify, the group made their way down the street to Hayes' apartment, which was right up the street from the Cannon Building.

It was at his apartment where the group first learned of the attacks as hundreds of people were being evacuated onto the streets.

While still in the streets, Smith said he remembered seeing what looked like agents in coats and ties going into houses to check on people living there.

Marianne's husband, former Albemarle High School principal and football coach Dave Bright, was on the group's bus with the driver going for provisions. Marianne said Dave and the bus driver were at a local McDonald's which had the events on a TV.

"They'd gone to get a biscuit and saw the television was just playing all this news," Bright said. "That's how Dave decided he had to find our group."

As the bus came back to the Cannon Building with many people in the street, one of the taller people in the group, former Norwood town manager John Mullis, got the attention of the driver.

"(John) starts jumping up and down in the middle of the street. He's waving



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

A military helicopter takes off after dropping off personnel at the Pentagon, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2001, as work continued after a terrorist crashed a hijacked airliner into the building.

his hands, and he's such a big guy," Bright said about how the bus found them.

Another group from the Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce was with the Stanly contingent, she said. Since they had flown in, they did not have immediate transportation.

However, Stanly's bus, which seated 27, had just enough room for both groups.

The one person they could not find had found their way back to the group's hotel. They eventually learned from getting a call through to the person's son.

By the time the group left town around 1:30 p.m., there were no cars going in their direction out of town.

Their route led them past the Pentagon off the interstate, where they could see where the plane hit the building.

"We took a moment of silence and just stared out the window," she said.

The spot they were looking at? The Atomic Hot Dog Stand.

Arbuckle had left the group on 9/11 to get back to his office in Albemarle. He was driving back past the Pentagon while the rest of the group was at the breakfast event with the state representatives.

As he was going down the elevator, he noticed a TV in it reporting on an accident. He asked a housekeeper in

the elevator with him, and she said she thought it was file footage and not current.

So Arbuckle got in his car and drove down I-395 past the Pentagon, and the plane had not hit there yet. He said he was not more than five miles down the road when he saw black SUVs with blue lights head the other direction.

As the group had noticed all the planes previously in the air the night before, suddenly the sky was clear. So he took the next exit and walked into the lobby of a Holiday Inn, where he saw the Pentagon and the footage.

"I had a cold, eerie feeling knowing that I had just gone by the Pentagon right before the plane impacted," Arbuckle said.

He then called his office to let him know he was OK, but he did not know about the rest of the group.

Arbuckle then called his mother, who was not watching TV at the time and did not know how close he had come to being there when it happened.

"It was in God's plan that we moved the tour up to Monday. Had we gone ahead and been at the Pentagon at 9:30 or 10, we would have been right there when the plane impacted," Arbuckle said.

Looking back on the day, Bright recalled the unity throughout the country after 9/11 saying people

"were brought together by that event because there were so many lives lost that crossed political boundaries."

She added she "did not ever want to come that close to history again."

Smith said it was a sad day, but he also remembers it as a day "that the United States came back together as one and worked together to rebuild and be strong again."

Having tutored children for the past 14 years, Bright said that 9/11 to many of those kids was another event in the history books because they had not been born yet when it happened.

The event may be taught in the classrooms, but Bright said she would always "have a stronger memory of what (9/11) meant and what happened that day."

Bright also mentioned the plane crashing in Pennsylvania, which was believed to be headed to the Capitol Building, which was right across the street from them.

"Had it not been for those brave people on that plane that I still can't comprehend how they dealt with those terrorists, we might have been right there in that building," Bright said. "Despite whether you had a direct loss in this or not, it felt like (9/11) affected everybody."

The lesson Smith took away from the event was vigilance.

"Never, never let your guard down...always be prepared (because) something bad could happen."

Smith added, "As long as terrorists live, I think we will always have a threat of something happening."

Of the lessons from the day, Arbuckle said, "at that point in time, there was only one race. The human race. People banded together and showed support for each other, especially our first responders."

