

Remember, Just Five Years Ago ... 9/11

By Bob Anderson, PhD, CMSgt. (Ret.)

Last September 11, I was in Iraq. To be honest, it came and went and I didn't even notice it until nine hours later. That's how much time difference there was between where I was and where my family was. Funny, I lived in one time zone but marked my days from another time zone.

It is funny how we have to measure things like time. God created time, man created the clock to measure it, mark it and remember it. In a short while it will be September 11 again. This one reveals turmoil throughout our country. Anger over political ineptness, anger over immigration, anger over border control, anger over the war in Iraq, anger over political incorrectness, anger over political differences, anger over differences of opinion, anger of the media, anger over just about everything.

You know I don't have a problem with that, differences of opinion I mean; but on that day – let us remember. Remember where you were, what you were doing, how you felt; do you remember the anger, the fear, the apprehension? Do you remember what the morning of September 12th was like?

I do! I remember seeing the flags come out, I remember what that felt like – how it made me feel, proud to be an American and angry at people that attacked us.

Five years later we seem to be in trouble, almost like a rudderless boat with the engine churning full power. We are unpredictable and dangerous, which is not a bad place to be with your enemies – but we are unpredictable and dangerous with ourselves.

In a land based on checks and balances, we are employing none of them to the benefit of our citizens. In a land founded on religious freedom, we have turned our backs on God. In a land where accountability and responsibilities have been the foundations of our culture, no one is accountable and no one is responsible any more. In a land that has been described as a melting pot as long as I can remember, we are no longer assimilating – we remain divided and multi-cultural.

While I trust the American Spirit – I fear where we are headed in the process.

So, I ask you – Republicans and Democrats, Liberals and Conservatives, Baptists, Buddhists and atheists, whites, blacks, brown – all colors, faiths and beliefs – I ask you to join me for just a few moments on September 11, 2006 and remember those that died that date in 2001. Put your agendas aside, place your rhetoric back in your briefcase and just for a few moments remember – there was a time just five years ago when as a country we were shocked, angry, fearful, and committed. Just five years ago, we looked into each other's eyes and did not see strangers – we saw neighbors.

Just five years ago, wonder where the time went...

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