hi I'm NASA astronaut retired Air Force colonel Ron Garan along with my crewmate retired Air Force colonel Mike Fossum as we pause to mark the 10th anniversary of the attacks on our nation that occurred on september 11 2001 the crew of the International Space Station stands United and paying its respects to the victims of 911 those who perished that day and those who lost families and friends in New York City Shanksville Pennsylvania and Washington DC we also want to remember the sacrifices made by the first responders who ignored the
dangers and ran toward the destruction

and the devastation that was visible

even from here the International Space

Station by Commander Frank Culbertson

and the crew of expedition 3 we want to

pay tribute to the tens of thousands of

men and women who have volunteered to

defend us in countries far from home

today we have a safer stronger and far

more resilient America our thoughts and

prayers are with our military personnel

as they continue to serve around the

world in the name of freedom and with

the survivors of that fateful day their
families and their friends

you

representative Fattah represented

Palazzo mr. Fogg captain culbertson and

distinguished guests thank you for

joining the NASA community in our

commemoration of the events of sep

tember 11 2001 nasa joins the rest of

the nation reflecting on the events that

took place 10 years ago in washington

d.c new york city in Shanksville

Pennsylvania as we think about the

sacrifices that took place on that day
in the United States and in the years

that followed in foreign lands let us

also take a moment for gratitude towards

those who currently serve our country

both at home and abroad for the safety

and well-being of all Americans we are

privileged to have with us today several

of those people our distinguished guests

who serve our nation daily please rise

for the singing of the national anthem

all see can you see by the dawn's early

light what so proudly we hailed at the

twilight's last gleaming whose broad

stripes and bright stars through the

perilous fight or the ramparts we
watched were so gallantly streaming and

the Rockets red glare the bombs bursting

in air gave proof through the night that

our flag was still there oh say does

that star-spangled banner

hurry yet way

ayee or the land of the free

and the home Oh

the first of our slate of distinguished

speakers is administrator charles bolden

nominated by President Obama retired

Marine Corps Major General Charles Frank

Bolden jr. began his duties as nasa

administrator in july two thousand nine
his US Senate confirmation marks the beginning of his second stint with the nation's space agency his 34-year military career having included 14 years as a member of NASA's astronaut office after joining NASA in 1980 he traveled to orbit four times aboard the space shuttle commanding two of the missions administrator Bolden morning good morning to all of you and thanks to all of you for coming together as NASA joins the nation and the world in making the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacked on our
country I especially want to recognize

New York City first responder Matthew

two four and three members of Congress

who are with us today Florida Senator

Bill Nelson who by the way was one of my

crew members on the 1986 Columbia

shuttle mission st s61 see senator

Nelson Phillip the Pennsylvania

representative Chaka Fattah and

Mississippi representative Steven

Palazzo thank you very much on this

solemn occasion we pause to remember the

lives of those we lost that tragic day

and to offer comfort to families they

left behind we also salute the survivors

and the many brave first responders who

ran directly into the face of danger to

save lives as you will hear later from

the very first moments of the tragedy

members of the NASA family have played a

part in the recovery and healing of our

nation astronauts aboard the

International Space Station were able to

photograph

the devastation of that terrible day

which could be seen even as far away as

the vantage point of low Earth orbit the

photos taken by the only American off

the planet at that time Franco person
who you will meet later are an historic reminder that this small dot in the universe still has big challenges to overcome America's first responders and many ordinary people became heroes on 9/11 and our government has continued since that day to take the steps that have kept our nation safe more than 2 million of our troops have served in war zones these brave volunteers are protecting our nation beyond its borders and preventing threats before they can reach our shores they have upheld the virtues of service sacrifice and
selflessness that have always been the source of America's strength as the beneficiaries of their service we have a sacred duty to support all of our troops the military families and veterans America is a different place since that faithful day but NASA's subsequent human and science missions have demonstrated how space exploration can bring our world together erase borders and improve the lives of people across the world we will never forget 911 but we are nevertheless optimistic about the future part of my optimism is fueled by the
potential of NASA's commitment to ongoing cooperative exploration that will inspire humanity and lift our thoughts to the higher potential of which we are capable NASA is uniquely positioned to continue building bridges in a global enterprise that helps us uncover the secrets of our planet and the universe and bring scientists engineers and explorers from all walks of life together no matter their race religion national origin or background this is the legacy not only of NASA it is a path that all of us must pursue to
the

