



**Admiral James M. Loy
“The Smiles of Determination”
U. S. Coast Guard Academy**

Op Spotlight

28 September, 2001

Introduction:

Good evening. I am honored to be standing here with you tonight.

The events of the past weeks have touched the lives of each one of us. It’s good to be among friends and family to gather strength, encouragement, and comfort from each other. I’d like to begin tonight by showing you a few images.



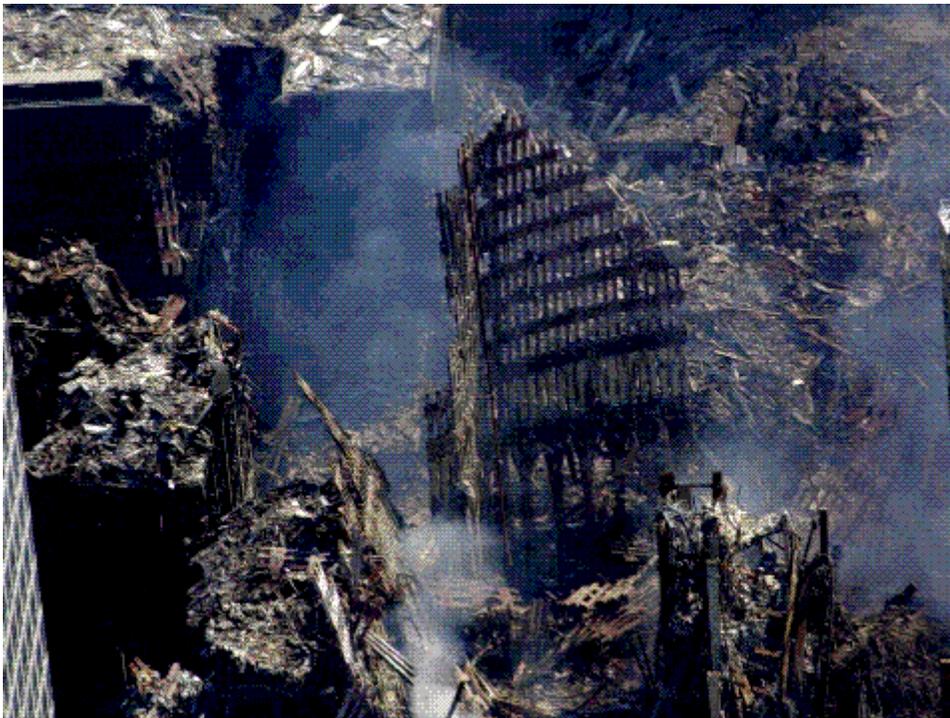
(Slide1)

This is a view of New York to the west from Broadway near Wall Street. I’ve been there many times. From this vantage point, you should not be able to see this building...but you can.



(Slide 2)

The reason you should not be able to see the World Financial Center is this. The World Trade Center should be standing in the way. It's not there anymore.



(Slide 3)

This rubble is in its place. Five buildings destroyed...305 people confirmed dead...5,960 still missing by Mayor Giuliani's latest count.



(Slide 4)

I flew over Ground Zero on Sunday. What I saw and felt was like no other experience I have ever had. These were not the remnants of the once beautiful cathedral in Coventry England ... left to mark the loss inflicted by Nazi bombers in 1943. This was New York City. I attended business meetings here four times last year. My wife went here to buy tickets for Broadway shows. It's gone.



(Slide 5)

This is the building that houses the brain trust behind the greatest military power on earth. It's got a smallish looking scar right here. (Point to crash site.)



(Slide 6)

The scar is not so small when you're standing right here. I stood there two days ago. I was with Chaplain Gilbert, who spent most of the 11th of September there, ministering to those in need ... family members, survivors, rescuers ... 186 American lives lost. God bless them, every one.

The emotional range is very hard to experience and understand. We've gone from total surprise and fear to anger...to demands for revenge...to angst...to wonder.

President Bush has called for a calm, methodical game plan to bring the military, diplomatic, economic and civil authorities of this nation to seek justice. We each wonder how we can contribute.

As we sort it all out, our countenance as individuals and as a nation begins to take on the uniquely American Smile of Determination.

At its fullest, it's a smile that says ... "Aha! I understand. I'm committed. Whatever it takes, I'm with you, Mr. President."

The Call to Action:

The Congress of the United States has passed a Resolution authorizing the President to use all necessary force against those who attacked us on September 11, 2001, or those who harbor the attackers.

President Bush has declared that on that day “the enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country.”

We are now at war with an enemy who seeks to strike fear into the hearts of Americans with brutal acts of terror against the defenseless and the innocent.

