

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR WAYNE AT THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS

September 11, 2007

We are gathered here on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to mourn with the victims, honor the heroes, and renew our commitment to the on-going struggle to achieve peace and security and to preserve our democratic system of government and the principles on which it is based.

As the years pass, the initial shock and horror that we felt on that awful September day begin to fade. We must look hopefully toward the future, but we must also not forget the struggles and sacrifices of the past. I invite you to pause and remember that day in September, 2001—what you were doing when you heard the news, what you felt, and how it changed you.

Remember those that died. Remember those they left behind. Remember the heroes that fought to save lives, and the nation that came together in the aftermath of the attacks. Remember the heroes around the world that continue to struggle against terror every day.

Also, it is vital to remember the values that made possible our great republic and the opportunity and liberty that have made possible our achievements as a nation. These must be cherished and preserved.

September 11 reminded us that life is exceedingly precious. Our world is not a world of certainty; our calm lives may be disrupted at any moment. And yet the struggle for a better world—a world of freedom, security, peace, hope, and self-government—is worth the high price. We are gathered here to remember that we are united in the pursuit of these goals and to defend our precious liberties.

We are all involved in this struggle on a daily basis. We perform the tasks of an international diplomatic mission, supporting peaceful and mutually beneficial relations between two nations. But we also live a diplomatic mission and interact each day with many others. As we work together each day, as we pass each other in the halls, as we sit next to each other in the cafeteria and as we carry out our activities outside of the embassy, please remember that we living examples of the principles and values that we cherish in our democracy and our society. May we also each value our work and do it to the best of our ability, remembering that our ultimate goal is to make the world a better place and that each of us has an important role to play in achieving that goal.

Today, we remember the tragedy of September 11 with this solemn gathering and a moment of silence. But we truly honor the sacrifices of September 11 when we leave this gathering and return to our work and our daily lives. We apply the lessons of September 11 and the time since, when we continue the daily struggle for a peaceful and free world where we, our neighbors, and our children can live in security, prosperity, and liberty.