158
00:08:37,278 --> 00:08:43,370
ature again I want to thank you all for

159
00:08:40,788 --> 00:08:46,879
participating in NASA's Day of

160
00:08:43,370 --> 00:08:48,528
Remembrance our nation's unity and the

161
00:08:46,879 --> 00:08:51,379
many ways we help each other through

162
00:08:48,528 --> 00:08:54,438
adversity is one of our greatest assets

163
00:08:51,379 --> 00:08:57,318
we are resilient our nation draw

164
00:08:54,438 --> 00:08:59,539
strength from diversity and we can do

165
00:08:57,318 --> 00:09:01,818
whatever we set our mind to not just

166
00:08:59,539 --> 00:09:03,849
because of our military power but

167
00:09:01,818 --> 00:09:07,909
because of the power of our ideas

168
00:09:03,850 --> 00:09:10,909
because who we are one nation dedicated

169
00:09:07,909 --> 00:09:12,409
to building a more perfect union the

170
00:09:10,909 --> 00:09:14,629
families of the victims and the

171
00:09:12,409 --> 00:09:16,818
continued healing of our nation our
foremost in our thoughts and prayers

today let us join in remembrance and
raise our sights to tomorrow's promise

and now it's my distinct pleasure to

bring to the podium my friend informal shuttle former shuttle crew mate Senator

Bill Nelson

good morning to the NASA family all of

us will remember exactly where we were

on that fateful day moments of tragedy

such as that including the loss of two

space shuttles etch into the mind the

indelible imprint of memory exactly

where you were what you were doing on
the early morning of September the 11

I was on the west front of the United States Capitol building in a leadership meeting we had actually tried to continue the meeting even after we knew that the world trade center had been hit when suddenly someone burst in the door and said the Pentagon has been hit we left immediately to the windows overlooking the mall the west front of the Capitol to see the black smoke rising across the Potomac and then that memorable voice in my head continues as going out in the hallway down the stairs
the Capitol Police were shouting at the top of their lungs get out of the building get out of the building run run there's an inbound airplane and of course because that flight was delayed that morning the passengers had a chance to find out what was happening and they decided to storm that cockpit and that took the plane down on that Pennsylvania field otherwise its target was thought to be the west front of the United States Capitol building since sep tember the 11th the world has changed clearly from our
national security standpoint we see that

00:12:01,120 --> 00:12:09,198
having come through the large landmass

00:12:04,458 --> 00:12:14,809
armies to protect us we now move to a

00:12:09,198 --> 00:12:18,500
much more surgical Swift kind of

00:12:14,809 --> 00:12:20,929
protection it used to be that we had the

00:12:18,500 --> 00:12:24,259
great privilege of having two big oceans

00:12:20,929 --> 00:12:29,568
that protected us now we know

00:12:24,259 --> 00:12:32,209
differently and as you now see I knew

00:12:29,568 --> 00:12:35,349
modus operandi for protecting our

00:12:32,208 --> 00:12:39,049
interests it's the marrying up of

00:12:35,350 --> 00:12:43,579
extensive laborious time taking

00:12:39,049 --> 00:12:48,578
intelligence work married up with a

00:12:43,578 --> 00:12:53,198
swift legal leak the lethal surgical

00:12:48,578 --> 00:12:58,568
stealthy military strike as best

00:12:53,198 --> 00:13:01,458
evidenced by the takedown of bin Laden
since September the 11th NASA has changed this family has responded as patriotic Americans do so well in the pictures that we've just seen in the honoring of country in the contributions of scientific achievement but NASA has changed also because NASA realizes that we can't do the things that we used to do the same old ways since 911 and the protection of the national interest we now know that the engagement of protecting our interest on faraway lands costs a lot of money and then with the near meltdown on Wall
Street and the taking us down into a recession trying to climb out of that

the governmental resources are harder to come by although the pie has not shrunk

clearly the difficulties of getting the slice of the pie are much more heightened and therefore nASA has changed as well to move to a new stable of rockets where we can continue our space program that is more efficient and more cost-effective and is safer if you talk to the average American this is a responsibility that we have in the NASA family to explain just how vigorous our
space program is the average American

out there on the street they have the

impression the space program is over

we're just getting cranked up we just
got to Jupiter we just went to the moon

ah we're getting ready to go to Mars

with a rover that is the size of a

Volkswagen that's got six wheels that's

got a pole that'll stick up and then zap

rocks with a laser it's got a scooper

it's got a couple of eyes that will pop

up and we can see it real-time and it

doesn't have to go to sleep in the

Martian night and we have a stable of
rockets that are now in competition to
deliver crew and cargo to the
international space station and then
pursuant to the legislation that was
passed in the nasa authorization bill
signed into law by the president we have
a new stable of rockets that will
eventually take us to the goals set by
the President and that is to go to the
planet Mars
we have changed the world has changed we
are safer but we are not safe and
therefore it calls on us and our
colleagues our fellow Americans to keep
the spirit of America going to guard our
cherished freedom and in the process

keep the hope alive by doing what is in

the heart of every American reach for

the stars

our next speaker is US Representative

Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania

representative Fattah is the ranking

member of the Subcommittee on Commerce

justice science and related agencies of

the House Committee on Appropriations

congressman Fattah was elected to the US

House of Representatives in 1994 prior

to his election to the US Congress he

served as a representative in the
Pennsylvania State House and as a Pennsylvania State Senator

representative Fatah well it is indeed appropriate to pause and reflect on the events some ten years ago and for NASA

