

Remembrance Presentation

Discussion Questions

- Twenty, fifty, or one hundred years from now how do you think the events of September 11, 2001 will be understood as part of the larger context of United States history? What about world history? In your opinion, what other events have had a similar impact on U.S. or world history?
- How would you explain 9/11 today to someone who was born on September 12, 2001?
- Sally Regenhard laments “the four words no mother should ever hear” when discussing her fears about her son. “I want to know where my son is,” she says, and the official responds, “He is unaccounted for.” She then sadly reflects, “That is something that happens in a war...”

Do you think those killed on 9/11 were civilian casualties of war?

- Rosemary Caine adds, “they were civilians...innocent people,” and Michael Cutler adds that 3,000 people were victims of “mass murder...”

Is there a meaningful difference between the mass murder of civilians and the death of soldiers in a military action? Why does it matter whether civilians or soldiers are killed? What is the difference?

- Anthony Gardner observes, “Sometimes there aren’t goodbyes.”

How can you say goodbye to a lost loved one, when you can’t actually say goodbye? Why is this important? If you realized that you might not see one of your family members at the end of the day would you live your life differently?

- Jennifer Glick mentions that her brother, “just wanted his wife and daughter to be happy in life.”

What do you think he meant by this?

- Brian Clark, one of the few survivors from above the point of impact on the South Tower comments, "I did not pass anyone going up the stairs."

What is the significance of his statement that he met no one coming up the stairs? Who did he expect to meet?

A commonplace saying is that safety regulations are "written in blood," meaning that people must be injured or die before the rest of us will take safety seriously. What national security and safety lessons can we learn from this tragedy?

- Herb Ouida wonders (about his son), "What did Todd experience?" Alice Hoagland says of her son, "he probably knew that he was going to die," and Beverly Eckert stated that her husband Sean Rooney, "knew he was going to die" yet he was "strong... brave... an inspiration."

Why is it important for survivors to know how their loved one reacted to the circumstances of their death? Why might some people find it inspirational to be "brave" in the face of death? How much would you want to know about your loved one's final moments? Why?

Do you think the story of 9/11, how individuals helped others, is inspirational? Does this story inspire you to help others in your community, get involved in politics, or public service?