



September 11, 2015

September 11 Edition

Every week for almost four years I have written about activities happening at Grand Valley Metro Council. This edition is special because it falls on September 11th. Rather than publish another normal Weekly Update, I asked a few of our members share their thoughts on this special day in our national history. Please join them in remembering September 11th.

"September 11th . . . you don't even need to say the year. Everyone knows. And the impact this date has had on us as a country, and as a community, is profound. The images still burn in our memories. We will never forget."

Daryl Delabbio

"It's sad that it took a tragedy of this magnitude to forge a sense of national solidarity. When threatened, Americans set aside differences of race, religion, ethnicity to be...well, Americans. If we can remember that feeling of being one, remember the way the world embraced us, remember how strong we felt even in our vulnerability, then this nation will surely long endure."

George Heartwell

One of our Departments had a small television and as the news started to trickle in many of us gathered around and watched in disbelief. I can almost see it in my mind just as if it was yesterday. I hope I don't have to witness anything like that again."

Don Hilton

In the Walker City Hall, there stands a large block of polished granite, embedded at the top of the granite is a twisted fragment of rusted steel. This steel is from the World Trade Center towers. When I walk past this icon of our era, I think about the firefighters and public safety officers who worked courageously on that tragic day. Many lives were lost in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington DC, but many were also saved. This symbol serves as a constant reminder to me that each and every day our public safety officers work selflessly to maintain peace and safety for all of us.

Mark E. Huizenga

September 11, 2001 served as the major reminder since Pearl Harbor that the political and economic freedoms that we experience in our country shouldn't ever be taken for granted as there is no shortage of people and nations that hate these precious rights and us for having them - we must be ever vigilant!

Al Vanderberg

"Besides the loss of lives and heroism that was demonstrated, we should account for all the freedoms we lost because of this horrible event. Sadly, we are just expecting the next incident to happen, either here or abroad"

Alex Arends

"In the days & weeks following the 9-11 events our nation experienced a spirit of unity unlike anything I have experienced before or since. I would like to challenge our citizens – especially our politicians – to get back to that spirit, but to do so without having to first go through a tragedy."

Ken Bergwerff

"When I reflect on the events of 9/11, of course I'm struck by the tragic losses, but I'm even more struck by the power of communities coming together in strength and support of one another."

Rob Beahan

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held immediately following breakfast with Sen. Peters

REMINDER For Monday Morning**U.S. Senator Gary Peters**

September 14, 2015

8:00-9:30 am

GVSU

L. William Seidman Center

50 Front Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI

49504



Sponsored by

Consumers Energy
Count on Us