

**2010 TRIBUTE TO THE SACRIFICES MADE ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, CIVIL TERM, CENTRAL JURY ROOM**

Administrative Judge for Civil Matters Sylvia Hinds-Radix: Please rise for the presentation of the colors of the New York State Court Ceremonial Unit and the New York Court Pipes and Drums.

Administrative Judge Hinds-Radix: Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance by Major Eric Long of the Criminal Term and "The Star Spangled Banner" by Court Officer Thorance Scott from the Civil Term of the Supreme Court.

Major Eric Long: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United State of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. May we please have a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11. Thank you.

Administrative Judge Hinds-Radix: Please be seated. Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, Chief Administrative Judge Fern Fisher, Honorable Gail Prudenti our Presiding Justice of the Second Department cut short her vacation and made sure she got back here. We thank you. Administrative judges, supervising judges, members of the judiciary, our County Clerk Nancy Sunshine, Bar President Andrea Bonina, family members, all invited guests, and Honorable Judge Theodore Jones. We welcome all of you here this afternoon and a pleasant good afternoon to you. It is an honor for me to act as your Mistress of Ceremonies this afternoon on this ninth anniversary of the tragic event of 9/11.

I am Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters in the Second Judicial District. On behalf of my court Administrative Judge, the Honorable Barry Kamins who is the Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters,

I welcome you to Brooklyn on this auspicious occasion. And on behalf of the Chief Judge, who is here with us and our Presiding Justice, I thank you for coming. It's of course a special welcome for our Chief Judge because he's also our guest of honor and keynote speaker. Today is an opportunity for the Unified Court System to come together to remember those we lost, or who lost their lives on September 11 of 2001 and to pay special tribute to our hero court officers who died in the rescue effort; Captain William Harry Thompson, Sergeant Thomas Jurgens, and Sergeant Mitchel Wallace.

Today we also remember what we learned about ourselves on September 11. A day, when as a nation, we saw ordinary people do extraordinary things. A day when we saw members of our court family make the ultimate sacrifice in an attempt to save others. For all Americans the term 9/11 will always have a special meaning in our memory for it was a time in our nation's history when the world as we knew it changed. I will now invite to the podium Chief Jewel Williams from our Department of Safety who will do a remembrance on our fallen members.

Chief of Public Safety Jewel Williams: Good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the family members of our fallen officers who come with us and observe this day every year for the past nine years as part of our court family.

Our officers who passed away on 9/11 in a selfless act of trying to help others is something that our officers do every single day. I have a special acknowledgement for Captain James Coyle remembering his son, firefighter James Raymond Coyle, 26 and single, who sacrificed his life on 9/11 also. Captain Coyle works at Kings Supreme Civil Division and is one of our court members. In this time we are facing a lot of change and turnover in our uniform force. We are going to be getting a lot of new officers coming in and what we want to instill in those officers is what our fallen officers represented:

dedication, commitment, and going above and beyond for every incident that occurs. They do this on a daily basis. We, at the Academy and throughout Court Administration reinforce through you, the judges, administrators, supervisors, and all officers those values, that integrity, and the will to continue to do every single day what those officers did on 9/11.

Ken, glad to see you again. Bruce, good to see you. Some other of the family members couldn't make it today, but we send our love. We send our blessings to them. We know they are here in spirit. We know that they are listening and appreciate what we do for their family members every year. So what I will say to you today is that we will continue to have that same caliber of officers that we will be getting in over the next several years where Captain William Harry Thompson, Sergeant Thomas Jurgens, and Sergeant Mitchel Wallace did not die in vain and the officers that come after them will represent them to same highest caliber. Thank you.

Administrative Judge Hinds-Radix: Thank you very much, Chief Williams. And, it is always important for us in this court system to ensure that we work together with the members of the Bar Association, I have to mention that here with us also is the President of the Trial Lawyers, Nicholas Timco and Avery Okin, Executive Director of the Brooklyn Bar. Now, I said that as an entry to the young lady who is going to sing for us today, because she's the daughter of the past president of the Bay Ridge Lawyers' Association. I heard her sing for her dad and I said, "She has to sing for our Chief Judge today." So if you would please come Tessa. And Tessa's going to sing, "God Bless America."