We are at war with an enemy who would beat plowshares back into swords and turn the tools of our own prosperity into weapons aimed against us.

We are at war with an enemy who attacks without warning and then takes refuge in the darkest reaches of the human heart.

This enemy will find refuge to be well beyond his reach!

The acts of terror unleashed on us have awakened the warrior spirit within America and called us to action.

We will not rest until we see the enemy roused from his hiding place and made to plead for mercy at the hands of freedom and justice.

Until September 11th, our government has seen terrorism mainly as an issue of law enforcement and judicial action. We now know that it will take a full array of economic, diplomatic, legal and military might to prevail in this war.

A different kind of warfare:

This will be a different type of warfare than we have ever known. You may have heard the phrase “asymmetric warfare” being thrown about in conversation or in class. On September 11th, you witnessed asymmetric warfare on full demonic display. As you saw, it can be very deadly. On that single, sun-lit morning, more lives were lost than in the attack on Pearl Harbor sixty years ago.

Asymmetric warfare involves threats that are very different from traditional warfare. These threats are growing. Separately and collectively they pose dangers to our borders, our economy, our environment, and our safety.

We must now shift our attention from searching only the sky for these new threats. They might also come from the land or the sea. In fact, many of them have a distinct maritime dimension, because we depend so heavily on the oceans for our commerce and our security.

These new threats can be conveyed towards our shores in ways that are not effectively countered by traditional naval forces. They can draw near in civilian vessels that look like and mingle with legitimate commercial and recreational traffic.

Somebody has to engage these vessels one at a time up close and personal. Somebody has to distinguish the suspicious from the obviously innocent. To separate the guilty from the

merely suspicious, somebody has to get alongside and put a boarding team aboard, even if the suspect vessels resist or won't stop.

Once aboard, somebody has to exercise sound judgment about employing such force as may be necessary to compel compliance with the law and to maintain the safety of the boarding teams and the crews of the vessels boarded.

That includes deadly force, when necessary.

Somebody has to size up each case and dispose of it based on the complex humanitarian, diplomatic, military, geo-political, environmental, and legal issues at stake.

Somebody has to coordinate proposed enforcement actions with other government departments, flag states, law enforcement agencies, and everybody else who has a legitimate voice in the matter. It must all be done according to the rule of law.

For 211 years, that somebody has been the United States Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard at war:

Our service is well-suited to help fight this war. As both a military service and a federal law enforcement agency, we are uniquely positioned among federal agencies to fight an enemy that crosses all boundaries with seeming impunity.

In his speech to the nation, the President challenged, "Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done." The Coast Guard can help bring justice to our enemies, and bring our enemies to justice.

We have already answered the call to action. Though our security was breached, we stand ready now to defend our nation, whether this war is waged at home or abroad.

Coast Guard men and women everywhere³/₄active duty, civilian, reserve, and auxiliary³/₄have significantly increased the security of the nation's ports and waterways, protected people and property, and assisted in rescue and recovery efforts.

I have had many pride-filled moments wearing this uniform ... personal moments, unit accomplishments and organizational challenges met. But none have been as strong as the last 2 weeks. Not the last time I went to war...not even at the peak of emotion that comes with success in a SAR or LE case.

On Tuesday, the 11th of September, after the twin towers collapsed, people tried to escape the city by running south to the ferry terminals.

Many jumped into the water in their panic and desperation. Coast Guard Activities New York coordinated a flotilla of Coast Guard cutters, tugs and ferries to rescue these people as they fled their worst nightmares.

On a routine day, the passenger flow to and from south Manhattan is about 186 thousand. On 11 September, between the tragedy and 1800, we successfully evacuated over 1 million people by water.

In the midst of the chaos, Marine Inspection Office New York offered a safe haven for some who had lost everything but their lives in the collapse of the towers. A Chief Boatswains' Mate there offered calmness and assurance to them, needing nothing but the strength of his booming voice to keep the panic at bay.

One of the officers saw a young family who had no place to go. He made arrangements for them to stay in a hotel for the night and provided a way for them to get there safely.

In the hours after the attacks, members of the New York Fire and Police Departments asked that Coast Guard chaplains attend them, because they know we share a kinship in humanitarian service. We have had an emergency response team of nine chaplains attending to rescue workers since the first day, and they are prepared to stay as long as they can be of service.

Some of these firefighters and police officers are reserve Coast Guard members. One tired, tattered firefighter saw our chaplains in uniform moving among the crowd of rescue workers, approached one, gave him a bear hug, and said, "Thank God you have come." Our chaplains were welcomed to Ground Zero in the midst of the chaos and despite the strictly enforced security zones, because we are known as a service of action that gets the job done.

