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| **Service of Commemoration and Remembrance for the Attacks on America which occured on September 11, 2001** |
| **Source:** MLA**Date:** October 19, 2001***A Service of Commemoration and Remembrance******for the Attacks on America***Held at Coronado, Californiaon October 17, 2001 at 9:00 A.M.PRESIDENT DORSEY: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd ask you to take your seats, please. I want to try to get started as close to on time as possible. Has everybody gotten a program? Because we're going to call on you to do a little singing this morning, and I want to make sure you know the words.Let me start off by saying thank you for coming. We're going to begin our service with Bette Cohen leading us in three verses of "America The Beautiful." I know the first verse. Everybody knows the first verse, I guess. But the second and third are, perhaps, not quite so familiar. They're in your program.If Bette is ready, I would ask you all now to stand and rise and join in the singing of "America The Beautiful."(Singing of "America the Beautiful.")PRESIDENT DORSEY: Thank you.New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, quoting from Charles Dickens, referred to September 11 and its aftermath as the worst of times and the best of times. Certainly he is right in calling it the worst of times. The horror and the carnage of September 11th have left wounds from which we will not soon recover.The impact on our membership, on our Association has been significant. First, of course, is the fact that we have lost two members of the immediate MLA family. One is Glenn Winuk. He was Chet Hooper's partner in the firm of Haight Gardner Holland & Knight.The second is Maureen Rene Olson, wife of member John Olson, Ray Hayden's and George Chandler's partner at Hill Rivkins & Hayden.I'd like to say a few words about both Rene and Glenn.Rene was a vice-president for Marsh Mac with an office on the 96th floor of Tower One of the World Trade Center. She was there when the plane hit that tower. She was 50 years old, the mother of two children, Christopher, 19, and Maeve, 17.She loved working in New York City. Indeed, she loved almost everything about the city and wanted to live there when her children had left the nest. My wife and I had dinner with Rene and John in Singapore at the CMI meeting this past February. She was a charming person to be with. Very interesting, friendly, outgoing and cheerful. But perhaps her teenage son paid her the best compliment when at the memorial service in her honor he described her as a cool mom.Glenn Winuk was in Haight's litigation department, and Chet Hooper describes him as a bulldog in the courtroom. For those of you who don't know it, his story is unique.He was a volunteer fireman and had been a fire commissioner in Jericho, Long Island, where he lived. In addition, he was trained in rescue work and had assisted in rescue efforts when the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993.On September 11th, upon the evacuation of his building at 195 Broadway, Glenn got a mask and a pair of gloves from a passing firefighter and set off toward the World Trade Center to help with the rescue. He has been missing ever since. He is truly an American hero.We mourn the loss of Rene Olson and Glenn Winuk, and our hearts and our prayers go out to John, Christopher and Maeve Olson, and to Glenn's parents and brother.Our loss is not limited to those in the MLA immediate family. Many, if not all, of our New York members have friends, acquaintances, business colleagues, clients, and others who perished.The World Trade Center contained the offices of many in the maritime community: law firms, insurance companies, the America Bureau of Shipping, New York Port Authority, and many others. At least three members of the United States Average Adjusters Association-Bob Colin, Bill Miller, and Bill Wilson-are missing.K.H. Mao, who, thank heavens, is with us here today, has lost several hundred of his AON co-workers who were in their offices at the 102nd floor of Two World Trade Center.In short, the ripple effect is staggering. I dare say that all of our members in New York were touched in some way and suffered the loss of friend, neighbor, or business colleague. I'm sure the same is true for many of us who do not work in New York.In addition, the loss of life at the Pentagon affected those of us who work in Washington and who work with the dedicated men and women of our armed services and government.Let's remember that not all the victims of September 11th were Americans. As President Bush indicated, citizens of 80 other nations died with our own, including hundreds of British citizens and men and women from China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Canada, Italy, just to name a few. This truly was international terror.As do all Americans, we mourn the loss of all the victims of these unforgivable acts.Of course, the impact of September 11th extends even beyond the death of family, friends and colleagues. Think of the impact on those who survived but who were at or near the scene and who witnessed all or part of the aftermath. I'm sure that you have all read the chilling descriptions of the survivors and eye witnesses. There's no need to repeat those here today. Needless to say, the effect of this on those involved was traumatic and has left scars that will not easily heal.Then there is the appalling destruction of the offices themselves: Thacher Proffitt, Hill Betts, Richard Zimmerman, Bob Phillips, Martha Adams, K.H. Mao, our members at Fireman's Fund. Their offices, all destroyed. Hill Rivkins' office, not in the World Trade Center but nearby, totally gutted. Almost everyone with offices in lower Manhattan had their work totally disrupted for a week and some much longer. Some of that still continues today as we speak.In addition, those members who had homes in the lower part of Manhattan, like Alan van Praag or Mark Jaffe, Sheldon Tabak, were forced to leave their homes and take temporary living quarters in motels in New Jersey or wherever they could find shelter, sometimes without even a toothbrush in their hand.Alan Van Praag and Lynn Van Praag are with us this week. They still are not in their home and may never get back to their home. They're living in the Waldorf Astoria. Sounds glamorous, but it isn't home.So there is little doubt about the worst of times.What about the best of times? How can it even be considered? Is there any aspect in all of this for which we can be grateful?Well, first is the fact that with the exception of Glenn and Rene, all the