

Good morning.

We all remember what we were doing one year ago right now—we will always remember.

Yes, those memories are important. But so are the memories we have of everything that happened *after* that day.

A nation that seemed to be going in a million different directions was suddenly unified.

American flags popped up everywhere.

People seemed to have a new sense about what it meant to live in this country.

And it wasn't all about patriotism either.

We started appreciating little things we had taken for granted.

And we increased our appreciation of the big things—like our families.

Every story of survival or loss that we've heard in the past year, whether it was tragic, hopeful or just plain inspirational, had one thing in common.

It centered on family.

And it wasn't always the traditional family of blood relatives.

Sometimes it was a family of co-workers.

Sometimes it was a family of classmates.

Sometimes it was a family of neighbors.

And often, of course, it was a family of husbands, wives, children, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, moms and dads.

So even if you're not patriotic, or don't feel like showing your patriotism, the events of the past year can help re-affirm the love you have for your family.

I know they have for me.

(When we visited Ground Zero last year, I thought about my family.....)

When I think about what happened a year ago today, I still get sad.



And I still get angry.

But I also feel hope.

Because I've seen what the people of this state and this country can do when times get tough.

And I've seen how all kinds of families can take something awful that happened in the past, and pull together and focus on a great future.

Thank you.