We forged that reputation with New Yorkers during the TWA 800 disaster. New York firefighters and police officers are cut from the same cloth as we are. The chaplains tell me they had smiles of determination on their faces as they worked.

Since September 11th, our boarding officers and support personnel in the major ports have been inspecting commercial vessels arriving in the United States to ensure that their purpose is legitimate and their cargoes are safe.

In New York harbor and elsewhere, crews have been working 12-hour shifts seven days a week to establish and enforce security zones, while making sure that commerce continues to flow. They are working together as a seamless force of active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary members.

I've been there with them. They are nothing short of inspirational in their resolve to get things done. Let me read you one of the many pieces of email that was passed on to me. It's a note from an E9 Reservist in PSU 305 to his friend, Ed. The subject is "News from the front."

"Hi, Ed. How are you? As you know, we are deployed to New York City. All is going well. You know, I have been in the USCGR for 28 years, on October 3. I have never in my entire career seen so much support from the active duty command. They cater to us like we were some special beings. Here at Activities New York and at ANT New York in Bayonne, New Jersey we never use the word 'I need.' It is there for us... To me, coming

here is like coming home. My friend, THIS is the US Coast Guard that we all dream about. Best regards, Hans.”

Hans, you’re not dreaming. Welcome home. We’re glad you’re here.

The Legacy of Hamilton:

While in New York on Sunday, I attended the prayer service in Yankee Stadium. What a humbling privilege and honor it was to be there among those who have suffered so much.

During the service, Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a man who has shown a tremendous example of leadership in his care and compassion for the people of New York, spoke of the utter devastation that was once the pride of the city and of the nation.

In the midst of the devastation, Mayor Giuliani observed that St. Paul’s Chapel, where President Washington stopped to worship after his inauguration, stands whole and untouched. The Mayor suggested that the chapel was a monument to the spiritual strength of our country. And it now serves as a refuge for those involved in rescue and recovery work, and the beginnings of restoration.

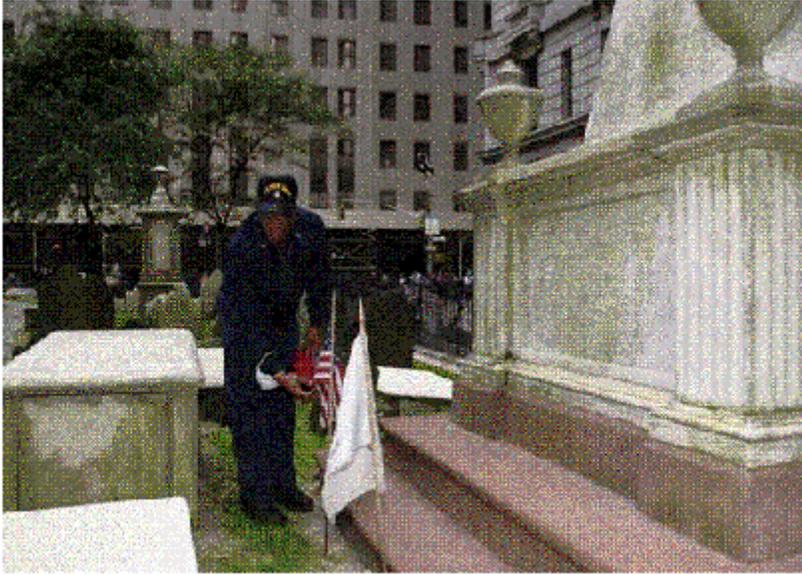
About 5 blocks from St. Paul’s Chapel, on the corner of Broadway and Wall Street, stands Trinity Church. Some of you remember Trinity as the sponsor of our chapel on Governor’s Island. Some of you know that Alexander Hamilton is buried there in the churchyard.

In addition to being the founder of the Coast Guard, Alexander Hamilton shaped many of the ideas that are central to the system of government that we call American democracy—the delicate balance of liberty and law that was so savagely attacked two weeks ago.

The churchyard, including the monument that marks his grave, was covered with nearly six inches of dust and ash, like so much snowfall. The surrounding area was layered with mounds of paper and other debris from the twin towers.

At my direction, Master Chief Patton contacted Senior Chief Koll, the Command Senior Chief at Activities New York, and asked him to gather a team to sweep the dust and debris from the monument and the surrounding churchyard. As the team was working, other rescue workers pitched in to help. Within three hours, there was not a shard or speck to be found.

In the midst of Ground Zero, the Coast Guard centerpiece is gleaming.