Tessa, thank you so very much. I have to mention that her sisters came along to hear her sing. I told Judge Kamins when I was going to do this, I said, "I'm going to make you follow a tough act." And, you know, it's really going to be very difficult after she's done to speak. But I'd like to invite the Honorable Barry Kamins, the Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters in the Second Judicial District to give remarks.

Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters Barry Kamins: Thank you Judge. I will be brief in deference not only to our Chief Judge who is our keynote speaker, but also in honor of the spirit of the day. Permit me to offer a few reflections about the importance of September 11.

First, as I suspect many of you will agree that day brought us together as a community in a manner that we have seldom experienced. It is true that as members of the court community we know what it means to be central to New York City. Every day we are involved in some of the most intimate and important events in people's lives as we try to do our jobs with compassion, integrity, and a devotion to laws that recognize, that while everyone is different, everyone deserves to be treated equally and justly under these laws. Yet, perhaps we could do more every day to recall that feeling of community and to remember every day that not only are we one Unified Court System, but we are also one community, one city, and one country.

Second, given our positions as court employees, we have a special obligation to our fellow citizens who come to our courts seeking justice. Certainly the three court officers who gave their lives that day, as well as the others that joined them at the site on September 11 and during the dreadful weeks that followed as they tried to locate survivors, understood what it means to serve our community. Three officers lost their lives. Others still deal with serious health issues. They and their families never forgot what service means.

It is their spirit of service that we reaffirm today as we recommit ourselves to treat everyone, particularly those who appear in our courts as parties, as jurors, as attorneys, and as witnesses, or those who are simply here to file papers, or to make inquiry with courtesy, respect, integrity, and

kindness. We reaffirm our court's tradition of service through initiatives and programs that expand access to justice and through our efforts to deliver justice to the best of our abilities.

September 11 was an attack on our soil, on our institutions, and, on our way of life. It changed many things for us in the United States, particularly here in New York especially for those who lost loved ones in the towers, in the planes, or on the ground. It led us into a war that has led to further loss of life. It changed the comfort level of many of us as we go about our daily lives. Yet it did not change what makes our courts great. It did not change our belief that an open society is the best society, and our fundamental trust in the soundness of institutions like our courts and our democratic political system.

Our courts responded to September 11 by reopening and by remaining open and that will never change. We will continue to strive to lead our city and our country as an example of the best of human endeavors for that really is what the law represents. In the hope that a day like September 11 born of hate, and misunderstanding, and rejection of the rights of others will not happen again. Thank you.

Administrative Judge Hinds-Radix: Thank you Judge Kamins. And I, you know, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that our Chief Judge is always conscious of the work that our uniformed officers continue to do. As a matter of fact in May at Law Day, he awarded to Officer Sheldon Charles, one of our officers, the Superior Work Performance Award.

Now, we and the judges in this court, we have been, throughout the summer, having a lot of young people from high schools here. Our judges are driven to make sure that these young people are ready to take the seats that we sit in now. I go to schools and I say, "Look, I see the next administrative judge

sitting in that seat right there." And a lot of the attorneys have been working with them also. This school, the Urban Assembly School of Law Justice, is across the street. And not only do they sit in with our judges they come over and use our courtrooms. Our chief clerk is always being asked for courtrooms so that they can put on mock trials. And so, we've asked them to participate today in our celebration of September 11. So now I will ask two students Iselda Alvarez and Brendaisha Bertrand to come to the microphone.

MS. ISELDA ALVAREZ:

I've tried to find the words today to tell what's in my heart
A way to vent, a way to share,
but how is one to start?
How do we write the horror of the thousand who was lost?
How do we pin the terror felt as lives became the cost?
How do we say good will prevail, we shall not be defeated?
How do we shout with confidence such acts won't be repeated?
How do we quell the anger reaching far beyond the brink?
How do we spill the endless tears that flows red ink?
How do we rise up full of pride and silent range no longer?
Together my friends we must be heard one voice united, stronger!

