



Personal Note from Bob

Although it still feels like Summer here in Southwest Florida and Fall has not officially started, there are signs that Fall is approaching. The Boys of Summer are focusing all of their efforts on getting into the World Series. School has started with football games on Friday nights. College football has returned to Saturdays and the NFL is back on Thursday nights and all day Sunday!! The days are getting shorter. The early mornings are not quite as humid, though humidity returns to "normal" by mid-morning. The evenings are also a bit cooler - especially after a thunderstorm.

It may be September, but the stores are already displaying decorations for Halloween, Thanksgiving and even Christmas!! Wow! The year 2022 is flying by and soon we will be celebrating 2023!

Let's slow down and enjoy these last days of Summer with friends and families.

Representative Bob Rommel
District 106



It was twenty-one years ago that American forever was changed.

On Sept. 11, 2001, the sun rose that late summer morning, shimmering against the skyscrapers of lower Manhattan, revealing one of the most beautiful days of the year.

It was a morning that would change the world forever.

The day's top story: Michael Jordan's unexpected return to professional basketball. The headlines on the front pages were filled with business news, and the ongoing debate over stem cell research.

All that changed shortly before 9 a.m., when 19 terrorists hijacked four airplanes. Air traffic controllers were the first to hear the sound of terror.

"Nobody move, everything will be okay. If you try to make any moves, you will injure yourself and the airplane. Just stay quiet," Mohammed Atta warned passengers on board American Airlines Flight 11, which crashed into the World Trade Center's North Tower.

Aviation officials helplessly tracked the second plane, United Flight 175. The crash, just 17 minutes later, made clear the country was under attack.

White House chief of staff Andy Card whispered the news into the ear of President George W. Bush, who was reading with school children at Emma E. Booker elementary school in Sarasota, Fla.

After meeting with advisers, the president found himself in the school library addressing a nation, in shock.

"Today, we've had a national tragedy. Two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an apparent terrorist attack on our country," the president said, less than an hour after the first attack.

They were hours of pure panic and terror: For those who were running for safety, and for a nation watching on television, wondering what would come next.

Moments later, a third plane, American Flight 77, this time into the Pentagon.

Frantic lawmakers evacuated the Capitol and the White House was on lockdown. United Airlines Flight 93, the fourth and final plane heading their way, taken down near Shanksville, Pa. by selfless heroes who saved countless lives, even if they couldn't save their own.

Then, the unimaginable. At 9:59 a.m., Tower 2, standing 110 stories into the sky, reduced to rubble in seconds. Twenty-nine minutes later, its twin, Tower 1, fell to the ground. Two symbols of American pride, two of America's tallest buildings, gone before our eyes. And with them, thousands of innocent victims, who had begun to fill their offices for work that morning.

Left in their places, was a burial ground, a crime scene, a war zone. It became known as "ground zero."

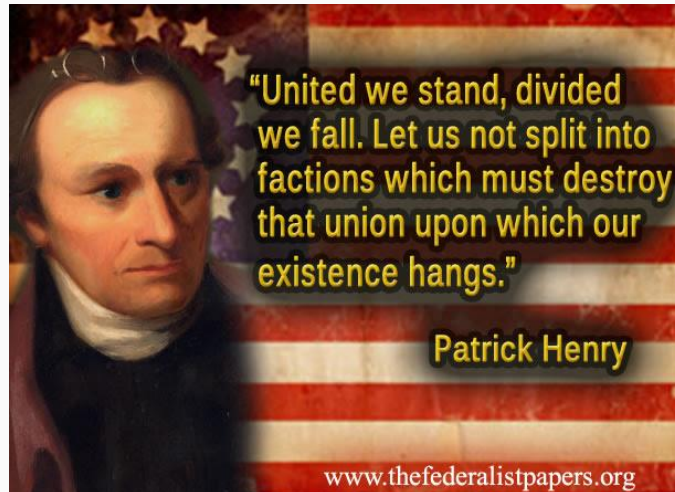
First responders were just beginning a herculean task that would last through countless days and nights. The fire at ground zero would burn for another 3 months.

But already by morning a new reality had set in. America had just experienced its darkest day.

* * * * *

Twenty-one years ago, Americans were more united than they had been in decades, probably since Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941. American flags were seen from almost every building, home and car. We were united against the radicals who had unsuccessfully attempted to break the spirit and backbone of America. Instead, we emerged stronger than ever. Many asked for God's help in our time of need and crisis. Many renewed their faith in God.

Alas, too many of us have already forgotten the unification our country that existed on December 8th, 1941 and September 12th, 2001 - the days after our darkest days. There is anger and rage in our hearts and souls - especially against those who do not agree with us 100%. We need to remember the unified patriotism and love that we felt not only for our country, but for others, if we are to remain the greatest nation ever.



Immokalee Innovation Center at Immokalee High School



Pictured above: Aerial view of Immokalee High School campus showing the new Innovation Center; Freddy Angles, a senior in the Innovation Center's Engineering Academy working on a robotic device; and Superintendent Dr. Kamala Patton

On September 1st, representatives from our district attended the Opening Ceremony of the Immokalee Innovation Center at Immokalee High School. Present at the opening were Dr. Kamala Patton, Superintendent of Collier Public Schools, school board members Jen Mitchel, Stephanie Lucarelli, Roy Terry and Jory Westbury. Also present was Principal Clara Calderon.

The new center has 39,305 square feet of air-conditioned space. Approximately 500 of the school's 2,062 students will have a class in the Innovation Center.

On the first floor the following academies have specialized rooms:

- Criminal Justice
- Aviation
- Finance
- Health Sciences
- Information Technology
- Engineering

On the second floor are 20 traditional classrooms. There are two teacher planning rooms and the courtyard expands lunch seating and collaboration spaces for group projects.

Principal Clara Calderon said the extra classroom space was needed at Immokalee High because enrollment continues to grow.

“Our graduation rate was 86% now we’re at 90% and we’re continuing to work very hard to make sure our students are prepared to continue a post-secondary education,” she said.

The End of an Era



Queen Elizabeth II, whose seven decades on the throne of the United Kingdom was a longer reign than any other British monarch, died at the age of 96.

The queen "died peacefully" on Thursday afternoon, September 8th at Balmoral Castle, her estate in the Scottish Highlands, royal family officials announced.

Her son Charles, 73, is now king and will be known as King Charles III. Officials said he remains at Balmoral and will return to London on Friday.

Collier County's 2022 Legislative Delegation Day

Collier County's 2022 Legislative Delegation Day will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at the North Collier Regional Park located at 15000 Livingston Road. Senator Kathleen Passidomo and Representatives Bob Rommel, Lauren Melo and Adam Botana are scheduled to be part of the legislative panel.

Additional information and details will be forthcoming within the next few weeks.

**Florida has no income tax and a balanced budget.
Let's keep it that way!**

Copyright © 2022 State Representative Bob Rommel, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in to see updates from State Representative Bob Rommel.

Our mailing address is:

State Representative Bob Rommel

3299 Tamiami Trl E Ste 304

Naples, FL 34112-5746