



TOTAL NEWS

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We Need to Remember

I recently was talking to an applicant, who was in our office filling out an application. He saw the sign up list for volunteers for the 9/11 Healing Field. He asked if we were doing this to assist the Police Department Operators. It took me a minute, until I realized that he did not know what 9/11 really meant. I give him a few hints, like "Twin Towers", "planes flying into buildings", and "Osama Bin Laden". He shrugged his shoulders a bit and stated, "yeah, I guess I heard something about that, but that was before my time." It was not until then that I realized that he was probably around 5 or 6 on September 11th 2001, and that thanks to a horrible educational system in parts of this country, we don't teach history, especially not any that might offend somebody. Well, life sometimes is offensive. 9/11 sure was, and too often do I hear comments these days that 9/11 was a generation ago, it was Bush's fault, or we got Bin Laden, so the danger is over. One of the driving beliefs in my life is that "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." If we won't find the time in kids' busy schedules to teach them history, guess what will happen? Just like you tell a child not to touch a hot stove... Yes, we do have to learn for ourselves, but there are certain things that we learn without having to find out first hand - The big things.

Anyone who picks up a newspaper (remember those?), tablet or turns on a computer or TV has to be aware that bad things are happening in the world, 13 years later. 9/11 did not happen as a fluke. There are people that do not like our way of life, but as I talk to people that have traveled the world (many of them in the uniform of our military), they all pretty much agree that ours is a heck of a lot better country than most others. If you travel, get off the tourist path, and talk to the locals, find out how their lives are, what is good and what makes the grass on the other side of the fence greener for them, and you will realize pretty quickly that ours is a pretty darn good country, and that we have a lot to be grateful for, but also a lot to fight for to hold on to it. It is easy to lose rights - Talk to people in other countries about their rights and ours, and often they will look at you like you are from another planet when you talk about our rights and freedoms. People do not like us for our way of life, and if there is anything we should have learned and need to remember from 9/11, it is that we have something pretty amazing as a Nation. Not all people are patriots all the time, not all people believe this Nation is headed in the right direction, but we still live in a country where we are free to disagree, where you do not get decapitated because you do not agree with those in charge, where there is equality, choices of travel, education, partners and friends, where you are free to do most anything, as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. It is people that despise that freedom, and yes, the EXCEPTIONALISM of the United States of America that attacked us that day. Let us not only not forget that, but let us make sure that we teach our children and their children this. It is the only way we will remain the home of the free. NEVER FORGET.—Mick Hirko



It's important for us to stand united, now more than ever. As we fight each other over skin color, social status, and a multitude of other reasons, there are terrorists knocking at our door. ISIS hates us and alleges to have big plans in store for us. Many feel like our president is viewed as being "weak" to the outside countries, and has presented this opportunity for the terrorists to strike. We don't seem strong. We are fighting each other. It's the perfect time for them to formulate a plan because we are too busy with our own issues.

We are ALL Americans. It's our national race. If we each identified as such, maybe some of that discrimination would fade away. Those who don't want to be an American are free to live somewhere else. I think the United States is a great place to live. We are human, so we do have imperfections. We've made a lot of progress but still have a long way to go. I view our progress like I view my life: things may be good, but there is ALWAYS room for improvement to grow and better ourselves.

I have slowed down recently, and stopped rushing through life so much. One thing I realized is that when I used to drive in a hurry, I'd have my blinders on and try to get from A to B as quickly as possible and wouldn't pay attention really to other drivers, aside from defensive driving. Now that I've slowed down, I take time to let people cross the street, or let someone out that may have been sitting there in their car for 15 minutes waiting for a break in traffic. It feels good to do nice things for people. We are ALL on this crazy ride called life and some of us are much less fortunate than others. I think about the fact that I was born to a good home, with parents who raised me well. Life is literally a lottery. I could have been born to a drug home or abusive home...I had no control over that; I just got lucky.

Please remember that there are lots of people going through worse things than you. Be a good neighbor. Smile at a stranger. Do something nice for someone. Be humble and grateful. We are a stronger nation united. - Ashleigh Gaylord

Event Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sept 10	Tempe Beach Park	9/11 Memorial Concert
Sept 10	USAC	Linkin Park
Sept 11	Tempe Beach Park	Healing Fields Ceremony
Sept 12	Rawhide	Mad Decent Block Party
Sept 17	Comerica Theatre	Luis Miguel
Sept 18	Comerica Theatre	Uproar
Sept 20	Ak-Chin Pavilion	Jason Aldean
Sept 21	Comerica Theatre	David Grey
Sept 21	U of Phx Stadium	Cardinals v. 49ers
Sept 25	Ak-Chin Pavilion	Lil' Wayne/Drake
Sept 25	Jobing.com Arena	Katy Perry
Sept 26	Rawhide	Foam Wonderland
Sept 26	Phx Children's Museum	Play Date
Sept 26-28	Tempe Beach Park	Summer Ends Festival
Sept 27	Comerica Theatre	BB King
Sept 27	The Handlebar Tempe	BIKETOBERFEST

Healing Fields

The annual Healing Fields event will be held in a few short days at Tempe Beach Park. Every year we gather volunteers to help with marking/gridding the field and transferring the flags from the storage unit to the trailer, to be transported to the park. The next day, we gather with a ton of other volunteers from other companies and agencies, to put up all of the flags. After the event is over, we return to the park to take all of the flags down and put those away. If you've never been to see this memorial, it's absolutely amazing. If you are interested in volunteering with us and being a part of it that way, we'd love to see you there and have your help. The volunteer shifts/times are as follows:

9/9/14 600-1100: Grid/mark field
9/9/14 900-1200: Load flags into trailer
9/10/14 530-1100: Put flags up
9/14/14 530-1200: Tear Down
9/14/14 800-1200: Store Flags

Please [let us know](#) if you would be interested. You can follow the Facebook Page for the memorial itself [here](#). If you can't volunteer we hope to at least see your face there, to experience this one of a kind event and remember that we are stronger as a nation united.



"The person born with a talent they are meant to use will find their greatest happiness in using it." -Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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