I'd like to say that as the premier agency of his type anywhere in the world you have played an important role in our nation's efforts to deal with the challenges relevant to that day I'll speak a little bit about that in a minute but I recall a young president who went to rice university and launched our nation on to a effort to conquer and
explore space and he said that we choose
to go to the moon not because it's easy
but because it's hard you do very
difficult work and I want to
congratulate the administrator and all
of the staff and all of the employees
are part of the NASA family along with
the contractors for the work that you do
now President Kennedy talked about our
efforts in space that
but a year earlier when he gave his
inaugural address he said that we would
as a nation interact with others in the
world rather they meant us well or
rather they meant us evil that as a
nation we would pay any price bear any
burden and meet any challenge well ten
years ago on 911 we had to be introduced
to ourselves again and to face the
adversity of that moment and since that
point some two million have served in
war zones these are two million
Americans who have volunteered on behalf
of their country over 6,000 have lost
their lives tens of thousands have been
injured the over 500,000 who have filed
for various types of disability veterans
disability claims we have spent and
invested in these efforts significant
...sums of the public treasury so it's

...clear that those words spoken in 1961

...still resonate in the American soul that

...is that we are prepared to pay the price

...and the bear the burden but I want to

...focus for a minute on NASA's role I have

...a friend here with the chief

...technologist I understand he's trying to

...retire mr. administrator we should keep

...them here but I want those who are

...engaged here at NASA to think and

...reflect for a minute about NASA's role

...because in our predator drone program

...their Aeronautics and technological
advances that begin here at NASA and the

helicopters that went into a

a sovereign country to go after Osama

bin Laden as the president promised

during his campaign and follow through

that if we had actionable information we

would go wherever the trail of evidence

took us to get bin Laden in on those

helicopters there was technology that

began in its infancy here at NASA that

when we saw the first responders

responded to pentagonal in New York

those the fire protective gear day war

were developed in conjunction with a
project between NASA and FEMA and the

firefighters so that our first

responders can be better protected when

we look at the machinery that was

used to cut through the rebel the search

for survivors the life shears again

developed in a partnership as is NASA's

normal mode of operation in a

partnership with a private sector

company to develop the ability to

use NASA's technological superiority to

help meet the challenges and that is

used they was used in Oklahoma City

bombing was used in New York and 911 so
nASA has played an important role and

00:23:12,440 --> 00:23:18,019
you're going to hear from a Frank a

00:23:15,559 --> 00:23:20,569
little bit later on so I don't steal his

00:23:18,019 --> 00:23:25,579
thunder but you also had a unique view

00:23:20,569 --> 00:23:28,569
of what was taking place but anything

00:23:25,579 --> 00:23:32,210
and everything connected to this effort

00:23:28,569 --> 00:23:35,720
that was focused at dealing with this

00:23:32,210 --> 00:23:39,230
challenge there you can find in the work

00:23:35,720 --> 00:23:42,980
that nASA has done a role that your work

00:23:39,230 --> 00:23:47,360
is played and as we go forward as a

00:23:42,980 --> 00:23:50,000
nation as we deal with other challenges

00:23:47,359 --> 00:23:53,719
senator Nelson mentioned that

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:56,750
nASA has faced challenges with the loss

00:23:53,720 --> 00:23:58,100
of two of our shuttle flights we know

00:23:56,750 --> 00:24:01,269
that there have been other terrorist
attacks like at Oklahoma City bombing

you know there have been events in our country's past and it will be in all likelihood events that challenge all of us in our country's future but if we would just hold firm to what that young president said that we as a nation have to be prepared to bear the burden to pay the price we can turn tragedy into triumph and we've done that by seeking out those responsible for 911 and you know when the Oklahoma City bombing took place federal installations had to become better protected but they're open
for business when the church was bombed

the sixteenth street baptist church in

birmingham yes precautions had to be taken but baptist churches open up every

sunday and the doors are flung wide open all across our land when we had the

incident at Columbine High School we didn't shut our schools down tens of thousands of schools are open for business today so that we can develop a new generation of scientists and engineers that continue to propel our nation and NASA forward and so is the case with the attacks of 911 because no
matter whether the view is from the space station or the view is right here on the ground the entire world knows something with a certainty and that is 10 years out the 911 America is still open for business we are still a nation that is committed in every respect to our ideals and that we as President Kennedy said rather those who mean us well or those who mean us evil they should be aware of our commitment to ourselves to our nation in two generations that will thank you our next speaker is the US
Representative Steven Palazzo of

00:26:17,869 --> 00:26:22,219
Mississippi representative Palazzo is

00:26:20,538 --> 00:26:24,109
the chairman of the Subcommittee on

00:26:22,220 --> 00:26:25,970
space and Aeronautics of the House

00:26:24,109 --> 00:26:28,908
Committee on Science Space and

00:26:25,970 --> 00:26:30,500
Technology congressman Palazzo was

00:26:28,909 --> 00:26:33,140
elected to the US House of

00:26:30,500 --> 00:26:34,579
Representatives in 2010 prior to that he

00:26:33,140 --> 00:26:36,519
served for three years in the

00:26:34,579 --> 00:26:55,939
Mississippi House of Representatives

00:26:36,519 --> 00:26:58,659
representative Palazzo September 11 2001

00:26:55,940 --> 00:27:01,429
is a day that forever changed America as

00:26:58,659 --> 00:27:04,370
I reflect on that terrible day I feel

00:27:01,429 --> 00:27:07,399
the same patriotism and heartache I felt

00:27:04,369 --> 00:27:09,469
in I think of the bagpipe processions
for firefighters and policemen in New York honoring their the lives of their fallen brothers and sisters I think of the smoke plumes that were visible from the space station the bill it for days over the city and the American flags we all proudly flew in front of our home thoughts from that day still stir emotions that inspire me to serve fortunately for America I’m not the only person that feels this way a decade after the attacks Americans are still inspired to serve as our country marched the ten-year anniversary of the tax on
our nation we remember and we

