

# Discovering Heroes® Series Lectures



## True 9/11 Stories from People Who Lived It

- Talks Based on the Discovering Heroes® Series of Books for Kids
- Teaching, Learning Processes Support Common Core ELA Learning Standards

**We vowed to Never Forget: it's time to educate future generations.**

*Contact [author@contextproductions.com](mailto:author@contextproductions.com) to schedule a Discovering Heroes® Series Lecture.*

*"The more we tell, the more they will know. And the more they know, the less they will forget."*

*—American Family Association*

# What To Tell Our Kids About 9/11: It is Important to Share the Stories of Heroism, Unity and Fortitude From That Day

By Kristie Kiernan Bouryal  
New York Daily News | Sep 11, 2019

We remember where we were, how we heard about it for the first time. Some were there in person, others remember 9/11 unfolding on television, radio, the internet. We remember the extraordinary heroism of everyday people giving a helping hand, even a lift off the ground.

But will future generations remember? It's up to us to tell those who were young or born after that bright September day what we remember. What we experienced. With detail. With emotion and context.

I'm the daughter of a nurse and an FDNY rescue officer. When the first plane hit, I called my father. He assured me Rescue 1 would get there and everything would be fine. When both towers were in flames, I called again, urging him to put the TV on. "I have to go," he said. I knew he was headed there.

I wouldn't have contact with him again until I saw him on the 12th with pebbles in his eyes, covered head to toe in dust, soaking wet and shaking. He was one of many who had inhaled toxins for hours, as they dug with their hands, to get to a man trapped dozens of feet in the debris pile. The rescue was successful. But I remember the sick, hollow feeling I had at that moment, as I wondered if my father and his fellow heroes had even thought about the magnitude of their own loss.

I remember. You do, too.

We remember the desperate calls to loved ones, the heartfelt concern for people in harm's way. We remember what it felt like, as a nation, to lose our innocence. And we remember what we did in the face of it all.

We united. That might seem implausible in these divided days, but we really did unite. Everyday people joined together to help one another. We began to restore our hope and faith in humanity together.

On our nation's darkest day, goodness prevailed. The everyday hero in all of us made sure of it. We came together through acts of kindness in ways we never imagined. It's important to share these stories with children, so they remember.

We remember store owners providing shelter, health-care providers tending to the wounded, first responders and members of the military risking their lives, desperately searching for survivors.

We remember the U.S. Coast Guard's call to boaters and the many who responded to help hundreds of thousands of people to safety that day.

We remember people creating tributes across cities and states and our American flag being hoisted over Ground Zero by three FDNY members. It would be an early warning signal to the world: Our American spirit wouldn't be shattered.

Remembering the September 11th terrorist attacks

We remember the people waving flags outside of Ground Zero and holding signs that said, "God Bless America," "Thank you," and more.

We remember iron, steel workers, electricians, members of other trades and civilians alongside first responders through the recovery efforts. We remember the first responders from across the U.S. and the world coming to help and the overwhelming outpouring of love and support.

We remember countless volunteers in various capacities helping complete strangers. We found the everyday hero in all of us and harnessed our strengths to positively impact the people around us.

On America's darkest day, goodness triumphed. Acts of great courage and compassion overshadowed the vilest of deeds.

It's difficult to talk about because discussing it takes us right back, as if 18 years haven't passed and a generation of kids haven't been born after it.

But talk about it we must, so children can remember goodness as the victor. We must etch these stories into the being of future generations so our stories live on for centuries to come. We owe it to the fallen.

In such divided times, we can all benefit from the retelling of stories of unity and the fortitude of our American spirit.

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