



'Our nation saw evil'

Hijacked jets destroy World Trade Center, hit Pentagon Thousands feared dead in nation's worst terrorist attack

BUSH'S ADDRESS



AP photo by Doug Mills

Tuesday's events have "filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness and a quiet, unyielding anger," President Bush tells the nation in a TV address.

President promises to avenge lost lives

By Bob Kemper
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Seeking to console a grieving nation, President Bush said Tuesday that although terrorists had succeeded in targeting symbols of U.S. military and financial might, they had not diminished the nation's spirit and would not escape American justice.

"The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness and a quiet, unyielding anger," Bush said in a televised address from the Oval Office nearly 12 hours after attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and Pentagon in Washington began.

"These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed," said Bush, for whom Tuesday's calamity marked the supreme challenge of a young presidency.

Noting that government buildings and financial institutions vacated during the attacks would reopen Wednesday, Bush said, "America was targeted for attack because we are the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world, and no one will keep that light from shining."

The president vowed revenge on the terrorists, who by late Tuesday had not been identified. And he made it clear that no nation associated with the acts would be spared America's wrath.

Perhaps not since President Franklin Roosevelt declared the bombing of Pearl Harbor a "date that will live in infamy" has an American president faced a moment such as the one Bush confronted Tuesday.

President Ronald Reagan helped America cope with the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. President Bill Clinton saw the country through the Oklahoma City bombing. But those events, as calamitous as they were, did not have the deep

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To our readers

In order to provide expanded coverage of Tuesday's historic events, the Tribune has altered its publishing schedule.

In this morning's edition, you will not find Woman News, Good Eating, Working or all of the daily Tempo features. Woman News and Good Eating will be delivered in Thursday's edition. An index appears on Page 2.



Reuters photo by Peter Morgan

Dust rises amid wreckage near the base of the destroyed World Trade Center after the attack in New York early Tuesday.

By Charles M. Madigan
Tribune staff reporter

A pall of smoke, dust and sadness settled over lower Manhattan at nightfall Tuesday as rescue workers, police and firefighters pressed their desperate search for survivors of the worst terrorist attack in United States history, a coordinated airborne assault that destroyed the twin towers of the World Trade Center and left a portion of the Pentagon outside Washington in smoking ruins.

In New York alone, it was feared the death toll could reach the thousands. Officials said at least 300 firefighters and 78 police officers were missing and presumed dead. Upward of 50,000 people worked in the 110-story World Trade Center towers, reduced by explosions and fire to ruins within hours of the initial attack. The number of dead at the Pentagon was unknown but officials feared the toll would be high.

Speaking Tuesday evening from the White House, President Bush evoked a biblical message in saying the U.S. was walking "through the valley of the shadow of death" but still feared no evil. He described the attack as a mass murder that had ended the lives of thousands of people, and he called on the nation to remember the victims in prayers.

Amid reports that investigators were focusing their attention on renegade Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, believed to be in Afghanistan, Bush promised that all the government's resources would be used to find and punish the perpetrators of the attack.

"These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat, but they have failed," Bush said. "Our country is strong. Terrorist acts can shake the foundation of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America."

"The search is under way for those who are responsible for these evil attacks. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed those attacks and those who harbored them."

The assault struck at the heart of America's commercial, military and government infrastructure, stopping the nation in its tracks and stripping away any sense that the U.S. was somehow protected from the brutal political violence and terrorism that have bloodied life in so many other parts of the world.

It disrupted the nation's financial networks, sent millions of workers in a panicked rush from their offices to their homes and

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THE NATION REACTS

Feeling of invincibility suddenly shattered

By Patrick T. Reardon
Tribune staff reporter

On Tuesday, America the invincible became America the vulnerable.

Skyscrapers fell in New York. Smoke billowed from the Pentagon. The Secret Service evacuated the White House.

And an America that, of late, had worried most about a declining stock market and rising gasoline prices was suddenly confronted by death and destruction on an unprecedented scale from terrorism within its borders.

"I don't think I will ever feel as safe as I did at 7:45 this morning," said Rev. John Cusick of Old St. Patrick's Church in the West Loop area.



AP photo by Danny Wilcox Frazier

Megan Elise McFarlane and others watch the news in Iowa City.

Lee Ciaccio of Schaumburg said, "My question is: When's the next one?"

It was the plot of scores of B-movies and political thrillers, in a flash, suddenly coming to life. Members of Congress, government leaders and the first lady were whisked out of the capital to undisclosed "secure locations," while President Bush took up his station at the headquarters of the Strategic Command in Nebraska.

And over Washington, Air Force jets were flying cover.

"We started getting complacent in the post-Cold War world. We believed in an invincible America," said Douglas Brinkley, a noted historian and University of New Orleans professor. But such beliefs were shattered Tuesday.

The death toll was unknown but undoubtedly catastrophic.

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IN NEW YORK

Stunned residents face lingering horror

City begins long process of dealing with carnage

By Lisa Anderson and Stevenson Swanson
Tribune national correspondents

NEW YORK—The hell that broke loose here Tuesday morning is far from over.

Sirens blared in an otherwise eerily quiet Manhattan as rescue workers continued attempts Tuesday night to find the hundreds, if not thousands, of victims feared dead or trapped alive in the shattered, still smoldering remains of the World Trade Center.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said officials had received cell phone calls from survivors in the rubble.

The city's tunnels were

sealed, its transit system in disarray and its people dazed by the carnage. The stunned residents struggled to cope with an apparent terrorist attack that Giuliani called "one of the most heinous acts, certainly, in world history."

Nieka Burnett, 34, who witnessed the disaster on her way to work, said: "This is something that's going to live with me for the rest of my life. I could never forget this day. Never."

Burnett normally cuts through the World Trade Center to get to her job at the nearby New York Mercantile Exchange.

"If I was just a few minutes

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