

Editorial

6 Years After 9/11 We Keep Coming Back

Monday, Sept. 10, 2001 was painfully punctuated by chilly rain that did not let up until late in the evening. The following day dawned clear and cloudless and the washed-clean morning air held the promise of pleasant warmth. Good weather can boost voter participation, so poll workers anticipated a good turnout for the citywide primary election. All over the borough and the city we were getting up, having coffee, getting ready to meet the morning.

It would never be a warm, sunny, ordinary day again.

For the rest of our lives we will remember where we were and what we were doing when we heard the news that first one passenger jet and then another had deliberately crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, where we were when we heard that another passenger aircraft had slammed into the Pentagon, the heart of the nation's defense command, where we were when we learned that a fourth aircraft had crashed into a field in Western Pennsylvania after passengers wrested control of it from the hijackers who sought to destroy another target in Washington, D.C. We will always remem-

ber where we were when we heard that first one tower and then the other had collapsed, that 23 New York City police officers, 37 of their Port Authority counterparts and 343 firefighters died trying to save the civilians who had started that ordinary day in their ordinary way, by going to work and doing their jobs. Even if we knew none of them personally, or even peripherally, we will carry the memory of those who perished that day in our hearts forever.

We are continuing to heal. Ground Zero is beginning to look more like a construction site than a desolate moonscape at the bottom of a concrete-rimmed hole in the ground. Slowly but surely, Lower Manhattan is beginning to come back. Law firms, banking enterprises, small businesses are returning to the Financial District and families are giving Battery Park City and other housing complexes new life.

Echoes of 9/11 still haunt us. Two New York City firefighters assigned to Engine Company 258 in Long Island City were severely injured in a construction accident at the abandoned Deutsche Bank

Building, where two of their brother firefighters had died battling a blaze only a few days before. Human remains are still being found in the vicinity of Ground Zero. First responders and civilian rescuers and construction workers who toiled on the heap of smoldering rubble known as "The Pile" are suffering from health problems strongly believed to be related to their breathing air laden with contaminants. And terrorist incidents in Madrid and London believed to be the work of followers of the band of militants responsible for 9/11 brought death and injury to other innocent civilians. Only weeks ago plots by more militants and fanatics were foiled in Germany and the Netherlands. Truly, "For still our ancient foe/Doth seek to work us woe" as a line from the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", maintains.

Yesterday was a day to remember those we lost. The pain of the taking of their innocent lives will always be with us. On the sixth anniversary of 9/11, we look back in sorrow, but we look forward with pride and hope that will never be extinguished. We prevailed then. We prevail now, and we will prevail forever.

Resolution 22 to repeal NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement]. NAFTA is just the beginning of the North American Union. If we can repeal it, the North American Union will not go through.

Very truly yours,
Janet McCarthy
Flushing

Comments On The News

To The Editor:

Several interesting articles and news items that I have read during the past two weeks are worthy of sharing with other *Gazette* readers.

I salute Councilmember [Eric] Gioia for being honored and recognized as reported in the August 22, 2007 issue of the *Gazette*. He is a young man of whom to be proud and has a long political career ahead of him as a future leader of our city. He cares for so many people and dedicates himself to making a better quality of life for his community. He is an inspiration and a role model for all young New Yorkers to emulate.

I also support Councilmember [Peter] Vallone Jr. for his concern about Peeping Toms. This is a true invasion of privacy, a violation of our rights and freedoms guaranteed to us by the Bill of Rights and no woman or man must be a victim of such disgusting behavior.

Vallone Jr. is another example of a young man who has done so much to care for all New Yorkers and there is a bright political future ahead of him.

I am appalled at the loss of life at that Deutsche [Bank] Building fire. It seems that a concrete plan of action must not have been made prior to this emergency.

All concerned should get their acts together to prevent such disasters from happening.

I salute the labor union movement and the workers of our city, state and nation. I appreciated the history of Labor Day piece that appeared in our August 29 issue.

With outsourcing nowadays, I feel the pride and workmanship of the American worker has declined. I would like to see more manufacturing items made in the good old U.S.A. With the poisoned pet food and dangerous lead-laden toys from China, it make me cringe to realize that we can produce items ourselves that are inspected and safe for human use and consumption by pets and by animals. Labor Day is not for sales and the last long weekend of the summer, but for dedication to the men and women who made our labor force strong and gave rights and benefits to workers through the union movement.

Cynthia Groopman
Long Island City

Transportation History

To The Editor:

Recent news stories concerning subway flooding, infrastructure needs and potential future fare increases reminds me of transportation history everyone has forgotten. The original BMT (Brooklyn Manhattan Rapid Transit-today's B, D, J,M,N,Q,R,W&Z lines) and IRT (Interboro Rapid Transit-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, Franklin Ave. and Times Square shuttles) subway systems were constructed and paid for by the private sector with no government subsidies. They supported both development and economic growth of



Letters
to the
Editor

Repeal NAFTA

To The Editor:

Despite the Bush administration's continuing talk about fixing the nation's porous southern border, the promised fence has not been built. Legislation calling for it has been passed, funds have been appropriated by Congress and most American citizens want the border secured. But illegal immigrants continue to stream across the border.

The reason the fence is mostly talk and little or no action is because the Bush administration does not want it built. [President] Bush and his administration remain committed to creating the North American Union, which will merge Mexico, Canada and our nation. A fence separating Mexico and the United States is not part of the plan.

America's sovereignty is being threatened. We should contact our congressmen to co-sponsor House Concurrent

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