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## **911**

Written By: Harry Gribnitz

*I have wrestled trying to find words appropriate for the subject that must be addressed this month. I could not find any better than those of our President;*

*"We have seen the courage of passengers, who rushed terrorists to save others on the ground..." " We have seen the state of our union in the endurance of rescuers, working past exhaustion. We have seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers in English, Hebrew and Arabic. We have seen the decency of a loving and giving people, who have made the grief of strangers their own."*

*"We will starve terrorists of funding, turning them one against another, drive them from place to place, until there is no refuge or rest. And we will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism. Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." "This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight."*

*"To Muslims throughout the world: We respect your faith. It is practiced freely by millions of Americans... Its teachings are good and peaceful, and those who commit evil in the name of Allah blaspheme the name of Allah."*

*" I will not forget this wound to our country, or those who inflicted it. I will not yield. I will not rest. I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security of the American people. The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain. Freedom and fear, justice and cruelty, have always been at war, and we know that God is not neutral between them"*

*Inspired, I headed to the store to purchase a flag for my office. As I entered the mall, I saw a woman, her head covered, sitting on a bench outside the entry. Normally, I probably would not have noticed, but this was not a normal day. I was fortunate to purchase one of the last available flags. It was about 10" by 12" mounted on a short staff, perfected for waving. As I left the mall, the woman was still on the bench but now surrounded by three menacing teenagers shouting vile insults. I instinctively, waved my flag at them as I chased them off. I paused to ask if she was OK, since she had tears in her eyes. She said she was not afraid of the teenagers, but she was afraid for her son only a little older than those who had harassed her. He had just been notified that his Marine unit in North Carolina should prepare to deploy.*

*As I handed her my flag, I told her I would pray for him. As I left I remembered the words of my Dad "look through the eyes and into the heart."*

*God Bless America,*

*Harry Gribnitz*

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