you

ladies and gentlemen friends shipmates

of the class of 1971 this is captain

Frank Culbertson the United States Navy

retired the commander of the third

expedition to the International Space

Station and a member of the class of

1971 I want to welcome you all of you to

this place today I have two messages I

would like to give to you from space if

you would listen for just one moment

first I want to say welcome to all my

classmates who are there I really wish I

could be with you see you beat Boston
College I want to say hi to our classmate Tom O'Brien on the other side of the field sorry about this time but we're going to have to work on you today. I wish I could be there for the army game I'll miss that but I'll be rooting for you from space we have the high ground and I believe and today I think it's an important day for all of us to gather together to remember our time at u.s. Naval Academy our leadership in the country and our participation in all the things that have happened over the years but especially in the last week the
second part of my message I would like

to remember our classmate chick

Burlingame the captain of American

Airlines flight that of course crashed

into the Pentagon she was a hero in my

book as were all of the Academy

graduates who perished last week and I

think that we should take a moment to

remember them as well as all of the

victims of this terrible tragedy America

is a great country America is the best

country in the world and I know we will

pull together to go through this we

don't see any boundaries from here in
space we're working very hard to build

an international partnership I hope we can overcome the problems that have given us what we experienced in the last couple of weeks

by working together by leadership and by the strength that we know is in our

I would like to send a message from the station down in memory of chicken and of all of our graduates who perished and of all the victims of this tragedy

something that has never been done before from space so I like to ask all of you to rise for a moment of silence as we play something from International
Space Station Alpha

Wow

Oh

I

Music

Music

Oh

Oh

Music

god bless the Naval Academy god bless

our country god bless all of those last

week Thank You Oliver

starting to become a motion

I realized our country was under attack
I was ironically halfway through a Tom Clancy novel about a similar situation at the time and it almost put me inside the novel which was a very strange feeling but as we listened and events on the ground were described to us by our flight surgeon and then by the Capcom's it became very real and then once I saw it out the window and we took video as the second tower was collapsing 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 that's when it really became painful
because it was like seeing a wound in

the side of of your country

initial reaction was shocked of course

how could this possibly be in habit be

happening and then as the reality sunk

in some fear that some family member or

someone close to me might be affected by

this and then the realization that

thousands of people really were affected

and then eventually that turned into

anger at some point that someone would

do this to us

because when we got home was the

increased security we knew it was there


and we knew to expect it but the reality

00:08:05,379 --> 00:08:10,089
of it from when I left when I came back

00:08:07,629 --> 00:08:12,279
all the barriers up all the additional

00:08:10,089 --> 00:08:15,789
security checks at the airport at that

00:08:12,279 --> 00:08:17,529
time going into any public building was

00:08:15,790 --> 00:08:20,740
even more onerous than than it is now

00:08:17,529 --> 00:08:23,379
but but it really was startling how

00:08:20,740 --> 00:08:26,069
things had changed him we clearly were a

00:08:23,379 --> 00:08:26,069
country at war

00:08:26,689 --> 00:08:30,509
I've met a lot of people that were

00:08:28,800 --> 00:08:34,370
affected by 9/11 in a lot of different

00:08:30,509 --> 00:08:37,110
ways so I don't count myself as

00:08:34,370 --> 00:08:40,279
especially unique I just had a the

00:08:37,110 --> 00:08:42,570
privilege of a fantastic vantage point

00:08:40,279 --> 00:08:45,779
yes there was some isolation but there
was also a viewpoint that I will always be blessed with but 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.

You have you ever seen the commander of the International Space Station with me a flight engineer called and then goes on this day we pause to celebrate the birthday and meaning of the U.S. flag a
sign of strength and unity for our
nation the American flag is more than a
symbol the Stars and Stripes tell our
history and reinforce our future goals
as a nation and today more than ever
it's important for all Americans to
honor and celebrate our flag the
foundations of flight day can be found
in New York where it first became a
holiday in 1897 but it wasn't until
President Harry Truman signed an act of
Congress in 1949 that designated June
14th as National Flag Day in December we
were on the space shuttle flight
designated to honor the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks along with flags from the city of New York the Pentagon and the state of Pennsylvania. We also carried nearly 6,000 small American flags into orbit on station shuttle Endeavour as part of the flags for heroes and Families campaign the flags are being distributed to the survivors and family to the victims of the attacks from space we have a unique view of our planet we see a world with no borders no war and no political differences we hope our work onboard the
International Space Station will be seen as a way for all nations to work together to pioneer the future and in some small way show everyone how people of different nations can come together in space today's we pause to show our pride for America and to pay tribute to all the heroes of the terrorists by taking the time to honor and celebrate the American flag so it is fitting that we return the items flown for the flags for heroes and Families campaign on the day and to the place where it all started New York our prayers are with all the
families and friends of those whose lives were forever changed by the events of September 11th.

[Music]