

■ **SAMPLE Opening Remarks at 9/11 Day Service Project**

Thank you so much for participating with us today in this important observance. My Name is _____ and I am _____. We join together today to compassionately honor and remember the 2,975 individuals who were killed on September 11, 2001, in the terrorist attacks on America, as well as those who were injured during the attacks, and the many who rose in service in response, the first responders, volunteers, rescue and recovery workers, uniformed safety personnel, and the hundreds of thousands of others who serve, or have served in our armed forces here at home and overseas.

OPTIONAL: Today, we are dedicating our service in the name of all of these important individuals. Each year, we also select a specific individual who lost their life on 9/11, and pay special tribute to him or her. For this project, we have chosen to learn about and remember the life(s) of NAME OR NAMES, who died on 9/11 INDICATE WHERE (i.e., World Trade Center, on Flight _____, or U.S. Pentagon). We pay tribute to these individuals by voluntarily engaging in efforts intended to help others. This is our good deed for 9/11. Regardless of whatever differences we may have as people, we are unified today by our human decency and our universal compassion for the well-being of others.

ADD OTHER KEY MESSAGE POINTS AS SUGGESTED.

Points to Consider Mentioning in Materials or Statements

- 9/11 Day was created with widespread support from the 9/11 community, including relatives of 9/11 victims.
- Developed to provide a permanent and constructive way for individuals to annually remember and pay tribute to those lost and injured on 9/11, and to help recall and rekindle the spirit of unity and compassion that existed in America, and in many other nations immediately following the 9/11 attacks.
- Strongly supported as a nonpartisan observance by Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike. 9/11 is a day when we all put our differences aside in dedication to the 9/11 victims and the many who gave assistance, and continue to serve, often without regard to their own personal safety.
- Grew from a small grassroots idea in 2002 into the largest day of charitable active in U.S. history, and a growing international observance. Annually millions of people perform good deeds and engage in charitable service in observance of 9/11, including individuals and groups from all 50 states and 165 countries.
- Inspired by remarkable goodness, compassion and unity that people expressed immediately following the attacks.