



over to cover, this 9/11 commemorative issue is gripping, raw and powerful. From the beautiful artwork by David M. Russell to the touching poem by Rayfael Roman to the numerous heartfelt submissions, this issue is a beautiful tribute to the strength of our country and our country's people.

This issue simply began as a way for members of the Johnson Space Center family to express their feelings regarding the tragedy. However, it immediately took on a life of its own and has since grown to be so much more than initially envisioned.

To complete the package, space shuttle images were selected to backdrop much of the issue. The shuttle was chosen because it is a distinct NASA icon. In our country, NASA is an example of our people's strength, dedication, ingenuity and drive.

However, the symbolism runs even deeper. Every time the space shuttle launches, the power is undeniable. The space shuttle is strong, bold and relentless. After 9/11, our country didn't give up, even in its darkest hour. Instead, Americans stood up to adversity. We too have been strong, bold and relentless.

This issue is but one example of the grit and determination our country has put forth in the past year.



FROM THE DESK OF LT. GEN. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL, JR.

Much has been said and written about the horrible events of September eleventh, Two Thousand and One, and its aftermath. My own emotions regarding this event are like so many others: Feelings of horror, shock, sorrow, helplessness, anger and desire for revenge.

Now, on the first anniversary of that awful day, I am challenged to give appropriate remarks in commemoration of that event. Frankly, I don't know what to say.

However, I do know what you and I should do: We must carry on!

We at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, part of the great NASA Team, have the good fortune of being part of one of the greatest enterprises in the history of humankind. Our present activities in advanced engineering, scientific research and human space exploration are the total antithesis to what the perverted men who brought about the terrorist attacks were trying to do.

I believe we can best honor the memory of the innocent victims of those attacks by rededicating ourselves to pursuing the very highest in professional excellence and total commitment to achieving the goals that support our vision and mission. If we succeed, our nation succeeds. If our nation succeeds, the terrorists fail.

How blessed we are to be part of this noble endeavor! I know you will do your share.

CARRY ON! 

*Another day commencing ...
Routine shattered to the wind,
Thousands of screams echoing through our hearts,
My home now brutally scarred.
Fear at an all time high,
Tears shed and shattered,
Will tomorrow ever come?
Now united, the nation stands
Bonded, thick as thieves,
Precious recognition.*

9 - 11

Burned in our minds, forever.

By Rayfael Roman

Rayfael Roman, a GHG Corporation Software Safety Engineer in SR&QA at Johnson Space Center, wrote this poem after 9/11. "I think the impact was greater for me than most people because I was born and raised in New York City. My family is still there," Rayfael said.