



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – Sept 11, 2020

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"I was only the servant of my country and had I, at any moment, failed to express her unflinching resolve to fight and conquer, I should at once have been rightly cast aside."

Winston Churchill



The Chief's Desk



Here we are on the 19th anniversary of one of the darkest days in American history. This is the week that we revive the phrase - "we will never forget." There is a feel throughout the week. I don't know if it is somber, strength, resolve, a revitalization of the American spirit, or all of the

above, but there is something special about the days leading up to the anniversary. This year is tough with so many annual memorials either being canceled or moved to a virtual platform because of COVID based fear. I am thankful we live in a community that does not take a knee in the face of fear, but instead stands to our feet in person to ensure that we truly never forget.

It is interesting to me that I can remember exactly what I was doing 19 years ago on September 11 when I heard the news that we were under attack, yet I can walk in the kitchen today and cannot remember why I'm there.

I believe there is more to the idea of never forgetting than honoring the memory of those we lost once a year. You see, I think we also need to remember how we felt as individuals and as a country on September 12, 13, 14, 15, etc. We were one in our resolve not to bow in the face of evil. The United States may bend, but we will not break!

Americans post 9/11 wanted to get back out to the stores, travel, and attend larger gatherings as means to show the world that we would not be scared into submission. Our military was ready to take down those who would dare attack innocent civilians on American soil. Many in our communities went to their local recruiting offices to volunteer for military service. We had a pride in our country that quite frankly we don't see today. We said would never forget, so why are we allowing what is happening in our country today to continue? Never forgetting also means remembering that we are patriots, that we are not weak, that we will not be ruled by fear, and that while imperfect we can have civil discourse about the problems facing our nation.

Tonight, I will serve as the Emcee for the annual Healing Field Ceremony. Yes, Darlene is giving me the microphone again. As the Emcee, I have a couple minutes to provide an opening statement – at least that's the way I see it 😊 Obviously, I cannot recycle the same words I shared last week, but I can follow a similar theme. To that end, below are the remarks I will make this evening. I hope to see some of you at the event, but if not, at least you know what I said.

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Upcoming Events:

Sept 14 – Start of Engineers Academy, Policy Committee, Senior Staff meeting
Sept 15 – PRCC Liaison Meeting, Conference Call with Lewis and Roca
Sept 16 – Conference Call Fire Chiefs Academy Planning Group, PVEDF Board Meeting, State Mutual Aid meeting
Sept 17 – Executive Leadership Program Video Conference

Board Meetings:

September 28
CAFMA – 1700-1830

9/11 Communications Lessons Forgotten

By: Ken LaSala

Key radio channels used by FDNY and fire departments across the country will be lost if action isn't taken soon. Radio channels used for COVID-19 and terrorism response will be auctioned off by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), leaving some of the nation's fire departments with limited options for crucial emergency radio traffic.

"Only Congress can save the day. Without intervention in the coming weeks, the FCC will be forced to auction the spectrum known as T-Band," says Chief Gary Ludwig, International Association of Fire Chiefs' (IAFC) President (2019-2020). "This will be a major setback to the interoperability infrastructure the U.S. has built in response to the lessons learned from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001."

Losing T-Band will leave New York and ten other major metropolitan fire and EMS departments with serious communications problems - and this comes at a time when there is already very little money available for new equipment. The estimated cost to replace public safety communications systems is more than \$5 billion.

In Los Angeles, the T-Band provides a crucial link between fire, EMS, law enforcement, and the 9-1-1 public safety answering point. Recently the FCC allowed New York to expand its use of T-Band as part of the city's COVID-19 response.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) believe a change of course from the original congressional mandate of an auction is necessary. Both have taken the position that public safety agencies should retain the T-Band spectrum. Most experts have serious doubts that an auction would be successful in covering the costs of relocating public safety agencies.

Chief Ludwig says, "We know of the great support in Washington for public safety around the country. We are confident every member of Congress will want to join us in making sure we don't halt the progress that fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies have made since one of the darkest days in our country's history."

The T-Band spectrum is scheduled to be auctioned in February of 2021.

IAFC.org

Thirty-five years later, Passaic has lingering scars from infamous Labor Day Fire

By: Dr. Matt Fagan

Thirty-five years ago, on Labor Day in 1985, two Passaic boys unwittingly set a fire that would destroy an estimated 20% of the industrial base in a city already under considerable duress.