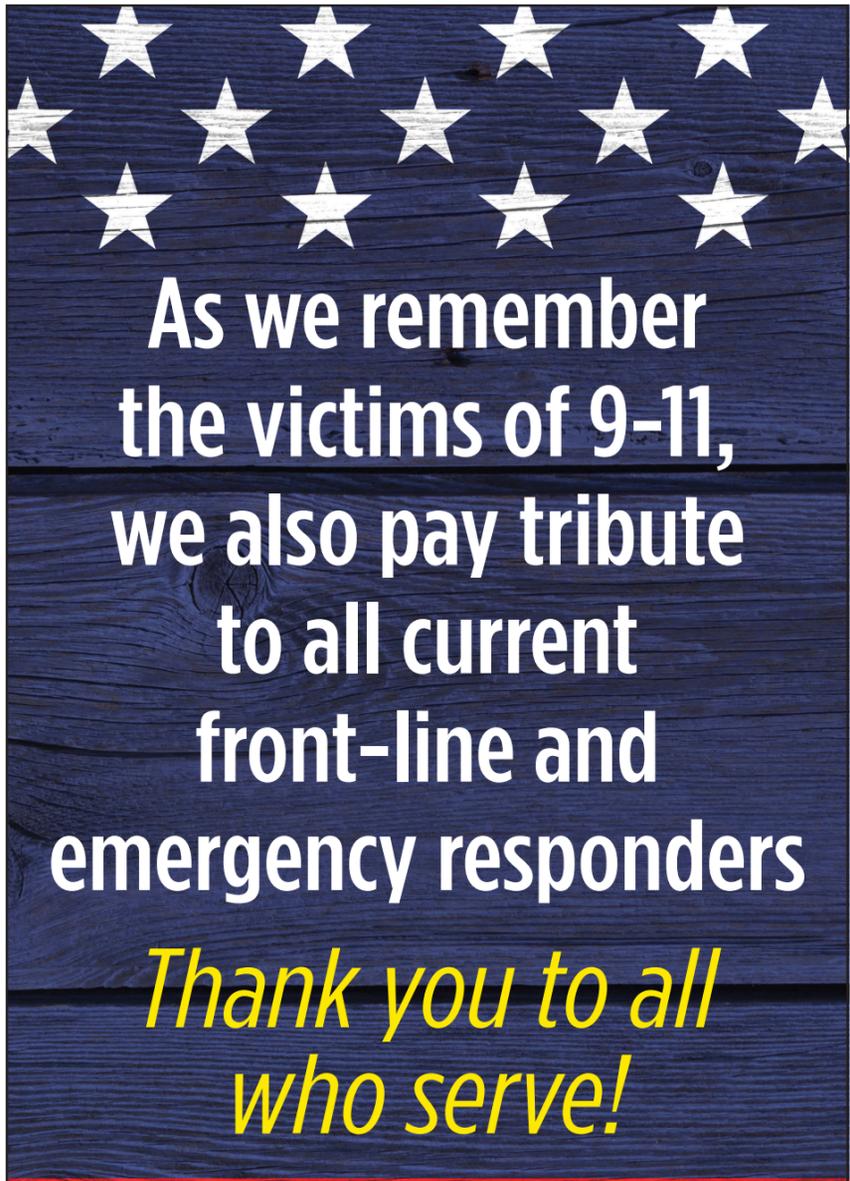


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Breaking

Continued from page 1

event for the editor. I told the press crew we would be late because two planes had crashed into the Twin Towers in New York and killed hundreds, possibly thousands. I had to say it more than once; they weren't sure they'd heard me right.

The rest of the morning was a blur. The Associated Press gave us news from the scenes, which grew to include the Pentagon in Washington and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Columnist Rose Post had long ago proclaimed that all roads lead to Salisbury, and so it was even with terrorist attacks. Reporters soon got calls from people with Salisbury connections who had been near — even in — the towers when terror struck. Locally, people announced blood drives and prayer services.

The big front-page headline declared: "Terrorists attack U.S."

What do you do after putting out a paper like that? You start on the next one, as usual. This time, Publisher Cathy Wilkerson brought up something else we'd never thought of before: an extra edition, the kind newsboys of old would hawk by yelling "Extra, extra!"

This was before the Post had a webpage. We didn't yet have smartphone technology to flash notifications, and Facebook and Twitter hadn't been invented. News was gushing out like water from a fire hose, and we wouldn't be able to update our readers for another 24 hours if we kept our usual schedule. Publishing an extra that night would get the news out faster.

We had more than enough news. But which photo should we use to dominate the front page? People sometimes save newspapers from historic events. This edition mattered more than most.

Current Night Editor Paris Goodnight was laying out the



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO
Plumes of smoke pour from the World Trade Center buildings in New York on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

front page that night. Calm and steady amid the hubbub, Paris placed a striking photo of the burning towers on the page under a headline that said, "Nation stunned."

We were just about done when another Associated Press photo came across, an image

that nearly prompted tears. Amid the dirt and debris of the fallen towers — and their own exhaustion — firefighters were raising the American flag.

The photo went beyond the destruction of the day to the aftermath, to the story of a nation rising undaunted from the ashes.

Even though we were running late, Paris redid the page and used that photo.

Throughout my years as editor, calls came in from people who asked why we ignored an important date, such as failing to mention Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, or printing no stories about D-Day on June 6. We forgot, I'd have to say, and the callers hung up disgruntled. I don't blame them.

The day will come when "Sept. 11" is just another day to young news staffs. Years from now, Sept. 11 will go by without mention of Twin Towers or terrorists in the news. But millions of us will forever remember the significance of Sept. 11, 2001 —

what happened, where we were, what we did.

It was a day of shock and newly discovered vulnerability. Yet, as the flag-raising photo showed, it was also a day of hope, of vowing to pull together and overcome the evil force that attacked our country.

I'll leave it to the news analysts to debate how successfully we've battled the destructive forces of 2001. As Joshua Cooper wrote in his aptly named book "The Age of the Unthinkable" over a decade ago, "There's no final whistle in international politics."

Conflicts change shapes and grow more complex, but they don't end.

For now, let's think back 20 years, mourn those who lost their lives and celebrate the inner strength America found on that dark day. It seems like centuries ago. Or was it only yesterday?

Elizabeth Cook is former editor of the Salisbury Post.

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Political

Continued from page 2

speed at which the nation fell apart and the circulation of heartbreaking images, and “it’s hard for Americans to say we support that,” Bapat added.

“The speed at which Afghanistan fell apart was a shock,” he said.

Additionally, going from a lack of attention to the conflict in Afghanistan in recent years to a flood of such images opens the door for political interpretations, Bapat said. While supporters of President Joe Biden and his administration will see it as relatively successful, Republicans are likely to view it as chaotic and will hammer on the number of Americans left behind.

“It was never going to be a pretty exit,” Bitzer said.

By August, Biden averaged a 49% approval rating for all adults based on a number of national polls. Currently, the Cook Political Report shows Biden’s approval rating within the 90 percentile for Democrats, below 15% for Republicans and around 43% among Independents. The 43% rating denotes a decrease from 58% among Independents in April.



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO
A fireman screams in pain during his rescue shortly after both towers of New York’s World Trade Center collapsed.

