

Remarks by Mayor Whitfield at 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at DFAS

Thank you and good morning, everyone. On September 11, 2001, America was forever changed. It has been 24 years since the attacks, but that tragic day, which served as the true test of the American spirit will be remembered always.

So, on this day, we observe Patriot Day and all that it represents – we honor the value of life, those we loved and lost, our country’s resilience, and the strength of the American spirit.

As former Secretary of State Colin Powell stated: “You can be sure that the American spirit will prevail over this tragedy” ... And, it has.

In the words of former President Barack Obama: “Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.”

And so, with these words, I thank you. Let’s go forward from this place in service. Here in Lawrence, and especially among those who serve at DFAS, we know the importance of duty, service, and sacrifice. May we carry that spirit forward—not just today, but every day—on how we serve one another and our country.