I rise on this somber anniversary to honor the memory of

those lives lost in the attacks on September 11, 2001. For 11 years, I

have stood at firehouses and schools, churches and veterans halls, and

heard the stories of bravery and heroism from that terrible morning

that changed America.

New Jersey lost more than 700 residents in the attacks, innocent

people who were targeted in an act of war upon the Nation. Brave first

responders courageously initiated rescues with their lives in danger.

These stories are not new but need to be retold as a new generation

comes of age and is taught of the determination of our country.

The lives lost in the ensuing battles abroad have continued to try

the foundation of our will. We have proven steadfast in the commitment

to our values. Our freedom and liberty have been protected by brave men

and women who selflessly answer the call of service.

No matter the challenges we face, we must remember that our Nation is

truly blessed. I ask all Americans today to pause and reflect on the

tragedy of 9/11, and please pray for the victims and honor their

memory, and please pay tribute to the men and women who serve and

defend us today against the dangers we still face.

May God bless them all, and may God continue to bless the United

States of America.