commemorate the lives lost on that day

we also honor the sacrifices made every
day since then by our military and their

families as our armed forces of taking

the fight to the enemy so the fight is

not in our backyard not since the
greatest generation has so few

sacrificed so much for so many the NASA

family was not immune from these

emotions norther daily responsibilities

and any fashion typical of the history

of this agency it provided hope and

inspiration in moments of crisis the
NASA family

knows that in the pursuit of excellence tragedy can occur but when it does the family grieves but always rises up to even greater heights the International Space Station captured the images of the smoke emanating from Ground Zero those aconnick images conveyed to the world the depth of the devastation but we must not forget that in the midst of the tragedy tragedy the men and women of NASA kept operations going which is not an easy thing to do on a normal day let alone on a day like 911 that day the
International Space Station was

00:28:53,269 --> 00:28:57,950
operating overhead as it has done every day continuously for more than 10 years

00:28:55,579 --> 00:29:01,250
and today on another planet our Mars rover contains aluminum recovery from

00:29:03,799 --> 00:29:08,750
the World Trade Center if that is not an example of rising to new heights nothing

00:29:06,140 --> 00:29:12,470
is American knows there are risk going in out of space but on septemper 11

00:29:15,440 --> 00:29:20,990
2001 we didn't quite realize that men and women face a terrible risk just

00:29:24,170 --> 00:29:27,650
going to work or board an airplane but from that terrible day we have all

00:29:25,609 --> 00:29:30,829
recommitted ourselves toward a common goal to make this nation the greatest of
all freer safer and stronger the men and
women of NASA continue to contribute to
that common objective and I thank you
for your efforts god bless you and God
bless america
our next speaker is mr. Matthew fog mr.
Fogg retired from the United States Marshal Service as a chief deputy US
Marshal with 34 years of public service
during a vacation trip to New York City
in September 2001 he selflessly responded to the attacks on the world
trade center by serving as a first responder organizing search and rescue
teams and leading the teams of courageous Americans to find those lost in the destruction mr. Fong I want to thank NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and miss Ruth McWilliams for presenting this heartfelt memorial to NASA personnel worldwide and honor those who dedicate their services to America on sep 10 11 2001 I also want to give honor to the congressional members astronauts and other distinguished persons who are being recognized in this program I would like to give special thanks to NASA employee miss Claudia
00:30:58,230 --> 00:31:02,910
silver and my world-class organization

543
00:31:00,529 --> 00:31:06,299
colleagues of federally employed women

544
00:31:02,910 --> 00:31:08,759
known as few org our national president

545
00:31:06,299 --> 00:31:10,589
mr. Webster and our national vice

546
00:31:08,759 --> 00:31:13,980
president miss Michelle Crockett who is

547
00:31:10,589 --> 00:31:16,139
here today last but not least i will

548
00:31:13,980 --> 00:31:17,670
give honor to my family and friends who

549
00:31:16,140 --> 00:31:20,400
are here and supported this wonderful

550
00:31:17,670 --> 00:31:23,490
honor by nasa thank you for coming out i

551
00:31:20,400 --> 00:31:25,769
would like to be brief and give my words

552
00:31:23,490 --> 00:31:28,829
the challenge each public servant hear

553
00:31:25,769 --> 00:31:32,250
my voice today and around the world know

554
00:31:28,829 --> 00:31:35,339
that one day you may be called to be

555
00:31:32,250 --> 00:31:37,319
above and beyond the call of duty i took

556
00:31:35,339 --> 00:31:39,569
an oath as the United States marching to

00:31:37,319 --> 00:31:42,659
protect and serve against all enemies

00:31:39,569 --> 00:31:44,519
foreign or domestic but like any other

00:31:42,660 --> 00:31:46,440
federal employee I was on special leave

00:31:44,519 --> 00:31:49,109
that day and having traveled from

00:31:46,440 --> 00:31:52,890
Washington DC to New York on personal

00:31:49,109 --> 00:31:55,259
business we all know the morning of

00:31:52,890 --> 00:31:57,900
septum 11 changed Americans forever as

00:31:55,259 --> 00:31:59,819
terrorists flew passenger Airlines into

00:31:57,900 --> 00:32:02,370
both the North and South towels over

00:32:02,369 --> 00:32:07,319
north residing in a hotel and amazingly

00:32:05,009 --> 00:32:10,529
one block from the fire station that

00:32:07,319 --> 00:32:13,950
lost the most five firefighters 16 on

00:32:10,529 --> 00:32:15,930
that day and all I was in my room when I
observed incidental television news