In all, about 2.2 million square feet of industrial space burned down.

The fire, known forever after as the Labor Day Fire, produced heat so intense it caused nearby buildings to combust before flames reached them.

It left 2,000 jobless and hundreds homeless as the conflagration destroyed 17 multi-family homes and scores of businesses. A firefighter from Secaucus died of a heart attack after responding to a mutual aid call.

"This was a huge deal," City Historian Mark Auerbach said. "Passaic's strength was based on its industry."

The fire's scar remains. Seventeen acres of the 22 consumed are still either vacant or largely abandoned, costing the city millions in tax revenues.

What happened

Perhaps the best account was by Michael Powell, then a staff writer for The Record and now a columnist at The New York Times. With the advantage of hindsight, Powell wrote this account a year later for The Record's Sunday, Aug. 31, 1986, edition.

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Virtual Opening of Fire School

[Virtual Opening of Fire School 2020](#)

Chief's Desk Continued

Chief Freitag Remarks Healing Field Ceremony 2020:

I want to thank you for coming out this evening to spend time with neighbors, friends, and fellow community members. We are here because we said that we would never forget. We said we would not forget that evil tried to use fear as a means to destroy our way of life. We said we would not forget all those who died on September 11, 2001 – the unsung heroes who tried to guide friends and co-workers to safety in the World Trade Centers, the heroes on Flight 93 who sacrificed themselves to save others, and the heroes at the Pentagon who risked their lives to save fellow military members. We also celebrate the lives of those heroes who selflessly sacrificed themselves by running into the towers in hopes of saving others – the firefighters and law enforcement officers who laid down their lives for people they had never met. We said we would not forget and looking at this field and at all of you out here this evening it is clear that our community has not forgotten!

While our enemies have not divided us, today we are allowing others including elected officials, scientists, the media, and social media to do what the terrorists on 9/11 could not do – use fear as a

weapon to disrupt our way of life, our sense of pride, our sense of civility, our sense of community, and our love of country. I asked you at the blessing of the field to contemplate what our flag means and what it means to be an American as you visited our healing field throughout the week. I asked you to remember how we looked as the American people on Sept 12, 2001. We did not kneel for or on our flag, rather we hoisted it high to show those who would attack our way of life that we will not break, that our strength as individuals and as a country is something much greater than their evil deeds can tear apart. I hope you took some time to reconnect with our flag, our history, and our proud traditions. I hope that you recaptured the sense of one we felt as our fear on the 11th turned to resolve and national pride on the 12th.

Ladies and gentlemen, we do not honor those who died on September 11, 2001, or those who have died since while protecting our freedoms by living in fear, or through the divisiveness that has gripped our nation. Living in fear is not living, and it is not who we are or what we represent. It is time for us to take our country back, it is time for us to stand up and say enough is enough! When we have a judge in Maricopa County rule that closing businesses for an unspecified and extended period of time does not cause irreparable damage, it is a sign that we have lost our way. Small businesses are the back bone of our country, so I'm sorry but I am going to have to disagree with the idea that destroying a small business owner's lively hood as well as that of their employees is not irreparable damage. When we have communities in the throes of civil unrest where property and lively hoods are being destroyed without fear of real consequence for those perpetrating the crimes, it is a sign that we have lost our way. When people disrespect our law enforcement officers – their sacrifices – their contributions – their commitment to our communities – we have lost our way. Can we please show our law enforcement officers here with us tonight that in our community they have our respect and admiration.....

What is happening does not and should not represent the United States of America! It does not respect the memory of those represented on this field, and it does not respect those who have fought and died for our country! Can we please show our appreciation for all of our current and former military members in the audience tonight.....

Today we remember - we remember the events of Sept 11, 2001. Today we remember who we are as the American people and as members of a community. Today we recapture the feeling of one, and the overwhelming resolve we felt as a nation on September 12, 2001. We will not be divided and we will not live in fear. Rather, we will stand up, we will recapture our sense of pride and we will in no uncertain terms take our country back! The American spirit is alive and well in each of us and we will display it proudly! We are not perfect as humans or as a country, but we can have civil discourse and we can come together. Remember folks, united we stand – divided we fall. Do not live in fear, live instead with hope and promise. We are strong, we are one, we are the American people!