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OAA Remembrance Ceremony
Hosted by
The Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army
9 September 2011 / 0900 Hours
Pentagon Memorial Site

Ms. Karan L. Reidenbach: Welcome to the Remembrance Ceremony honoring the victims of 9/11 from the Office of the Administrative Assistant. Please stand for the invocation by Chaplain Walker.

CH (COL) Bryan J. Walker: Father, sustained by your grace, we seek your strength and comfort as we remember those OAA members who perished 10 years ago in the attack on the Pentagon. We have gathered as a community both to honor their sacrifice and to express our collective sorrow to family members. Although they have stepped from our lives into your presence, we purpose to hold dear their memory and treasure within our hearts the character of their lives and the excellence of their service. Surround us with your Spirit so that in the light of your glory we

might find faith for today and help for tomorrow, we pray in your name. Amen.

Ms. Reidenbach: Please be seated.

Ms. Reidenbach: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army Ms. Joyce Morrow.

Ms. Joyce E. Morrow: Good morning and welcome.

It is my honor to stand before you today as the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Three years ago, we gathered here after the dedication of the Pentagon Memorial to remember the 40 individuals from the Office of the Administrative Assistant who lost their lives during the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. Today, we gather to mark the 10th anniversary of that day and to celebrate the strength, resilience, and resolve of the families, the survivors, and the OAA workforce.

Several special guests have joined us:

The Secretary of the Army, The Honorable John McHugh, a former Administrative Assistant, Mr. J. B. Hudson, Dr. Matiella, or Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller. We also have many family members and friends of our fallen, as well as members, former and present, of the OAA team.

The 40 individuals we remember today had many roles: husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, friends and coworkers. They were special to so many of us in so many different ways. Your presence here today helps remind us how significant and how special those 40 individuals were. Some of you came from the greater Washington, DC, metropolitan area and some came from as far away as California. I want to thank you all for joining us, particularly in this weather.

As the names of our fallen are read, we asked a family member, friend, or OAA employee to step forward to receive a Resilience Ribbon in their honor. These ribbons symbolize the trinity of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

We will always have our sacred memories of yesterday. Some may still be difficult to revisit. Other memories may cause us

moments of reflection, and still others may remind us of the good times we shared. Even in our darkest moments, we find hope and faith. Together, we move forward in the spirit of healing and strength.

Ms. Morrow: J.B. Hudson was the Administrative Assistant when Flight 77 hit the Pentagon 10 years ago. He was forever changed by that day.

Recently, Mr. Hudson asked that I visit the OAA window in the Pentagon Memorial Chapel and offer up a prayer for him. As you may or may not know, the Pentagon Chapel is located at the point of impact where Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. The chapel has four stained glass windows honoring those who died in the attack. The fourth window, entitled "Tree of Faith," is dedicated to OAA. The tree pictured is the acacia tree, one of the hardest woods in the world and used to build the Ark of the Covenant. Like the roots of a tree growing deep in the ground, our beliefs must be rooted deeply within us to weather the storms of life.

It is my honor to introduce Mr. J.B. Hudson.

Mr. J.B. Hudson: An entire section of the Washington Post, on 28 August, was entitled, "Remembrances 9/11/11." Normally

folks are asking me to quiet down, my voice is so loud. The section entitled, "Remembrances 9/11/11" contain an article on the Pentagon Memorial, the first national September 11 memorial to be completed. It has drawn about a half million visitors every year; that is those ones that are counted. I know that in the evenings there are many people out here silently walking through remembering their special loved ones that are memorialized here. This article introduces the visitors to the 184 souls who gave their lives that day, 40 of whom were members of OAA family. For all of us assembled here today, it is a deeply personal memorial.

As the members of the OAA family grieved for their loss, they rose to the many challenges and met them all in an exemplary manner.

Nearly a decade later, 9/11 is no less painful or the challenges to this American experiment in democracy any less real.

From the events known universally by the date 9/11, one profound conclusion rises above all others: our Nation is blessed with an incredible number of patriots who respond to meet every challenge to our way of life with unbelievable grace and absolute determination. Today, I am blessed to be among the finest of those patriots. Thank you and God Bless the United States of America.

Ms. Reidenbach: At this time, the names of those OAA employees who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001 will be read and Resilience Ribbons will be presented to family and friends. During the musical tribute, family and friends will proceed to the memorial to affix the ribbons to their loved one's bench. We ask that all others remain until the end of the musical tribute.

Ms. Karan Reidenbach reads the names. As each name is read, Cris Olidipo and Jen Garman hand the Resilience Ribbons to the individuals who come forward to accept each victim's ribbon.

Ms. Reidenbach:

Carrie Blagburn

Donna Bowen

Angeline Carter

Sharon Carver

John Chada

Ada Davis

Amelia Fields

Cortez Ghee

Brenda Gibson

Carolyn Halmon
Sheila Hein
Jimmie Holley
Peggie Hurt
Brenda Kegler
David Laychak
Samantha Lightbourn-Allen
Teresa Martin
Ada Mason
LTC Dean Mattson
Robert Maxwell
Molly McKenzie
Ted Moy
Diana B. Padro
MAJ Cliff Patterson
Scott Powell
Rhonda Rasmussen
Martha Reszke
Cecilia Richard
Edward Rowenhorst
Judy Rowlett
Robert Russell
Marjorie Salamone

Janice Scott
Michael Selves
Antoinette Sherman
Donald Simmons
Edna Stephens
Willie Troy
Meta Waller
Sandra White

Ms. Morrow: Again, I'd just like to say thank each of you for coming today, particularly in this weather. My special thanks again to Secretary McHugh, Dr. Mattiella, as well as all the family members, co-workers and friends that are here today. Your presence speaks volumes. Also a special thanks to the planning committee and all those who participated in the ceremony.

Inside the cover of your programs is the address of a memorial we have added to the OAA Web site in honor of the 10th anniversary of 9/11. It has photos and a few words about each of our fallen employees, as well as a lovely tribute written by OAA's own

Melissa Herr. I invite you to visit that site and to review your program.

In a few minutes, Ms. Veda Williams will sing a musical tribute. At that time we invite everyone with ribbons to proceed to the Memorial to affix the ribbons to your loved one's bench. We ask that everyone else remain until the completion of the musical tribute. At that time again, given the weather, but if you're up to it and want to take a little walk through the Memorial, I think you'll find it offers comfort and healing, a place to sit and reflect, a place to remember. And if not today, then perhaps at another time you can come back and experience the impact of the Memorial.

Ten years ago ordinary citizens endured extraordinary loss. As we continue to move forward, we will not let time erase our memories. We will not forget. OAA Remembers.

Ms. Veda A. Williams: God Bless America. It is the land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above. From the mountains to the prairies. To the oceans, white with foam. God Bless America. My home sweet home. God Bless America. My home sweet home.

Ms. Reidenbach: Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen. That does complete our ceremony. Please if you would like to visit the memorial, now is the time. I do apologize for the weather. Thank you.

End of ceremony.