thinking it was a training tape this

couldn't be happening realizing it was

real I ran outside to see many folks

hollering and running down the street

pointing at the World Trade service

towers at the time only one tower was

burning and the fire department the next

block in the next block had responded

already I went back to my room and then

I saw another plane and we all saw on TV

appear out of nowhere and crashed

through the second tower later both the

North and the South towers collapsed and
what I called an unimaginable catastrophic cloud of fire and smoke I realized many fathers mothers children firefighters and police were now dead or dying people everywhere was saying the United States is under attack the news were sketchy at best I received a brief comb phone call from a friend who told they evacuated the US Capitol suddenly the line went dead I was unable to make any phone calls and learn later via News another plane that crashed into the Pentagon I suddenly began to feel sick and burning desire in my stomach to

help those in peril I located an army surplus store not far from my hotel and bought black army military clothing and equipment ultimately I began to make my way down to the destruction opposite of those running it and the other way I'm fiance begin to cry and asked me why are you going down there it's way too dangerous you are your own special leave and I'm not prepared for that disaster she said Matthew you could die and at the time I said to her tell my family that what I'm now doing is above and beyond the call of duty and so ten years
later I want each person listening to me

00:34:05,700 --> 00:34:10,470
know that when you get that call that

00:34:08,250 --> 00:34:13,059
someone is in need and you don't have to

00:34:10,469 --> 00:34:16,329
take the action please remember

00:34:13,059 --> 00:34:19,360
in 911 we didn't have to go in and help

00:34:16,329 --> 00:34:21,639
either but we went in above and beyond

00:34:19,360 --> 00:34:25,480
the call of duty arriving and what I

00:34:21,639 --> 00:34:27,609
call is what we call the zone as ground

00:34:25,480 --> 00:34:29,889
zero the destruction smoke and flames

00:34:27,610 --> 00:34:32,530
were breathtaking I didn't know where to

00:34:29,889 --> 00:34:34,989
start TV depictions were impossible to

00:34:32,530 --> 00:34:37,269
show actual dimensions of all the huge

00:34:34,989 --> 00:34:41,169
build buildings crumbling into one huge

00:34:37,269 --> 00:34:44,230
area it was surreal I kept repeating the

00:34:41,170 --> 00:34:45,610
Psalms 23 yea though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death I shall

fear no evil for thou rod and thy staff

they comfort me we were seeking to find

anyone alive I remember vividly a

firefighter was rescued myself many

responders started clapping when he came

out of lab later we observed our

excitement was depicted in a news photo

I remember early clearly on one occasion

myself and other searches were actually

tied together with ropes at least 50

feet on the ground and a large wide

space calling for anyone to respond if

they were alive sudden we heard a call
from other rescue workers that part of the building was collapsing there was nowhere to go if the building had collapsed I'm certain I would have died I actually said Lord Jesus into thy hands I commit my spirit I begin to continue to look around everyone please repeat after me above and beyond the call of duty I stayed in his own area for about five days during that time bodies were recovered and a few more people were rescued and some respondents were hurt conducting searches but it was work that called on a special breed of
men and women we must also think the
doctors the nurses and all the food and
supply personnel who responded people's
Weekly magazine coined the phrase best
when it titled it America unites
amazingly they captured a picture of me
assisting firefighters were covering the
body of a New York firefighter who paid
the ultimate price above and beyond the
call of duty so in closing let me say
this I was not a New Yorker and those
people on 911 were strangers to me
but they were loved ones too many and
others and may be of some of you that
are here today just remember you don't have to be at Ground Zero to know God has placed the calling on your life today so at the direction of my voice if ever you know someone in need regardless of the race gender age color just as you know and now nanami for helping others on 911 whom I didn't know I now ask you to be willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to help them as we all did on that dreadful day and be the first respondent god bless you and God bless america introducing our final guest speaker is NASA deputy administrator lori garver
deputy administrator Garver began her current service to NASA in july two thousand nine her US Senate confirmation marks the second time she has worked for NASA the first period of service being from 1996 to 2001 when she served as special assistant to the NASA Administrator an associate administrator for the office of policy and plans deputy administrator Garver Thank You Kiki and thank you mr. is very meaningful it is an honor to introduce the only American who was not on earth on september 11th in 2001 and to have
him speak to us today and while Frank Culverson bore unique witness to that tragedy NASA responded in many ways and we continued to pay tribute to the 9/11 victims and their families immediately after the attacks NASA science programs were called into action on behalf of the nation the agency worked with FEMA to fly sensors over the affected areas on aircraft looking for aerial contaminants as well as satellite resources to monitor from above NASA flew 6,000 flags on endeavors next space shuttle flight to honor the Vixen victims of the
attacks as well as their families and thousands of brave men and women who contributed to the relief and recovery efforts. I think we have someone else to give her flag to today in an effort called flags for heroes and families. Students working at the Johnson Space Center in Houston assembled commemorative packages including those u.s. flags flown in space which were then presented to the relatives of the victims on national flag day in 2002. Last February the contributions of NASA and the Kennedy Space Center were
stitched into the fabric of the National
911 flag which was recovered near Ground Zero following the attacks and at this very moment as representative Palazzo reminded us on the dusty red surface of the planet Mars a piece of the metal of the World Trade Center is protecting the drilling mechanism of the opportunity rover and has been doing so for more than seven years I just found out about the story a few weeks ago when visiting New York with the sts-135 crew and meaning with employees of a company called honeybee robotics they’re based in manhattan new york and they just told
me that they felt they wanted to do something in the weeks following the tragedy they called the mayor's office and eventually received a box of debris and metal from the World Trade Center towers in a gesture and a tribute to the victims and survivors they on their own decided to adorn those metal pieces with the American flag and they included them as a functional part of the Spirit and Opportunity Rovers it is now a symbol that our American spirit prevails the only American who was not on earth on September 11 2001 wrote a letter
describing his reaction to the unfolding tragedy at the time he said other than the emotional impact of our country being attacked and thousands of our citizens and maybe some friends being killed the most overwhelming feeling being where I am is one of isolation while I think we all experienced a bit of isolation at that time within a few hours we had the opportunity to go see our families and to hug our children and hold them in our arms and you had no such opportunity and I cannot imagine how you were able to respond in the way
that you did while circling the Earth

