

COMMEMORATE

CELEBRATE

CONSECRATE



WE REMEMBER

WE OBSERVE

WE PLEDGE

A COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

We Remember 9.11.2001

To commemorate the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Randy Vader and Rose Aspinall have created the reading WE THE PEOPLE and a moving short drama TOP OF THE WORLD. These two memorials along with a suggested commemorative service are available to you at no charge and may be copied in any of your church publications.

All of the suggested titles are available from PraiseGathering Music through our distributor LifeWay or your favorite music supplier.



Top of the World

In Remembrance of 9.11.2001
by Randy Vader and Rose Aspinall

A mom and dad receive a letter from their young son. He's excited about life; a new job, new friends, a raise in pay, so excited in fact, that he's chosen to put his life of faith aside for now because he is certain he will have plenty of time for his relationship with God later. How many awoke the morning of 911 with nothing more on their minds than getting their day started and getting to work on time? This drama is poignant and simple. It reminds us that life is unpredictable. It reminds us to hold fast to those things that do not change; the steady, unchanging faithfulness of God.

Cast:

Mom: approximate age 40-50 yrs

Dad: approximate age 40-50 yrs.

Tom: age 26, young executive type

The scene opens up with Tom stage left and Mom and Dad stage right. Tom is sitting at a desk reading. Mom is also seated at a desk reading silently but with Dad behind her looking over her shoulder. Lights come up on Tom only. He is getting ready to mail a letter to his Mom and Dad. He is checking it over a last time before he drops it in the mail. He reads aloud.

At the start of paragraph three, bring lights up on Mom and Dad. Mom begins to read aloud at "when things are not so busy..." and she and Tom read together momentarily until Tom's voice fades out after "near my new home". Mom continues reading as lights fade on Tom. Mom finishes reading the closing and the date, turns to Dad and reaches for his hand.

Lights fade.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thanks for the card and the birthday check. I'm saving all the checks you send me to buy you a computer so we can stay in contact by e-mail. I know what you think about all this "techno" stuff, but I'll teach you when I come to visit. That's a promise!

I haven't found a church yet. I know you're disappointed to hear that, but you don't need to be concerned. It's just that I've been so busy since the company relocated me. I've made a lot of new friends here and they're great. You'd like them. Church just isn't part of my life right now. I know what you are thinking and I am not turning my back on God – it's just that I don't want to think about it right now. I'm 26, single, and I have my whole life ahead of me. I know you pray for me everyday – like always. Don't stop!

Guess what? I have big news!! Part of the plan to move me here was to announce that I've been made a junior associate partner in the firm! I got a great raise and a big bonus too. I already made a down payment on a house near the shore just about an hour from the office. I think the people in the apartment complex are tired of the jet ski sitting in my parking place.

When things are not so busy, I'll see if there's a church that interests me near my new home. I know living out your faith means a lot to you and maybe I want that for me too someday, but like I said, I have plenty of time to figure that out.

I have to go now. I'm meeting some friends for dinner and then I'm going to get into the office early tomorrow so I can leave in the afternoon to meet the real estate agent out at the house.

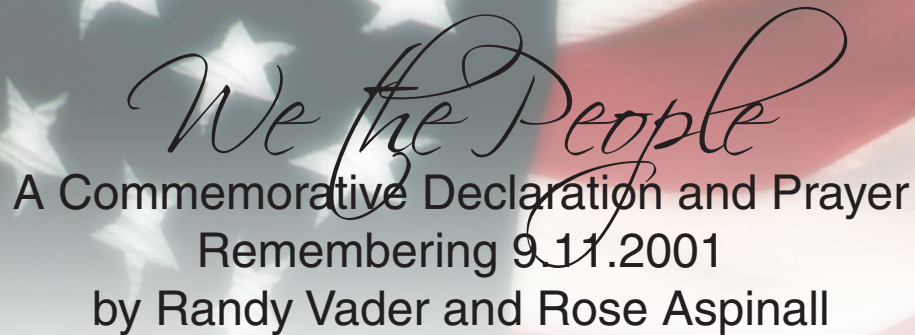
Things are really looking up; new friends – great job – incredible view. I can see from one end of the island to the other. I mean mom and dad I am really sitting on top of the world – 66th floor of the World Trade Center, New York City.

Love ya,

Tom

September 10, 2001





We the People
A Commemorative Declaration and Prayer
Remembering 9.11.2001
by Randy Vader and Rose Aspinall

The events of September 11, 2001 are more than a decade removed from us and even from this distance, the loss cannot be calculated. The pain is not relieved, the anger not suppressed, the questions unanswered. We acknowledge this. We live with this. We learned from this.

We the people learned –

We learned - there are evil forces in the world that defy description.

We learned - what it was like to be attacked on our own soil.

We learned - we are still a nation of community and we can come together to grapple with the impossible while grieving the unthinkable.

We learned - that we are drawn together more by mutual need than by mutual strength.

We learned - that ordinary people do extraordinary things in times of crisis and they are the true heroes.

And in our learning, we the people remember –

We remember - those who lost their lives.

We remember - those who gave their lives.

We remember - to give voice to the unspeakable.

We remember - so that we will never forget.

And in our remembrance, we the people pledge –

We pledge - to be more careful and more caring of the world around us.

We pledge - to be vigilant in preserving our freedom.

We pledge - to be ever watchful in protecting our nation.

We pledge to give prayerful thanksgiving for those who stand in harm's way to protect us from enemies both foreign and domestic and serve for the common good.

We pledge to honor and pray for our nation's leaders.

And as we pledge, we the people pause to pray –

Our Father, tender-hearted and kind, our Father who weeps with us still. We do remember that heart-rending day so many Septembers ago. Hatred opened deep wounds in us and the healing has been long and slow and painful. But in that wounding, we saw You, the Faithful One. Your promise to bind up those hearts that are broken has been true. We continue to turn to You for peace beyond our understanding and comfort in our continued grief. We are not the same people today. Today we are a people of greater compassion and love. We long to have a heart like Yours, to be lovers of justice and of mercy. Open our eyes to new opportunities to show Your love in deeper ways. We pray in Your dear Name. Amen.

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A background image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes, with a semi-transparent white box overlaid on the top left portion.

A COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

We Remember 9.11.2001

Suggested service

Anthem: My Country, 'Tis of Thee (A08201)

Scripture – Psalm 33:1-5, 12, 20-22 NIV

Anthem: Sweet Land of Liberty (A08310)

Anthem: Salute To the Armed Forces (A08205 - DVD available)

WE THE PEOPLE

Anthem: Count the Cost (To See That Banner Wave) (A08618 - DVD available)

Offertory – Be Thou My Vision (piano solo)
available for download from (www.praisegathering.com/Site/Detail.asp?tid=7)

TOP OF THE WORLD – Drama

Anthem: Anthem for our Unsung Heroes (A08289)

Sermon

God Bless America – various arrangements available through JW Pepper and Hal Leonard

For more ideas visit our Patriotic page at (www.praisegathering.com/Site/41/) There you will find dynamic and powerful musicals (as well as more anthems) that will provide an excellent opportunity to honor our nation and our Lord.