other members of the MLA, both in the World Trade Center and the surrounding buildings, survived. Certainly a miracle. Certainly something for which we should be grateful and give thanks. Indeed, given the fact that 20- to 22,000 people worked in the twin towers, and that an additional 20,000 worked in the World Trade Center complex, and that many more visited these buildings every day, walked by them every morning, it's truly remarkable that so many survived.In addition, it could be said, I think, without contradiction, that the response to this tragedy by the New Yorkers, Washingtonians and others throughout our country has brought out the very best in people.The courage of firefighters, policemen, rescue workers like Glenn Winuk, those on Flight 93 is truly thrilling. The quiet courage of those who were on planes heading for Washington and of those who were trapped in their offices in New York who made cell phone calls to their loved ones is heartbreaking, but it's also inspirational.The response of the New York MLA members to the plight of their colleagues who lost their offices, their files, their records is no more than I expected, but no less gratifying and has made me more proud than ever to be a member of this Association.And then there is the support and sympathy from abroad. Who among you was not moved by Tony Blair's eloquent and unequivocal support? Or when you heard that "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played during the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace and on the streets of Paris and at the Brandenberg Gate?All of us have received many notes of concern, sympathy and condolence from abroad. I've received messages from the presidents of the CMI, the Spanish, Irish, Israeli, Canadian, Japanese, Chilean, Italian, Hong Kong, and Pakistani maritime law associations, as well as from representatives of the Australian, New Zealand, German, Panamanian, and South African maritime law associations. These messages are heartwarming and a great source of encouragement.Some of those who wrote or called me are here today. To you and to the others who have come from abroad to attend this meeting, I express my appreciation and gratitude for your words of sympathy and condolence.On behalf of the Association, we thank you for your support, but particularly for your friendship.So I think Mayor Giuliani got it right in noting that in these difficult times, the best in people often emerges.The decision to go forward with this meeting was not, in my view, a difficult one. Nervously made, perhaps, but not difficult.President Bush, Mayor Giuliani, and all our leaders have asked us to get on with our daily lives and our businesses. In a small way, we can answer that plea by continuing with our business here in California.There's another side to this as well, of course. Mayor Giuliani asked everyone in New York to go out and spend some money, go to a restaurant, take in a show. You have already responded to this plea to spend money just to get in the door here, and I'm sure the hotels and restaurants of Coronado and San Diego will give you ample opportunity to do more of that while you're here.The point-and I think that you all demonstrate by your presence here your agreement-is that we should not and we will not be cowed by evil fanatics in the disruption of our lives and our work.I know that for many of you it was not easy to attend this meeting, but I truly believe that just by being here, by seeing old friends and meeting new, by doing our business, by sharing a drink or a meal together, we thumb our nose at the terrorists, and we help each other deal with the trauma of September 11.In that spirit, we will shortly commence our first business session, the meeting of the Carriage of Goods Committee, as scheduled. But before we do, I'd like to call on Winston Rice to close our program.Thank you.(Applause.)MR. RICE: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be always acceptable to you, Father God, our only strength and our only redeemer.Hear the words of the Prophet Isaiah from Chapter 59 of his book beginning at the sixth verse.Their works are works of iniquity,and deeds of violence are in their hands.Their feet will run to evil,and they rush to shed innocent blood;their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity,desolation and destruction are in their highways.The way of peace they do not know,and there is no justice in their paths.Their roads they have made crooked;no one who walks in them knows peace.Truth is lacking,and whoever turns from evil is despoiled.The LORD saw it, and it displeased himthat there was no justice.He saw that there was no one,and was appalled that there was no one to intervene;so his own arm brought him victory,and his righteousness upheld him.According to their deeds, so will he repay;wrath to his adversaries, requital to his enemies . . . .Now, if you wish, please join me in reading from Psalm 140 found on page 3 of the program you received this morning.Deliver me, Lord, from evildoers;protect me from the violent,who devise evil in their heartsand stir up strife all day long.Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked;protect me from the violent,who are determined to trip me up.Do not grant the desires of the wicked, O Lord,nor let their evil plans prosper.Surely the just shall give thanks to your name;the upright shall dwell in your presence.Finally, we paraphrase the words of Abraham Lincoln, with whose historic address at Gettysburg you're all familiar and whose words, with but minor adjustment, remain so applicable to these modern times:Two centuries ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.Now we are engaged in a great global war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We have witnessed great battlefields of that war. We pause now to mark the loss of thousands of innocent victims and their rescuers. We and the world will never allow them to be forgotten. It is left for us the living to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us, and we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.Now please join with me in our closing prayer on the last page of the program, if you wish.May God bless and save The United States of America and all peace-loving peoples of this world. May God further bless us with his mercy, strengthen us with his love, and enable us to walk in charity and peace with our fellow man.Amen.Now Bette Cohen will give us some music and then ask us to join with her, following which our President has a couple of closing announcements.(Singing of "God Bless America.")(Time noted: 9:22 o'clock a.m.) |