Bitzer said the fluctuation in Biden’s approval rating will mostly be driven by Independents since both parties aren’t expected to sway from those rates too much.

In general, American public opinion tends to have short-term memory on foreign policy issues, Bitzer said. But right around the corner are mid-term elections in 2022, which tend to be “referendums on the majority party.” For that reason, it’s likely Republicans will focus on Biden’s execution of withdrawing from Afghanistan to reclaim a majority in the

House and/or Senate.

Bapat said Biden was skeptical of maintaining a presence in Afghanistan even during his vice presidency under former President Barack Obama and has maintained that view during his presidency. But his strategy doesn’t stray too far from former President Donald Trump, who had been eyeing a way to negotiate a way out during his tenure.

But Bapat says a few things might have contributed to the fallout in the area following the announcement of withdrawal. The announcement from Biden in April to end the war probably gave signal that the Afghan government and military couldn’t combat the Taliban forces, who had a stronger force there, Bapat said. Additionally, Bapat said while it’s not clear it would have improved the fallout, previous patterns show it’s best to withdraw after the “fighting season,” which typically ranges from spring to the end of October or early November. An alternative strategy, he said, might have been to withdraw forces after Sept. 11.

Looking ahead, Bapat says it’s likely the U.S. will engage in drone ac-

tion against the new terrorist threat ISIS-K, which the Biden administration says is responsible for the death of 13 U.S. military members who lost their lives on Aug. 26 at the Kabul airport following a suicide bombing. The bombing also claimed the lives of at least 160 Afghans. This, combined with the way the 20-year war ended, may result in an increased skepticism of the U.S. among surrounding nations.

Following the U.S. invasion, most of Afghanistan’s wealth was put into U.S. reserves for safe keeping. That leaves the Taliban, who will soon need some form of currency and resources, with little to trade, Bapat said. The U.S. will likely place sanctions on the Taliban to prevent the access of those resources. Previous patterns following sanctions, he said, has shown



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO
A fireball explodes from one of the World Trade Center towers after a jet airliner crashed into the building Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, in New York.

a subsequent increase in human rights violations. He predicts any sanctions placed on the Taliban will

likely lead to more violence in the region.

“It’s tragic anyway you look at it,” Bapat said.

Citizens

Continued from page 3

hospital there wouldn’t take him. Luckily, the French hospital did.

Eventually, he was brought back to the United States by the company that had hired him. He had suffered brain damage from the ordeal. There was no “decompression” time for White, as some military members receive.

While he recognizes that the United States wasn’t accomplishing its mission in Afghanistan, even earlier he feared it would give rise to the Taliban, which according to White, wanted

to establish a functioning government in Kabul to give it legitimacy.

The withdrawal of troops from the country and the ensuing chaos saddens but doesn’t really surprise him. He worries about some of his friends there who may have wanted to flee, but were unable to get out.

“What we, as Americans, need to understand is, 95% of the people in Afghanistan want the same thing for their families that we want for ours,” he said.

“I think, with the amount of training we have given, the amount of weapons, that we had a right to expect more,” White added. “It was time to get out. I do think we

no longer had a stated mission in Afghanistan. But we should have looked at ISIS in Iraq. Virtually the same thing happened.

“I hope our leaders understand now that we do not do nation building very well.”

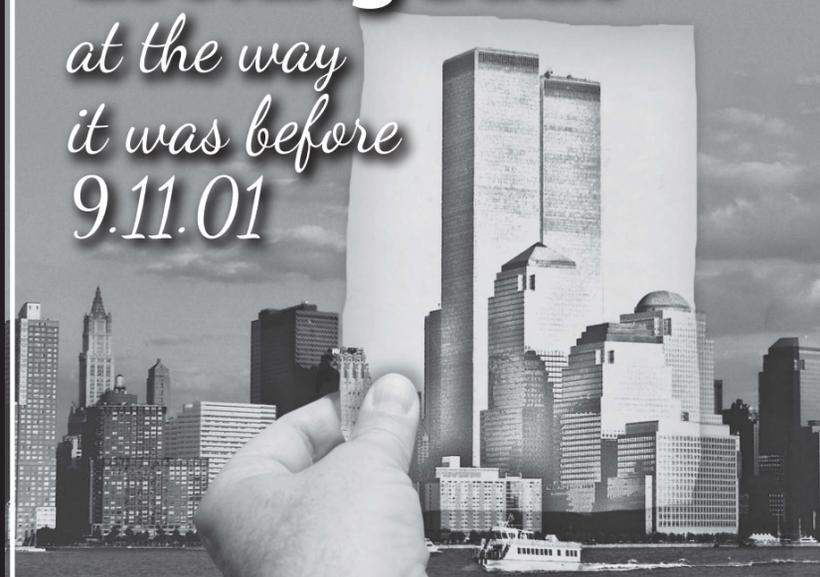
It’s been 20 years since White reacted to the Sept. 11 attacks as a small-town manager in North Carolina. He’s learned quite a bit since then about life in hostile Middle Eastern and Asian countries.

He’s proud of the work he did to help the common people in two of those countries.

“They’re not all terrorists.”

Looking Back

*at the way
it was before
9.11.01*



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President George W. Bush's address to the nation on Sept. 11, 2001

On the evening of September 11, 2001, United States President George W. Bush addressed a nation that earlier that day witnessed the deadliest terrorist attacks in world history. That morning, hijackers took control of four airplanes, ultimately crashing two into the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in a field near the town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania after passengers and crew attempted to regain control of the plane from the hijackers. All passengers and crew on board all four flights died on September 11, and thousands of others on the ground lost their lives that day as well. It was under those conditions that President Bush delivered the following speech to a shaken nation.



