

citizens take for granted. Freedom to have my daughter educated, not hidden away in fear. Unlimited possibilities and opportunities we can all take advantage of.

*Tracey Shafer
Dynaacs, Technical Specialist
ISS Mission Support Group*

“You should live each day as if it were your last,” became a reality. Today may be our last opportunity to express our love, appreciation and respect. It may be our last opportunity to share laughter, friendship and sympathy. I kiss my husband goodbye. I take every opportunity to hug my children and tell them I love them. I’m grateful for family and friendships and make efforts to express my appreciation. My faith is renewed, my patriotism has been resurrected; the price and value of freedom are precious to me. The people who protect us are real-life HEROES.

*Shar Dunn-Vochoska
Wyle Laboratories Inc.
Biotechnology Cell Science Department*

Where my wife and I were (Washington D.C.), what we were doing and how our plans changed (we had plane reservations for the 12th) are just background. What was important was hearing from family members in D.C. and New York that they were OK, and being able to let people know we were OK. Later that week, we went to the National Mall where the flags were at half-staff, and quietly reflected on how blessed we were to have freedom and family that was safe, and how sad we were for people who could not say the same thing.

*Bradford O. Mudgett, Jr.
NASA, Personnel Programs Analyst
Human Resources Training & Development Branch*

At NASA Headquarters, we watched the reports on TV when we heard the Pentagon had been hit. We looked out the window and saw the smoke. There was no widespread panic, but there was a distinct aura of fear. I remember thinking maybe this was how Palestinians and Israelis feel every moment of their lives. That night, asleep in my hotel room, I woke up to the smell of smoke – at first sleepily annoyed by an imagined cigarette odor, then suddenly seared wide-awake as I recognized the wet, smoldering smell of the burning Pentagon for what it really was.

*Michael J. Manering
NASA, Technical Manager
Space Communications Integration Office*

I remember passing the dorm lobby TV and freezing. Disbelief, numbness and shock list only a few feelings experienced within that hour of horrific news briefings. I hadn’t known anyone in the immediate area, yet just thinking about each victim’s family and friends’ loss had made me solemn and pessimistic. Quickly rallying behind New York, though, the spirit of unity and hope really shined through and illuminated my outlook. Now, when I see American flags flying beautifully on top of buildings or gracing windows, not merely deep sympathy emerges in remembrance, but also renewed appreciation for our nation.

*Joy C. Hsu
NASA, Contract Specialist
Projects Procurement Office*

My first thought of such a misfortune was “How could anyone have so much hatred that lives had to be taken this way?” For weeks, I felt a sense of pain, loss and sorrow. It’s almost one year later, and when I think about what those people did, I still cry because of the pain, loss (disregard for human life) and sorrow. I just really don’t understand, I’m still puzzled by it all. Maybe one day, it will be revealed to us why this really happened.

*Wanda R. Lee
NASA, Secretary
Mission Operations Directorate*

I was stunned, then saddened and then ANGRY. I was one of the fortunate to get to take an active roll in the healing process. I was to go to Spain for my annual active Naval Reserve time just one week after the attack. Everyone has a part in our ongoing national defense. Bear in mind that it will be an endless endeavor. I hope all have had an opportunity for closure and are back on track, supporting our great nation in whatever way you can. Allow time to heal, but never forget.

*Tim P. Cooper
Lockheed Martin /Aerotek
Petty Officer USN(R)*

Today as the one-year anniversary approaches, I still think about those brave men and women. Firefighters and police who worked so valiantly to save the people in the towers, and many lost their lives in the process. My perspective on life certainly has changed quite a bit, and I don’t take things for granted today as I did before. This made me realize that I need to make the most of each day and not dwell on the negative things. We never know when our last day will be, so it’s important to make the most out of every day we are here.

*Pam Rogers
Hernandez Engineering, Inc., Customer Support
Room Coordinator*

We’d left Newport, R.I., that Sunday, for Charleston, S.C., in a 41-foot sailboat. Monday we were off New York. Distant Twin Towers glittered in the morning sun. On Tuesday, Sept. 11, after a passage up Chesapeake Bay, we were at an Intracoastal Waterway lock in southern Virginia. “Something terrible happened,” the keeper shouted. “Turn on your TV.” Repeatedly, we saw the planes, and the towers collapse into dust. We went back offshore at Beaufort, N.C., for an overnight sail to Charleston. There waterside nightlife was uncharacteristically muted, spiritless, half-hearted. Something basic had changed. The world we’d sailed from was gone.

*John Ira Petty
NASA, Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Public Affairs*

True fulfillment in life begins and ends in Christ. “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we can be saved.” Acts 4:12

*Jean Anderson
Lockheed Martin, Secretary
Electronics Systems Test Laboratory*

As tragic the events of 9/11 are, my memories are of relief. The hours after the attack were nerve-wracking. My uncles – FDNY Captain Tom Riley and NYPD Officer Peter Clark – and many friends are NYPD/FDNY members. Late that evening, my family members had been accounted for; those who were scheduled to be in the city that day had luck on their side. We have lost many friends and those who worked at Ground Zero are permanently changed, but I feel blessed because my family is still whole. My heart goes out to all who lost loved ones on 9/11.

*Carly Rohrig
Lockheed Martin, Node 2/3 Engineering Integration
ISS Vehicle Office*

9/11 touched my life with truth of the word of God, man was not created to rule himself apart from God. O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself, nor to direct his steps. (Jeremiah 10:23) The nations should unite and reverence our Creator. Scripture says, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (II Chronicles 7:14) 9/11 touched my life, by acknowledging God.

*Katie M. Maltese
MEA, Patent Counsel Office
Technology Transfer Commercialization*

Many images come alive: Planes flying too close to buildings, flames shooting everywhere, the sound of complete silence after thousands of people scream out in terror simultaneously. My first thought was, “There are people on that plane!” Stunned, I went to class that morning and then drove home to my parents with the radio on, and prayed. When I got home, all we could do was cry. What does 9/11 mean to me? A surge of patriotism. Utter senselessness. A generation of Americans suddenly given a reason to salute the flag and sing praise of a great nation. God bless America.

*Kelly Halacka
NASA, Cooperative Education Student
Biomedical Systems Division*

9/11 was my first day certified to operate solo on console as an ISS Operations Planner. Shortly after handover, the ISS Flight Control Team watched the second plane hit the tower live while trying to support “nominal” ISS operations. We were fortunately able to uplink the following day’s plan early and support the crew nominally through an off-nominal situation. All prior to evacuation to a safe location where we could not uplink. This was worse than any simulation, and the teamwork that was shown throughout the team made a lasting impression on me that I will never forget.

*Tracy A. Scott
United Space Alliance, ISS Operations
Planning Flight Controller
Mission Operations Directorate*

EDITOR’S NOTE: Russ Strachan shared a portion of an e-mail he received from his brother on 9/13. His brother is an auxiliary New York Police Department officer. “It put my concerns for him to rest,” Strachan said about the e-mail.

I’m OK – got down to the center right after the second plane hit. Couple close calls with collapses but I am alive, well and in one piece. Been putting in 18-hour days and haven’t been home. Work there is slow and tedious – yesterday was doing crime scene and recovery – not pretty. We are going to be going down to 12-hour shifts so as not to burn out. Going to be a long process. Stay safe out there.

*Russ Strachan
SAIC, Senior Systems Engineer
Independent Assurance Office*