you had the presence of mind to grab a

video camera to document from this

unique vantage point the destruction

that was occurring below in his photos

and memories of that day they have

become an important part of our history

and in our healing Frank Kohler son has

had an 18-year career as a NASA

astronaut logging over 144 days in space

the Space Shuttle commander pilot and

station crew member retired from NASA in

2002 and is now senior vice president

and deputy general manager with orbital

and
sciences corporation one of our key

industry partners how appropriate is

that Frank's experience offered us a

unique perspective on this terrible

event after all that is what we do we

provide a unique and important

perspective on our nation our planet and

our universe thank you Frank for joining

us at this important event roll the

video

Mordy then

you are to me you keep away from a lil

bit what's go on but they wanted me for

a major I only pray

the way soon
dry

and the sun will rise on one more day

I didn't know exactly what was happening

but I knew it was really bad because

there was a big cloud of debris covering

Manhattan we flew past New York City and

far the effects of that attack on that

fitting that's why I really became

painful because it was like seeing a

wound in the side of of your country of

your family your friends I was visiting

Williamsburg and there was a veteran

touring the grounds he need a little

help up one of the sets of steps in saw
helped him a little bit and we started talking and I told him I had seen the attack on Afghanistan from above then I told him I was the commander of the space station and he immediately started asking questions and wanted to know more.

This is a guy who lost part of the use of an arm he's lost both his legs his life has changed dramatically however the first thing he said to me is that's one of the best things we're doing we have to work together internationally I

will never solve all these problems the young men and women that are putting
their lives on the line in Afghanistan

and Iraq and other places around the world to ensure that this doesn't happen again and help keep us free are the real heroes here I think it's important for people to continue to learn the lessons from this and make sure that we are in fact making ourselves a better country as a result of it not regressing or turning inward are changing ourselves into a society that we won't be proud pass on to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren I had the privilege to talk to a school that was a couple of
blocks away from ground zero

and meet those kids and teachers in

person they were close to ground zero

but they were optimistic and that's our

future

the Sun Laurel

good morning and thank you very much and

Lori thank you very much for that

introduction that was amazing brought

back a lot of memories as does the the

video every year actually almost every

day I think about what I saw from the

space station on 911 but certainly at

this time of year it comes home to me

and I remember what I felt like I
856
00:46:31,248 --> 00:46:35,988
remember all the people that I

857
00:46:33,708 --> 00:46:40,219
communicated with I remember my

858
00:46:35,989 --> 00:46:43,188
crewmates Mikhail and Vladimir who also

859
00:46:40,219 --> 00:46:44,479
felt the pain of this they were worried

860
00:46:43,188 --> 00:46:46,759
about their own country because they had

861
00:46:44,478 --> 00:46:49,338
already had terrorist attacks in Moscow

862
00:46:46,759 --> 00:46:50,748
and other parts of Russia and we all

863
00:46:49,338 --> 00:46:52,188
spent a lot of time checking with our

864
00:46:50,748 --> 00:46:55,129
families and making sure they were okay

865
00:46:52,188 --> 00:46:56,778
and we talked together a lot about the

866
00:46:55,130 --> 00:46:59,838
significance of what we had seen and

867
00:46:56,778 --> 00:47:01,880
they worked as hard as I did taking

868
00:46:59,838 --> 00:47:07,308
photographs and videos of what was

869
00:47:01,880 --> 00:47:10,999
happening in in our country and you know
as marshals fog said sometimes you had to
be prepared to do things you didn't
expect you ever would have to do