Good evening. Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices; secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed; our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.

America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America — with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C. to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight, and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business, as well.

The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism. Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night, and God bless America.



People run from the collapse of the World Trade Center Tower Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, in New York.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

09.11.01

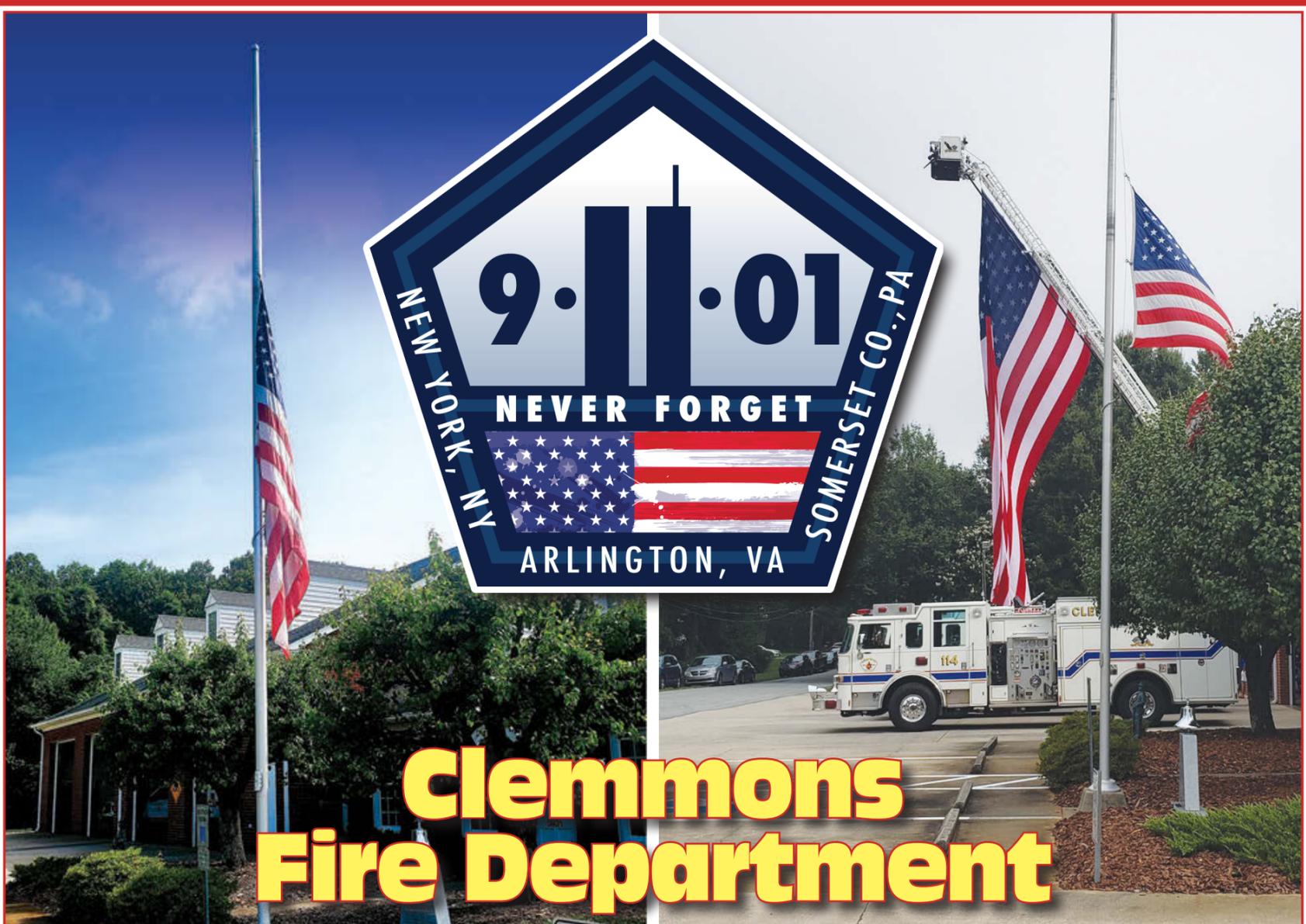
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Remembering all Americans who lost their lives at the Pentagon, in Pennsylvania, and at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

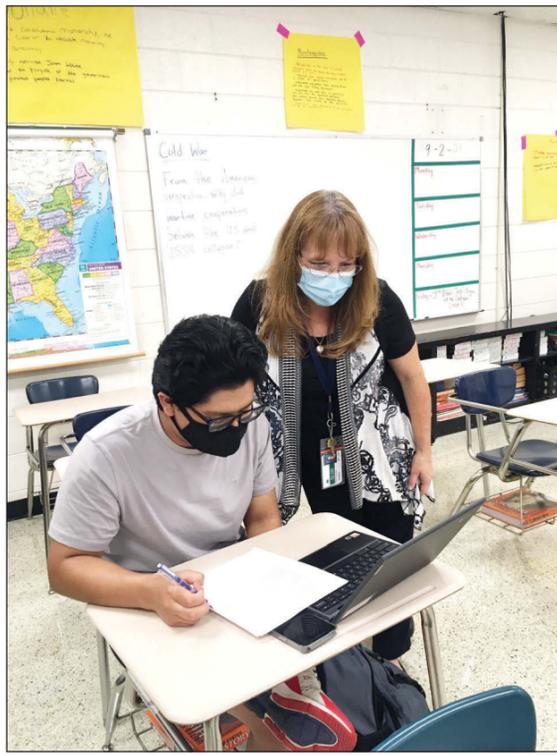
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Left: Ashley Carter works with Ella Combs at North Stanly High School. **Right:** Janet Lancaster works with John Howard during her civics literacy class at West Stanly High School.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Teaching

Continued from page 1

teaching civics and economics at Thomasville High School when a friend burst through the door, with tears in her eyes. “She said, ‘turn on the TV, turn on the TV,’” Lancaster recalled. She turned the television on in time to see the second plane collide with the tower.

