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## Focus on Religious Freedom

### Today We Mourn and Honor All Who Perished on 9/11/2001

Twenty-one years ago today, when terrorists destroyed the twin towers of the iconic World Trade Center, they attacked not only New York City, but the idea of America itself as founded on the principles of Freedom, Faith, Family, Life, Limited-government, Law and Authentic Goodness. (FLAG). Thousands died that day, not as combatants but as Americans, living the liberties of our Republic under a Constitution based on rights from our Creator. These Americans lived, worked and visited this city where the rule of law and goodwill toward others prevailed in spite of human imperfections. Hundreds of them chose as their life's work to rush toward danger when help was needed. On Sept. 11, they perished in harm's way.

We pray for them in grateful remembrance. We pray for comfort for their loved ones as a nation still grieving the loss of each one of them. Let our lives reflect respect and appreciation for the liberties they had no chance to defend that day.

If the liberties they lived are to prevail, our children and grandchildren must be taught the bedrock of our liberties is inalienable rights from our Creator. The natural rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness guided our founders in their construction of a Constitution written for "ages and millions yet unborn" ...a Constitution not bounded by culture or by technology but bounded by the immutable nature of man and his reliance on God.

Those Americans who died on Sept. 11, 2001 lived in the freedom to follow their faith or to choose no faith. They were not forced to behave or worship according to the dictates of any government. They were not subject to an all-powerful culture or government selecting winners and losers, rich and poor, respected and vilified. We honor them by living those freedoms and insuring them for their loved ones

As we remember the joy of their lives and the anguish of their loss, we pray for the repose of their souls in the comforting arms of the Savior of us all. May they rest in peace and may we protect and preserve the liberties for which they were so grievously attacked.

***"Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster and what has happened once in 6,000 years may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fall, there will be anarchy throughout the world." -Daniel Webster, Lawyer and Statesman***