I certainly never expected to take
pictures like that but I also never
expected to have to talk to people on
earth and explain what I had seen and
what it meant to me I talked to hundreds
if not thousands of school children from
space they ask their questions about the
space station and about traveling in
but they also asked about what I saw and how it made me feel so I had
to go over it quite often I talked to
two leaders of countries around the world who were sympathetic to what had happened but he wanted to express their support and ask their questions when we were doing our physical exams on that day and I called the ground to report the results of that dr. Steve heart came on the line and I said hey Steve how's it going he said well Frank we're not having a very good day down here on earth and my heart stopped for a moment because just the way he said it I knew something bad was going on didn't know if maybe a family member was
seriously ill or worse or NASA had lost an airplane or somebody and then he began to describe what had happened at the World Trade Center and just prior to the call the plane had hit the Pentagon and he told me about that and while we were talking he told me about the airplane crashing in Pennsylvania and it was clear to me that we were under attack and so we did find a camera and we did look down on New York City we did look down on New York City Michael and I both in Vladimir from a different window and and we recorded what we saw but it was very painful to see I assume that tens of thousands of
people were dying not knowing exactly

the situation there what time it was and

he approximately but hadn't done the

mental math at the time of what time

zone we were in but as we zoomed in with

the camera you could see the big cloud

developing new york city and we were

watching the second tower come down we

didn't know it at the time i just knew

it was getting worse and it looked

really bad and traveling five miles a

second New York goes across the horizon

very quickly and it was along 90 minutes

to come back around and and check out my
00:49:26,030 --> 00:49:30,980
country again and see if anything else

00:49:28,789 --> 00:49:33,380
was happening and we were very worried

00:49:30,980 --> 00:49:34,969
and we talked a lot about what was

00:49:33,380 --> 00:49:37,400
really going on and what this meant

00:49:34,969 --> 00:49:40,039
during that that long 90 minutes but in

00:49:37,400 --> 00:49:41,570
the in that time we also set up every

00:49:40,039 --> 00:49:42,920
camera we had and we took as many

00:49:41,570 --> 00:49:45,740
pictures as we could we came across

00:49:42,920 --> 00:49:47,840
Chicago and looking across the Midwest

00:49:45,739 --> 00:49:50,029
went right across purdue where i had a

00:49:47,840 --> 00:49:51,140
daughter in school and looked down and

00:49:50,030 --> 00:49:52,760
make sure everything was okay in that

00:49:51,139 --> 00:49:54,739
area we couldn't see anything in

00:49:52,760 --> 00:49:56,510
pennsylvania the smoke had already

941
dissipated and I could see all the way
to Texas and was making sure there was
no smoke down that way where a lot of
the family was into the Carolinas where
the rest of them were
and as we crossed Washington we were
directly over the Pentagon and we can
look straight down and see the gash in
the side of the building we could
through the binoculars and the long
lenses to see the lights of the rescue
vehicle as we knew it was really bad
there too and then as we went across the
eastern shore doubt over the Atlantic I
could clearly see New York City again

956
00:50:25,679 --> 00:50:31,559
and see the smoke coming towards us and

957
00:50:27,570 --> 00:50:35,190
took some more video and it just it just

958
00:50:31,559 --> 00:50:39,210
really hurt and it was hard to know what

959
00:50:35,190 --> 00:50:41,460
to do next as we circle the earth every

960
00:50:39,210 --> 00:50:43,590
90 minutes and we crossed the US and we

961
00:50:41,460 --> 00:50:46,019
were getting very sporadic pieces of

962
00:50:43,590 --> 00:50:48,690
information I look down on the US and

963
00:50:46,019 --> 00:50:50,940
normally the earth the earth looks

964
00:50:48,690 --> 00:50:52,619
inhabited you know you can see a lot of

965
00:50:50,940 --> 00:50:55,079
things happening down here you can see

966
00:50:52,619 --> 00:50:56,850
the contrails of all the airliners going

967
00:50:55,079 --> 00:50:59,039
across the u.s. and coming from Europe

968
00:50:56,849 --> 00:51:01,409
towards the US and all around the world

969
00:50:59,039 --> 00:51:05,219
and bottom converge right over Atlanta
it seems like but but as we came around about three hours after the attacks began they all disappeared except for one or two one was coming back to Washington carrying President Bush and then there were a few we have 15 s and f-18s around the country that were patrolling but that was it they had all disappeared they've grounded everybody in just a few hours and that to me was an amazing sight to see and really drove home the fact that this was a different world now and I was going to come home to a different place not really knowing
for sure when that would be here what it would be like we just knew would be different we had to press on with our mission we had a module that was arriving in six days that we had to get safely docked to the station get it activated we had our own agenda we had to follow and our own timeline just to keep the station flying because at that time it was very small and and somewhat somewhat fragile we only have one large solar array in a couple of small ones and in six modules and just the three of us up there so we were busy but we kept
working and as you do at times like the
issue compartmentalizing you get the job
done but the best part of it was is I
could tell people on the ground we're
pulling together
and I could tell that the family was was
supporting each other and at the end of
the first day Roy estes came on the on
the line he was a center director at JSC
at the time and he said Frank I want you
to know we've checked on your family and
you're going to talk to your wife in a
few minutes and we checked on your kids
and everybody here is committed to
keeping you and Vladimir Mikhail safe