“When that happened, my normally rambunctious, very verbose children just went dead silent,” said Lancaster, who has taught history for about 30 years and now teaches at West Stanly High School. Her classes spent the rest of the day talking about terrorism.

Many parents rushed to pick up their kids from school, and even though Lancaster’s “mama instinct” was to do the same with her small kids at daycare, she ultimately stayed at school to look after her students.

Lancaster had an exchange student from Germany at the time, and she remembers that his parents, who had little knowledge of American geography, frantically got in touch with the school, concerned that he had been impacted in some way.

For Carter and the many other Americans who grew up during that period, “9/11 was my generation’s Pearl Harbor,” she said.

Teaching about the attacks in schools

Carter teaches a variety of courses including civics and economics, world history and American history. She always tries to take a day to talk about 9/11 with her students — especially during the fall semester, and especially, if the calendar allows, on the anniversary.

While the 9/11 terrorist attacks have been listed as standards in the state’s K-12 social studies curriculum since around 2005, according to Lancaster, teachers generally have the latitude to decide how best to approach the topic.

Some teachers, like Carter, highlight the emotions of the day and what people were feeling, while others might remain more detached and just teach about the facts.

Carter said she focuses more on how people felt at the time than the actual events since most students already have at least a rudimentary knowledge of what happened.

“What I try to do when I teach it is I look at it like how we felt at that day and I look at it more from the shock value and how it really brought about patriotism,” she said.

Typically on the anniversary of the attacks, Carter plays a video from “Good Morning America” as the students trickle in. She gives them no advance warnings, so once the real-time footage is shown of the towers exploding, it often draws legitimate reactions.

At times over the years,

especially during periods of frequent school shootings and other attacks, Carter has adjusted her teaching style to give students more advanced notice before playing the footage.

“There were so many raw emotions because of the different school shootings and bombings where I didn’t want them to think it was real and cause added anxiety,” she said.

Carter also shares with the students her perspective about what the day felt like along with the personal testimonies from other people she has collected over the years, including her husband, who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, before having an open discussion with the class about what the day means to them. She also encourages the students to talk with their families and get their viewpoints about the topic.

This semester, Carter is teaching a class about key turning points in American history and she plans to conclude with 9/11 and the subsequent War on Terror. She has even asked her husband to come in and speak about the topic from a military perspective.

‘It really is a cathartic experience’

The perceptions and emotions regarding 9/11 have no doubt evolved over time, as generations of students with first-hand knowledge of the attacks have since graduated and more students born post-9/11 are coming of age. Similar to students studying long-ago events such as World War II or the Vietnam War, for each successive generation, the attacks seem to become less personal for students the more removed they are from when it occurred.

“To them, it’s just a historical thing that, yeah it matters, but it’s not as relevant as it used to be,” Carter said.

Lancaster, who is teaching civics literacy and a course on the Cold War this semester, has experienced that the further removed students are from the event, the more disconnected they are likely to become when discussing it.

But there are some exceptions: Lancaster had a few students several years ago who were from New York and were small children when the attacks occurred. One of her students talked about having the ash from the fire removed from his hair and clothes while being picked up from daycare due to his close proximity to the Twin Towers.

But it’s not just students. Carter mentioned that for young teachers coming into the profession, 9/11 will still be important to teach, but it may not have the same “relevance” as compared with veteran educators like herself and Lancaster who vividly remember what that day was like.

Lancaster likes to teach about significant historical events on the anniversary of when they happened, so she teaches about the terror attacks on Sept. 11 just

like she teaches about the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7.

“On those big dates, sometimes you just have to stop what you’re doing and really make sure...the students don’t forget this.”

In addition to specifics regarding why 9/11 happened and what the impacts have been, Lancaster also describes what she was doing the morning of the attacks. She stresses the importance of handling the weighty topic with compassion and respect since there are students with family members that served overseas as a direct result of the attacks.

Unlike Carter, Lancaster doesn’t show video of the planes crashing into the towers, though she will usually show footage of the aftermath.

“For me, because I lived through it, it’s almost too real,” she said, noting the footage can also be painful for some of her students.

While it can at times be difficult to discuss, talking about 9/11 with her students “kind of reaffirms my faith

in the human spirit,” Carter said. “To have that human experience and that shared time of being able to talk and share something with them” is incredibly valuable.

“It really is a cathartic experience to just be able to connect with them on a deeper level, even if it may just be for a day,” Carter added.

For Lancaster, not all historic events are necessarily equal when it comes to assessing the gravity of their impacts. She likens 9/11 to other seminal moments in American history such as the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the bombing of Pearl Harbor and said such momentous occasions should always be taught in schools.

“This is one of those points in history that we can’t ignore, that we need to make sure our students are aware of,” she said.

“I’m hoping that when my sons have kids someday, that this is one of the focal points for those students, too,” she added.

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20 Years Later... WE REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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On September 11, 2021, we remain grateful to the heroes of 9.11 and to our men and women in uniform. We remain committed to the ideals of freedom, liberty and justice for all. We remain united as Americans.

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A timeline of the morning of Sept. 11, 2001

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes bound for California. The planes departed from airports in Boston; Newark, N.J.; and Washington, D.C. Sept. 11 would become an infamous date in American and world history, and the events of that day would forever change the world. As the world commemorates the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the following timeline, courtesy of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, can help people fully understand how events unfolded on that late-summer morning two decades ago.