MS. BRENDAISHA BERTRAND:

Remember
Remember the 11th of September the year 2001
Never forget the day that we lost and they won
Four airliners flying at hundred miles per hour at the hands of self-proclaimed
martyrs became weapons of mass destruction
People died that should have lived
Some as heroes, most were victims robbed of what could have been
Remember
Remember the 11th of September the year 2001

Never forget the day how we all felt, not only the horror or our justified anger,
but how we came together as one nation transformed
Remember, remember the 11th of September the year 2001
Never forget the day
the week the world joined us in mourning
showing we are not alone
Unity of effort and unity of purpose is how we will prevail
against those who wish us woe everywhere
Never forget the resolve of iron
of our nation
the strength we have in our allies
Remember, not only the loss but what is yet to be won

Administrative Judge Hinds-Radix: And that work is the product of Brendaisha and Iselda, both of these pieces were written by them. Everyone knows the president of the Bar Association, I don't believe she needs anymore introduction a friend of the court system. We're going to ask Andrea Bonina to come to the microphone.

Brooklyn Bar Association President Andrea Bonina: Thank you Judge Hinds-Radix and thank you for inviting me to be a part of today's ceremony. Everyone remembers where they were on September 11, 2001. It continues to be a day that evokes painful memories and for those of us that lost friends or family on that day it is an especially painful loss to deal with at this time of year.

Like so many of us on September 11 my thoughts are with the victims and with their families. For the families of court officers, Captain Harry Thompson, Sergeant Mitchel Wallace and Sergeant Tommy Jurgens we are honored that you are here with us today. The losses sustained by all of the families were and are horrific, but for the families of police officers,

firefighters, and court officers killed in the line of duty that day it is an especially hard loss to bear. Their unselfish desire to save innocent lives lead to the sacrifice of their own.

For countless others like my close friend, George Bachmann, a New York City firefighter who fractured his spine in the collapse of the Twin Towers, the determination to save lives cost them their health. Their heroism and their courage must always, always be remembered by each of us. Tragedy and the response to tragedy can define a community. In the wake of the September 11 attacks the national and local communities responded with an outpouring of support for the families of the victims. People wanted to help in any possible way that they could. That compassion and the desire to help and to heal shown by people across the nation, but most especially right here in New York, was one of the first steps in restoring our faith.

The response to the attacks, both the unbelievable courage and heroism of the uniformed responders and in the outpouring of support by regular every day citizens for the families of the victims in the aftermath of the attacks signifies the best of human nature and the strength, dignity, and goodness of people in this city. When we remember September 11, we must remember not just the tragedy but the strength of the community that still supports the people who lost loved ones. That strength and that ongoing devotion to the memory of those precious lives is irrefutable proof that tragedy cannot and will not ever break us. Thank you.

Administrative Judge Hinds-Radix: Thank you Andrea. Everyone has to recognize that the court family is special. We know that we're special, and we know how we feel about each other, and as such we know how we feel about our Chief Judge and so this afternoon we are very pleased and I know I speak for you when I say welcome, Chief Judge Lippman and thank you for coming to celebrate with us on this really very special occasion. And now I

ask you to come to the microphone for your keynote.

Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman: Judge Jones, my distinguished colleague, I'm so glad that he's here today and, presiding Justice Prudenti, so delighted that you're here and that we all are here for a purpose which is to commemorate 9/11 here in Brooklyn in this lovely room and all of the administrative judges, bar presidents, judges, court personnel, jurors, litigants it is so important that we all come together.

And I guess what strikes me at the outset is Tessa singing God Bless America, Iselda, and Brendaisha with their poetic presentations are really what this is all about. That's why the people who lost their lives, the heroic court officers that we are so proud of, the police, the firefighters, all of whom came together that day to protect people and to protect our way of life and to do for others is what this day is about and really every day should be about. We remember 9/11 today and we remember it every day of the year, because those young children are what we're all about.

The present and the future of our great country, of our great city is really so tied up with those who will follow us and that's why with all the loss of life on 9/11 nobody lost their life in vain. It has given us so many lessons, so many things to think about in our everyday business, in the way we conduct ourselves. So, I couldn't be happier than to be here in Brooklyn for our commemoration for September 11, 2001 and again we don't just remember those events today. I want to first on behalf of the entire court system offer our warmest most heartfelt welcome to the family members and friends of our dear departed heroes Captain William Harry Thompson, Senior Court Officer Mitchel Wallace, and Senior Court Officer Tommy Jurgens.

