



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from Your Executive Director:

I have a short report for you today- and it is specifically about today, the 18th(!) anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

While we are reminded that some of us, and many of our officers, deputies, troopers, and professional staff, are too young to remember that day well, many of us remember it very well. Eighteen years is almost a generation, but it also seems not very long ago at all.

On that day, I was working as an administrative Sergeant, working regular day shifts. My wife called me from her work sometime after 9 AM and said a plane had hit one of the towers at the World Trade Center, and to turn on the TV. My first thought was of a book report I had done in high school, about a military plane that had accidentally struck the Empire State Building in 1945 in heavy fog. I turned on the TV, thinking this was an interesting news story, when the second plane flew into the other tower on live TV. Like many of you who were around then, that slightly dizzying feeling, that this was not an accident at all, was immediate and overwhelming.

I also realized I did not know where my father was that day-- his job frequently took him to New York where he worked with brokerage companies headquartered in the Trade Center. For a couple of hours, we had no idea until we determined he was not in New York that day. We later learned he had been in the "Windows on The World" restaurant at the top of one of the towers just a week before. My wife said that Morgan Stanley had an office in her building, and employees were filing out and crying-- some of them for anonymous fellow employees who had clearly lost their lives, and some for people they knew personally at the Manhattan office whose fate was still uncertain.

I remember it like it was yesterday, and I was in a city far away from New York. Everyone knows where they were that day and how they felt. Over 400 first responders lost their lives that day. Please take time tomorrow to remember the sacrifice made by those brave souls, and continue to keep their families in your prayers.

We work in a profession that is under scrutiny, where people have strong and heartfelt emotions about what we do and how we do it. Remembering those who were lost, and those saved by the heroic actions of those officers, firefighters, and others that day, leads us to also remember why we do this- to serve. To serve our fellow human beings, and to do the best we can humbly and professionally. There are 11,000 men and women across our state doing this job every day, and eighteen years after 9/11, I hope we remember those who came before and those still serving. It is truly my privilege to work with you--

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

Steve

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