- **5:45 a.m.:** Two of the hijackers pass through security at Portland International Airport in Maine. The men will take a short flight to Boston Logan International Airport, where they will join three other hijackers and board American Airlines Flight 11.
- **6:00 a.m.:** Two of the hijacked planes, American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175, will eventually crash into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center complex in New York City. The day was a significant one on the New York City political calendar, as polling stations opened at 6 a.m. for primary elections.
- **7:59 a.m.:** American Airlines Flight 11 takes off from Boston with 11 crew members, 76 passengers and five hijackers on board. The plane, which will eventually crash into the North tower at the World Trade Center, is filled with more than 76,000 pounds of fuel.
- **8:15 a.m.:** United Airlines Flight 175 takes off from Boston with nine crew members, 51 passengers, and five hijackers on board. This flight also is loaded with 76,000 pounds of fuel.
- **8:19 a.m.:** American Airlines ground personnel are alerted by flight attendant Betty Ann Ong that Flight 11 is being hijacked. This call lasts roughly 25 minutes and Ong reports that the cockpit is unreachable. In the moments before Ong's call, one of the hijackers stabbed Daniel M. Lewin, who was sitting in front of him in first class. Lewin is likely the first person killed in the 9/11 attacks.
- **8:20 a.m.:** American Airlines Flight 77 takes off from Washington Dulles International Airport. The flight has 49,900 pounds of fuel and is carrying six crew members, 53 passengers and five hijackers.
- **8:21 a.m.:** The transponder on Flight 11 is turned off. This device is meant to allow air traffic controllers to identify and monitor the flight path of a plane.
- **8:24 a.m.:** One of the hijackers of Flight 11 unwittingly broadcasts a message to air traffic controllers alerting them to the attacks. The hijacker was attempting to communicate with passengers and crew within the cabin.
- **8:30 a.m.:** Around this time, roughly 80 people have already begun gathering on the 106th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center for a financial technology conference. The conference is one of many events on the Trade Center schedule that day.
- **8:37 a.m.:** The Boston Air Traffic Control Center alerts the military that a hijacking is under way.
- **8:42 a.m.:** United Airlines Flight 93 takes off from Newark International Airport. The flight was due to take off at roughly the same time as the other hijacked planes, but was delayed due to routine traffic. Seven crew members, 33 passengers and four hijackers are on board. The flight is filled with 48,700 pounds of fuel.
- **8:46 a.m.:** Five hijackers crash Flight 11 into floors 93 through 99 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Hundreds, including everyone on board the flight, are killed instantly. The crash severs all three emergency stairwells, trapping hundreds of people above the 91st floor.
- **8:46 a.m.:** Police, paramedics and firefighters are sent to the North Tower.
- **8:50 a.m.:** While visiting an elementary school in Florida, U.S. President George W. Bush is notified that a small plane has hit the North Tower.
- **8:52 a.m.:** A flight attendant aboard Flight 175 reaches a United Airlines operator in San Francisco and reports the flight is being hijacked. By 9 a.m., various passengers on Flight 175 have called family members.
- **8:55 a.m.:** The Port Authority informs people inside the South Tower via a public address system that the building is secure and there is no need to evacuate.
- **8:59 a.m.:** The Port Authority Police Department orders both towers evacuated. One minute later Captain Anthony Whitaker expands the order to include all civilians in the entire World Trade Center complex.
- **9:02 a.m.:** An evacuation order is broadcast in the South Tower.
- **9:03 a.m.:** Five hijackers crash Flight 175 into floors 77 through 85 of the South Tower. All onboard the flight are killed, as are an unknown number of people inside the building. Two of the three emergency stairwells are impassable and most elevator cables are severed, trapping many people above the impact zone and inside elevator cars.
- **9:03 a.m.:** A second call for mobilization brings the total number of New York City Police Department officers responding to the scene to roughly 2,000. In addition, the FDNY issues a fifth alarm and deploys several hundred additional firefighters to the scene.
- **9:05 a.m.:** President Bush is informed that a second plane has crashed into the World Trade Center.
- **9:12 a.m.:** Flight attendant Renée A. May calls her mother and tells her that hijackers have seized control of Flight 77. When May's call is disconnected, she calls American Airlines.
- **9:30 a.m.:** Amidst reports of additional hijacked planes, the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management at 7 World Trade Center is evacuated.
- **9:37 a.m.:** Hijackers crash Flight 77 into the Pentagon. All 53 passengers and six crew members perish, and 125 military and civilian personnel on the ground are killed in the fire caused by the crash.
- **9:42 a.m.:** The Federal Aviation Administration grounds all flights, ordering all civilian planes in United States airspace to land. Departures also are prohibited.
- **9:45 a.m.:** Evacuations at the White House and the U.S. Capitol begin. Both the House of Representatives and Senate are in session at the time the evacuation begins.
- **9:58 a.m.:** Flight 93 is flying so low to the ground that passenger Edward P. Felt is able to reach an emergency 911 operator in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.
- **9:59 a.m.:** The South Tower collapses after burning for 56 minutes. The tower collapses in just 10 seconds.
- **9:59 a.m.:** Continuity-of-government procedures are implemented for the first known time in American history.
- **10:03 a.m.:** Four hijackers crash Flight 93 into a field near the town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. All 33 passengers and seven crew members on board perish. Passengers and crew had stormed the cockpit, and the plane ultimately crashes just 20 minutes' flying time from Washington, D.C.
- **10:15 a.m.:** The E Ring of the Pentagon collapses.
- **10:28 a.m.:** The North Tower collapses after burning for 102 minutes. More than 1,600 people are killed as a result of the attack on the North Tower.
- **11:02 a.m.:** New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani urges the evacuation of lower Manhattan.
- **12:16 p.m.:** The last flight still in the air above the continental United States lands. Within two and a half hours, U.S. airspace has been cleared of roughly 4,500 commercial and general aviation planes.