Nine years after the attacks the healing process does continue, but the pain and the sadness of 9/11 particularly today is fresh in our hearts. We still

ache over the loss of our loved ones, and we remain distressed that human beings could be capable of such dark and evil acts. What allows us to move forward, what gives us the strength to go on is remembering and honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by thousands of uniformed heroes like Harry, and Mitch, and Tommy and why they made that sacrifice, and we are here today to do just that to honor them with great pride, and gratitude, and with many tears, and with many smiles and the presentations today bring such smiles to all of us. Because their actions on that beautiful crisp morning that we all remember so well...there couldn't have been a most gorgeous day created by God than that day, September 11, 2001, which showed us that the light of human courage and compassion can never be extinguished.

The heroes of 9/11, those who survived, all of us, and those who fell are the greatest proof we could ever have that good will always prevail over evil in this world. We saw further proof of that only last month when a team of eight doctors including six Americans who had put aside their comfortable lives and lucrative careers in the west to provide healthcare to the poorest villagers in remote Afghanistan were lined up and shot to death. But like our uniformed police, fire, and court system heroes, the power of their sacrifice, the power of their love for their fellow human beings will always live on outshining and out lasting the evil that was done to them as individuals. And the same holds true for every person who lost their lives in 9/11.

It is incumbent upon all of us on days like this one and every day to honor our heroes and keep their memories alive and it is only appropriate that we do so in settings like this in these great temples of justice where so many of us have the privilege of working every day where justice is done each and every day because our courts are among the most powerful and visible symbols of America's freedoms and of what makes America so special. There is no greater difference between us and repressive and brutal regimes around the world that have existed and continue to exist than our commitment to the

rule of law. Our commitment to the ideal that legal norms should prevail over person political power or interests and that we are a government of laws not men. This is the promise that America makes to its people. The law will guarantee their right to justice and equality.

Are we perfect in attaining or living out that ideal? No, certainly not. But what nation in the history of civilization has ever come closer to the ideal than the United States. What has given America greater legitimacy in the eyes of the world and in the pages of history, and we were all part of this long history of our people in this world, than our commitment to the rule of law and equal justice for all. The terrible memories of what happened on 9/11 will never leave us, but we are sustained by the memories of courage and heroism from that day, memories that never fail to lift our hearts and give strength and hope for the future as represented by the children that we saw here today.

What could be more important to preserve our way of life, nor should we ever forget, and I know Harry, and Mitch, and Tommy would never want us to. How many of their brothers and sisters who were right there with them that day shoulder to shoulder rescuing victims, providing aid and comfort to the wounded, and taking part in rescue and recovery efforts. Every one of them deserves our thanks to them and we also recognize the contributions of countless court officers who since 9/11 have kept the spirit of our fallen heroes alive and as Jewel said this new generation of court officers, and people who protect our safety, policemen, and firefighters live up to the hopes, to the bravery, to the strength, and the aspirations of those who came before them. Their dedication and their professionalism in serving the public to keep us all safe now and in the future.

In the aftermath of 9/11 the courts met every challenge thanks to the efforts of these outstanding uniformed officers as well as our superb judiciary

the core of the justice system of the courts in this city, state, and nation, and the entire court staff who serve us so well. I thank all of them today and sincerely as I possibly can from the bottom of my heart for their dedication in the service of the rule of law. What could be more important to our way of life again to this courthouse, to this city, to this state, and to this nation? And I thank you all for joining in this wonderful event today. It's such a pleasure and a real delight to be with all of you to remember, to celebrate, and to remember. Thank you all.

Administrative Judge Hinds-Radix: Thank you, Judge Lippman and last but certainly not least we will have Mr. Patrick Davis play "America the Beautiful" on the steel pan. We have to really thank Mr. Davis because actually his daughter was going to play for us. But today school started and she couldn't come and dad said, "Well I'll do it." So we really thank you very much.

Again, I thank you so very much for coming.