(Slide 7)

On that monument to Alexander Hamilton is written these words:

The PATRIOT of incorruptible INTEGRITY

The SOLDIER of approved VALOR

The STATESMAN of consummate WISDOM

Whose TALENTS and VIRTUES will be admired

Long after this MARBLE shall have mouldered into DUST

That marble stands clean and tall, and so do the talents and virtues of the life that it commemorates. It occurs to me that one might have been tempted³/₄standing before that monument to a revered founding father³/₄to inscribe another testament, adding the words: HONOR, RESPECT and DEVOTION TO DUTY.

These, too, are Hamilton's virtues and his legacy to us. These virtues, too, will stand the test of time. They are the core values of the service that Hamilton created, the values that have marked our service for 211 years, and the values that will guide our service into uncertain years ahead.

That's the legacy of the Coast Guard you have joined. That legacy is being passed on to you. And you will become its bearers and its keepers.

Looking to the past and the future:

In the early days of December 1941, future officers were being prepared by this Academy to keep that legacy in service to their country, just as you are now. On December 7th, the world changed for them. Their focus became clear, and their purpose certain.

And the Coast Guard geared up for war. The Class of 1942 put aside their books, received their commissions 6 months early, and went off to sea to defend their country. The Class of 1943 and every class thereafter until 1947 also graduated a year early.

Who knows what the future brings? The Class of 1942 certainly didn't when they graduated 12 days after Pearl Harbor. All 29 of them went to sea. Albert Frost went west to the Pacific and participated in the first landing on Guadalcanal. Most of the others reported aboard combatant ships in the North Atlantic on anti-submarine patrol. The Coast Guard Cutter ALEXANDER HAMILTON, the namesake of our illustrious founder, was one of those ships.

Newly commissioned Ensigns Larry Bradley from '42 and Robert McLenden from the real Class of '41 were assigned to her right out of the Academy. And a little more than a month later, HAMILTON was the first naval combatant sunk in action after the declaration of war. While attempting to protect the crippled storeship YUKON, she was torpedoed by a German U-Boat.

We are very happy and grateful that Larry survived the sinking and is here with us today. Robert McLenden also survived, but was killed later on active duty in an aviation accident. Twenty-six of their shipmates, affectionately called "Hamiltons," died in the attack, however.

In the front rows of this auditorium, here to celebrate their 60th Homecoming are Albert Frost, Larry Bradley, their classmates from the Class of '42, and the members of the Class of '41. I'm going to ask them to stand.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Corps, these are your Coast Guard forebears of the Greatest Generation.

When I'm done talking and throughout the course of this weekend, seek them out and learn from them. They are everyday heroes. They have gone about the routine business of living, laughing, and loving.

They have made sacrifices, not headlines. They have touched hearts and changed lives. I have seen pictures of them as they graduated. They wore smiles of determination.

They still have high hopes, low profiles, and the admiration of all who recognize them as true patriots. They have left you their Coast Guard as a precious legacy.

Thank you, gentlemen. Please be seated.

The future is uncertain. Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain of the Union Army, who valiantly led the 20th Maine Regiment to victory on the Battlefield of Gettysburg at Little Round Top, said this:

“We know not the future, and cannot plan for it much. But we can...determine and know what manner of men [and women] we will be whenever and wherever the hour strikes.”

“...Determine the manner of men and women we will be...” Let’s rise to Chamberlain’s challenge to be the best that we might be always and in every respect.

The new name for this campaign is Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. That means freedom at home and abroad.

Our Coast Guard prides itself on the moral and practical value of our diverse workforce. We must all be saddened and disgusted by reports of attacks on mosques, Arab-Americans, or even communities frequented by our fellow citizens of Middle Eastern backgrounds.

Walt Whitman, who is often called the poet of democracy, and called himself a “Son of Manhattan,” expresses a keen sense of equality in his pre-eminent poem of democracy, “Song of Myself” where he writes:

“Whoever degrades another degrades me,

And whatever is done or said returns at last to me.”

As satisfying as it might seem to a few people, lashing out at someone who is not “like us” is simply wrong, and in the end degrades us all.

Conclusion

The Coast Guard that you are preparing yourselves for is different than the one you knew before September 11th. But its values and traditions remain and will be admired long after all the buildings and monuments of today have turned to dust.

We are likely at the beginning of a long and difficult war. It is a war that we have begun in terror. And though we would take careful and deliberate steps to action, we will fight in righteous anger and finish with a slow-burning ire.

We will do so bearing the fixed smile of fierce determination. We will soon understand what we can do, and with understanding will come commitment.

President Bush has said, “The course of this conflict is not yet known, yet its outcome is certain.” And you^{3/4}every one of you^{3/4}will be part of the outcome.

Prepare yourselves. Be ready. Within the rubble, the Coast Guard centerpiece gleams. Semper Paratus!