We will
never forget
these
precious
lives.



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*The loss is still felt
20 years later.*

2001 – 2021

Memories

Continued from page 1

mons Road.
 “It’s kind of our tribute,” Oliveri said. “It’s part of New York. We had customers come in the other day from the city, and a lady looked over there and immediately started crying and thanking me for doing it. Parents will bring their kids over and talk about it.”

“It’s more than ice and the other stuff we sell. We put it back there so people can have their quiet time, but if people ask questions, I’m here to answer them.”
 Oliveri vividly recalls the moment of that morning when he was at work as a district manager for a retail corporation and reports started coming out on the radio that a plane had hit the World Trade Center.

“Our first reaction was, like, how could a plane hit the tower?” he said. “How could you not see that? That was a typical New Yorker’s reaction, like what? We turned on the TV, and it seemed like everyone turned on the TV at the same time to see the second plane hit. Everyone knew, I believe, at that point that our world had changed.”

Naturally, thoughts immediately turned to family, friends and all the first responders who might be impacted when the planes hit the Twin Towers, and Oliveri rushed to a dropoff point with water and supplies to be shuttled to Ground Zero.

“If you remember the scenes, there were a lot of people just running away and all the firefighters and emergency workers were going in, so we could only get so far,” he said. “When those towers came down, the smoke and debris almost had a life of its own. It, like, traveled down streets.”

Among those who perished was his wife’s cousin, Patrick O’Keefe, one of the firefighters on Rescue 1 out of Manhattan. Along



JIM BUICE / FOR THE CLEMMONS COURIER

Nat Oliveri has set up a corner of Mama Mia Italian Ice in Clemmons with memorabilia, photos and other information as a remembrance and a way ‘to keep these people’s heroics and memories alive.’

with the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives in the attacks, a total of 411 emergency workers died, including 343 firefighters and 23 police officers.

Oliveri added that those numbers have continued to climb over the years due to those affected by hazardous materials at the scene. He stated that more than 240 firefighters and 200 police officers have died over the years because of 9/11-related illnesses.

“The fire burned like 99 days or something like that after the attacks before it was finally extinguished,” he said. “A lot of police officers and firefighters here donated their own time and paid their own way to get up to New York to help out and man the stations while the teams were rescuing their brothers.”

“We lived it, and I think everyone remembers how the country came together at the time after 9/11, and 20 years later when we look back, it’s like what happened?”

A few other observations from Oliveri from that day and the days to follow:

- “We were on alert. If you’ve been to New York City, everyone always comments how loud it is. But it was quiet, eerily quiet. A lot of people don’t realize that when this happened, everybody was isolated. All the tunnels and bridges were locked down, and a lot of people had to walk home.”

- “The phone lines were crazy. You couldn’t get through to anybody. Back then, cellphones couldn’t get a hold of anybody.”

- “A lot of people don’t know that one canine perished. When they rescued his body during the excavation, all the work stopped. They gave him full honors.”

- “People don’t realize that every day there was a funeral. If you were out there driving, you’d see the funeral processions. There were flags over every overpass. People would stop on the opposite lanes and pay

respects.”

Much has changed since those days with the Oliveris, who lived on Long Island before departing in 2009 and heading south. They now live in Advance.

How much was 9/11 a factor in their decision to leave?

“One-hundred percent,” Oliveri said. “Well, 50%. The other 50% was taxes and craziness. We started a family in 2004 (they have five kids) and didn’t want our kids growing up in that environment. My wife still has difficulty. It’s very hard for her to talk about it. My brother Al has been down here about 35 years, so that’s how we knew the area.”

Oliveri’s memories after relocating here led to him serving as the East Coast director of the Remembrance Rescue Project for several years.

He did presentations about 9/11 to students and groups in both Davie and Forsyth counties, and helped coordinate taking restored rescue trucks (Rescue 4 and Rescue 5) that responded to the disaster to schools as an educational tool for students and as a way of honoring the firefighters who perished.

With the business, Oliveri goes back to New York every 11 days to two weeks to get his authentic Italian ice and other products. He gets his ice from his cousin in Queens, the Lemon Ice King, who is featured in the opening credits of the “King of Queens” television show.

“Frank Sinatra used to visit my cousin’s shop,” Oliveri said.

The Oliveris opened Mama Mia four years ago just around the corner on Clemmons Road before moving into the new location earlier this year.

“Living in the South, we love it,” he said. “The community has embraced us. We’ve embraced the community. We’ve tried to carry on from 9/11 with people helping each other.”



The nuclear-powered USS Enterprise stretches 1,122 feet long.

Carrier

Continued from page 1

to turn his television on to the news channel. “You could see the first tower. Everybody thought it was an accident. Then I saw the second plane hit on live TV.”

His office was directly under the flight deck. (To give one an idea of the size of the ship, the flight deck covers 4.5 acres and can house 100 planes.)

“Within five minutes, you could hear water slamming,” Barney said, indicating the ship was making a sharp turn. “It went hard.”

The commanding officer had decided the ship would be needed again. It was full speed ahead going north; even the supporting escort ships couldn’t keep up.

