

Thank you Reatha for those very kind words of introduction.

Mr. Vice President.

Former Governors,

Senator Wellstone,

Honorable Members of Congress,

Minnesota Constitutional Officers,

Speaker Sviggum,

Senator Wiener,

Members of the legislature,

Honorable Mayors Coleman, Sayles Belton and Demuth,

Commissioner Delany,

Distinguished members of the Clergy,

Active, Reserve and Veteran Military representatives,

Law Enforcement officials,

Fire Fighters,

Emergency Response workers,

Family, Friends, and all Minnesotans,

From the bottom of my heart,

And on behalf of the First Lady,

On behalf of Lt. Governor Mae Schunk,

And on behalf all of those who represent Minnesotans, and work for Minnesotans, in State Government:

I offer our support and condolences to the families who lost loved ones as a result of the devastating attack on Tuesday.

Today, I would like to start on a very personal note.

Of all the things I have,

And of all the things I do,

Nothing, absolutely nothing, is more important, or dearer to me, than my family.

And as a family we have been blessed.

We are a family born and raised in a country that is the greatest land of opportunity in the history of the world.

We are a family that is a part of a larger family:

A family of all men, women and children.

A family of Native Americans,

A family of African Americans,

A family of Asian Americans,

A family of Hispanic Americans,

A family of Japanese Americans,

A family of European Americans, and on, and on, and on.

A family of Americans so diverse, so free, and so good.

A family of Americans, united by States,

Founded in democracy,

Molded with faith,

Steeped in courage,

And full of compassion.

A family so strong that no matter what the forces of evil bring we will not breakdown.

I stand here today, humbled, but comforted, by your presence.

That's what family is for, to share with each other, the hurt, the sorrow and the sadness that have fallen upon our country.

While this gathering of Minnesota families is a comfort to what has happened, let it also be a sign of hope.

Hope and determination, that together;

United in family,

Strengthened by love,

Driven by opportunity, and

Tempered by respect for all humanity,

We will overcome this tragic moment.

We must, and we will, move forward.

We will move forward in fairness.

We will live together with tolerance.

We will extend our hands to the people of the world in solidarity and unity.

We will pit honor against dishonor.

We will promote good against evil.

And finally,

We will, together, restore our sense of freedom by conquering this enemy.

We will do all of this.

And we will not fail.

Thank you.

Governor Jesse Ventura
Capitol Memorial Service
State Capitol
September 16, 2001

