

What I Learned on Tuesday...



Lessons of Tuesday, September 11, 2001

By Brien Farley



*For my children and all children, that they may always know
Freedom.*

-BF, Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Forward

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001 two airliners fully loaded with passengers were hijacked by Islamic terrorists and deliberately flown into the North and South World Trade Center towers in New York City. A third airliner was plowed into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. A fourth, wrested from the terrorists' control by heroic passengers, slammed into an empty field in Pennsylvania, killing no one other than those aboard. In total 2,974 innocent people were murdered in a span of less than two hours.

At the time, my wife was six months pregnant and away at work. My daughter had just turned four and was off at daycare. I was at work without a car as it was in the shop. The phones were temporarily out of order. I had no gun or means of defending anything, and no clue what was coming next. I was no where near any of the crashes. I knew no one in any of the buildings or planes destroyed. But I will never forget that feeling of helplessness. And I will never forget what I learned on Tuesday.



On Tuesday I learned...



New York City, August 2001

... To create is heroic; to destroy, easy.



On Tuesday I learned...



...A single moment can change the world.



On Tuesday I learned...



...History is not over.



On Tuesday I learned...



...The floor I stand on may not be the ground.



On Tuesday I learned...



Photo by James Nachtwey

...Nothing is permanent, except the Truth.



On Tuesday I learned...



... Evil takes control of your strengths and uses them
against you.



On Tuesday I learned...



...“That all men are created equal, that they are
endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable
Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the
Pursuit of Happiness.”

-The Declaration of Independence



On Tuesday I learned...



... People will kill for Freedom, either to keep it, or
to take it away.



On Tuesday I learned...



... To deny a man his freedom is to kill him.



On Tuesday I learned...



Photo by James Nachtwey

... Patriotism is no joke.



On Tuesday I learned...



... America is the world's best chance,
and last hope.



On Tuesday I learned...



... Some things truly are worth dying for.



On Tuesday I learned...



... Taking care of each other is the most important
thing we can do.



On Tuesday I learned...



...“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is
for good men to do nothing.”

- *Edmund Burke (1729-1797) Irish philosopher and statesman.*



On Tuesday I learned...



Firefighter going up the WTC stairs as all others go down.

...“If not us, who? If not now, when?
- *Hillel the Elder, Jewish religious leader, 73 BC to 4 AD*



On Tuesday I learned...



... America is not a castle, or a fortress, or a monument, but a garden in need of tending.



On Tuesday I learned...



...Peace without freedom is no peace at all.



On Tuesday I learned...



...The path ahead is rarely clear, but decisions must
be made, and action taken.



On Tuesday I learned...



...There is no time for indecision. There is no time
for cynicism. Our moment in history is *now*.
The world, our forefathers, and our posterity
are watching.



On Tuesday I learned...



... Symbols matter.



On Tuesday I learned...



... There is a line that can be crossed, and when it is,
people of conscience must act.



On Tuesday I learned...



"We have not journeyed across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies, because we are made of sugar candy."

— *Sir Winston Churchill*



On Tuesday I learned...



United States Marine Corps Baker Company

... Freedom is God's gift to mankind and it is our
honorable duty to defend it.



On Tuesday I learned...



Photo by Michael Yon

“The person who has nothing for which to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.”

– *John Stuart Mill (1806 –1873) British philosopher, economist, and Member of Parliament.*



On Tuesday I learned...



Photo by Michael Yon

...“There is a profound moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest.”

- President Ronald Reagan



On Tuesday I learned...



... Why people pray, “May God bless America.”



On Tuesday I learned...



September 11 "Tribute in Light" Memorial

...America is not a place, but an idea, made real
every day by those who believe in it.



On Tuesday I learned...



... “In the ruins of two towers, at the western wall of the Pentagon, on a field in Pennsylvania, this nation made a pledge, and we renew that pledge tonight: Whatever the duration of this struggle, and whatever the difficulties, we will not permit the triumph of violence in the affairs of men – free people will set the course of history.”

– *President George W. Bush*



On Tuesday I learned...



“The Cause of America is in a great measure the
cause of all mankind.”

- Thomas Paine, Common Sense, 1776