“Within a matter of minutes, we had put a combat patrol up. The rest of the battle group was already in the South Indian Ocean, so we were by ourselves.”

Barney, a second class petty officer and nuclear electrician in the propulsion plant, said regular operations and maintenance stopped.

“You got things lined up to go.”

It was that way for nearly a month.

Some 862,000 tons of ordinance was dropped during the next two weeks. Even aircraft that didn’t normally carry bombs had them attached and were sent into action.

“After two or three weeks, there was not

much left to bomb,” he said.

By Nov. 10, the USS Enterprise arrived home in Norfolk, Virginia. It had already been scheduled for an overhaul.

The ship was the first to strike against terrorism after Sept. 11, and it was the first to return home. Barney remembers 20,000 people had showed up on the pier for the welcome home. There were sandbags and bunkers everywhere, trained military personnel with machine guns ready to fire all over the base.

“It was surreal. We were the horse and pony show.”

Sure, Barney got to see the nationally televised show aboard the ship that featured Garth Brooks, Jewel, Steve Wariner and Trisha Yearwood. And sure, he got to see President George W. Bush from several feet away as he thanked the Navy personnel for their actions.

But most of all, it was the feeling of helping his country that stayed with Barney.

“It was nice to do something that mattered,” he said.

Barney had spent six years in the Navy, joining because of its college fund program. He has since worked at domestic nuclear power plants, as a police officer and volunteer firefighter in Davie County and as a husband to Amanda and father to Creighton and Shea.

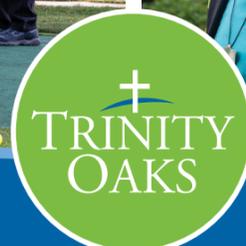
“I had a good time. It was a very good six years.”

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In this image taken from video, one of the towers of the World Trade Center in New York collapses on Tuesday Sept. 11, 2001.

NEVER FORGET



Associated Press file photo



Associated Press file photo



Photo by Mark Bee, Clemmons Courier

Above left: Rescue workers and vehicles are deployed near the site of the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 12, 2001.

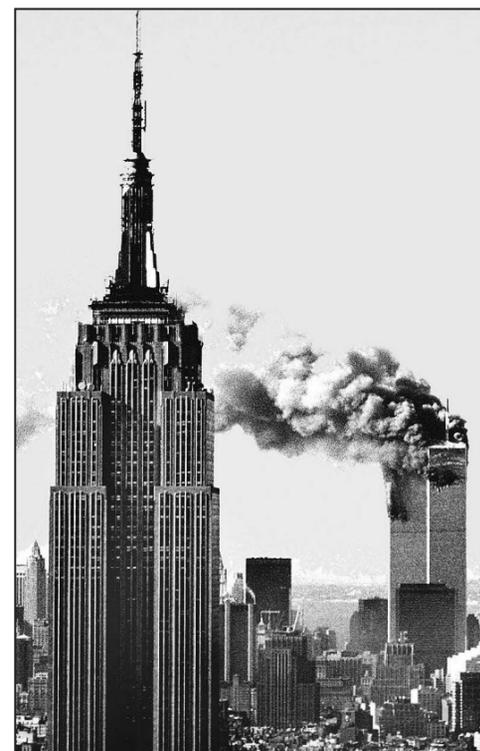
Above: Two women hold each other as they watch the World Trade Center burn following a terrorist attack on the twin skyscrapers.

Left: Clemmons Fire Department displays the American flag on Sept. 11, 2018.



The World Trade Center steel beam is dedicated at a memorial service on Sept. 11, 2011, at the Salisbury Fire Department. The cross marking on the bottom of the beam indicated to rescue workers in New York that there was a body under the beam at that location.

Photo by Wayne Hinshaw, Salisbury Post



Associated Press file photo



Associated Press file photo

Left: Smokes billows from the World Trade towers in New York on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, after two aircraft hit the upper floors of the buildings. The Empire State Building is in the foreground. **Right:** The south side of the Pentagon burns on Sept. 11, 2001, as seen from atop the River House Apartments in Arlington, Va.



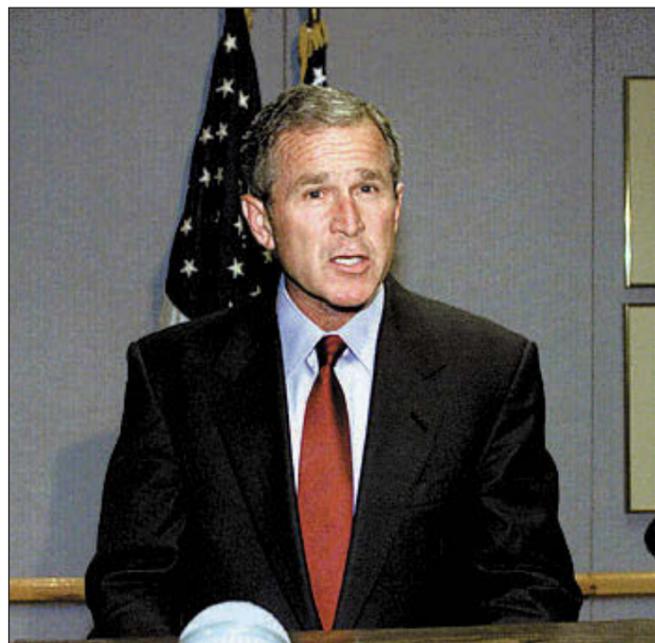
Associated Press file photo

The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses after a terrorist attack on the New York landmark.



Associated Press file photo

Above: People flee the scene near New York's World Trade Center.



Left: President George W. Bush addresses the nation from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., about the terrorist acts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

Associated Press file photo

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