00:52:42,179 --> 00:52:45,449
we're going to make sure your mission

00:52:44,070 --> 00:52:47,760
continues and we're going to do our job

00:52:45,449 --> 00:52:49,409
down here on earth and I said well it's

00:52:47,760 --> 00:52:51,270
got to be pretty restricting Roy he says

00:52:49,409 --> 00:52:52,559
it's incredibly distracting Frank but

00:52:51,269 --> 00:52:54,509
these people are committed down here

00:52:52,559 --> 00:52:57,289
they're going to take care of you I had

00:52:54,510 --> 00:52:59,850
no doubt about that I knew that my

00:52:57,289 --> 00:53:01,440
Capcom's Barbara and Katie who were

00:53:01,440 --> 00:53:06,539
talking to me that day and telling me as

00:53:03,510 --> 00:53:06,539
much as they could our flight directors

00:53:03,510 --> 00:53:10,230
mark fairing mark usage Brian Lonnie

00:53:06,539 --> 00:53:12,900
others our support team TJ creamer Missy

00:53:10,230 --> 00:53:15,900
guard Jesse Gilmore others were taking
care of us dr. Hart and his medical team

and the psych support folks watching out

for the families and it was it was an

amazing coming together of people who

knew their jobs they knew what to do but

they never thought they'd have to do

this kind of stuff but they figured it

out later that night I did talk to

Rebecca and she had talked to every one

of the kids and they were frightened but

okay and I said I'm not sure you know

when we'll be coming back and she said

it's okay i'm taking care of things here

and she did and so we kept on with our
mission the next day I got a call from

the ground on the secure loop again and

was talked to harden and TJ got on the

line he said Frank I got some more bad

news for you you know I knew with his

many people is that I know in the

military and who fly airplanes and work

in New York City that I probably knew

somebody who was impacted in some way by

this and the first one I heard about was

my classmate chick burlingame class of

nineteen seventy one from the Naval

Academy he and I played in the drum will

be drum and bugle corps together we we
studied aerospace engineering together

and we both were a four pilots and

touched at the same time chick was the

captain to american airlines flight 77

that was crashed into the Pentagon

and I knew he must have gone out

fighting I didn't know any of the

details but I just envisioned that chick

was a great fighter pilot and I'm sure

that he didn't give up his airplane

readily but it made it very personal at

that point and I started thinking about

how angry I was that this had happened

and taken my friend and taken families

and
and it was it was a you know you go

00:54:51.900 -- 00:54:55.980
through the phases of grief and the

00:54:54.059 -- 00:54:58.259
anger came pretty quickly after it

00:54:55.980 -- 00:55:00.900
became so personal about four weeks

00:54:58.260 -- 00:55:02.280
later I was I was always watching the

00:55:00.900 -- 00:55:03.480
Middle East because we had heard where

00:55:02.280 -- 00:55:05.640
the attack came from and who was

00:55:03.480 -- 00:55:07.170
responsible and you could always tell

00:55:05.639 -- 00:55:10.619
when you were flying over Afghanistan

00:55:07.170 -- 00:55:12.240
because there were no lights hmm excuse

00:55:10.619 -- 00:55:13.440
me the rest of the Middle East was

00:55:12.239 -- 00:55:15.509
pretty well lit up but not Afghanistan

00:55:13.440 -- 00:55:17.700
and then I was watching one night as we

00:55:15.510 -- 00:55:19.410
flew overhead and I knew something was

00:55:17.699 -- 00:55:21.389
probably going to happen before too long
as I would watch intently and I saw

these big flash it start to go off on

the ground and they were cruise missiles

hidden key targets down there and there

were strings of bombs from the b-52s

going off and I knew that my friends and

colleagues were retaliating I had

classmates who were commanding the

fleet's and commanding the divisions on

the ground and then again it was very

personal but I was very proud of our

troops and what they were doing and so

every opportunity I've had since then I

try to let him know when I see them that
I appreciate their sacrifice the thing I want all you to remember is that we are now thanks to that attack as bad as it was building another greatest generation the men and women who are fighting for our freedoms overseas who are making sure here in the homeland that we're safe in her dealing with this either physically or emotionally or professionally every day are building a capability that will make this country stronger all we have to do is tap it and let those folks lead we need to overcome the politics the partisanship we need to
remember why this event brought us together and why we were able to work so well together and let that generation come up behind us and take the reins because they have been through a trial by fire the folks who survived 911 the folks who have survived the Global War on Terror in Afghanistan and Iraq and the folks who are taking care of us here at home know how to lead so we need to respect them and help them do that job better and we need to step up and do our part to make sure that we all stay safe but
even more than that we keep our eye on the future and what we're doing here at NASA is a great example of proving to the rest of the world that you cannot hold us back you cannot keep us from excelling you cannot keep us from pushing our frontiers outward no matter what you do we will always excel we will always succeed and we will always push those frontiers to the next level I really appreciate everything everybody in NASA is doing I certainly appreciate what everybody did to keep me safe in orbit to bring me home safely especially in time for Christmas and I really
appreciate the folks that are fighting to keep our freedom here at home and abroad Charlie Lori you've got a great team here it's great to continue working with you and it's fantastic to be a part of this family brothers and sisters you got a big job ahead of you in the next few years let's get off this planet for good let's get out into the solar system and out into the universe and learn all we can about it because as my friend Johnny Jones Staff Sergeant United States Marine Corps said the only way we're going to solve all these problems
is by international collaboration and communication we got to talk to each other we've got to show the way thank you all very much

on behalf of the NASA Administrator and deputy administrator thank you to both the members of the NASA community and to our distinguished guests for attending the ceremony of commemoration