

Remarks by W. Phillip W. Weiss about September 11, 2001

My name is Phillip W. Weiss. I am the Master of Arcana Lodge Number 246 and the host for tonight's event. Thank you for showing up. The name of this room is the French Doric room. This is where Arcana Lodge conducts our meetings. Usually when we conduct meetings, this room is furnished with various Masonic paraphernalia and is closed to the public. Freemasons call such a meeting a closed lodge. However, tonight, instead of a closed lodge, Arcana Lodge will have what Freemasons call an open lodge which is a Lodge meeting that is open to the public. Tonight's business will be to pay homage to the people who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, twenty-three years ago today, and to recall the events of that day. One may ask why we should commemorate an event that happened many years ago. The answer is because of the catastrophic nature of the event itself. It shook the nation to its core. It affected everyone. The shock of the event reverberated through the nation and around the world. Thus, given the magnitude of the event and the death and destruction it inflicted, it is unlikely that we as a nation will achieve full closure on this event any time soon. Every time we go through a security check at an airport or some other public venue, it is because of what happened on 9/11/01. Every report of a terror attack committed anywhere in the world stirs the memory of 9/11/01. Hence, the consequences of 9/11/01 are with us every day, every hour, every minute, every second. Every image of the World Trade Center jars our memory of 9/11/01. The awful and horrifying images of two airplanes loaded with passengers crashing into the Twin Towers and bursting into flames and the Twin Towers disintegrating into an ugly and smoldering heap of rubble are seared into our collective memory.

That's just the way it is. It would be easy to use this occasion to loudly and angrily ventilate our righteous indignation against the criminals who perpetrated this unprovoked outrage and injustice against us twenty-three years ago today but that would just enflame old wounds and reignite the anger and pain. So, justifiable as that course of action may be, let us not go there. Instead, please rise and in respectful repose bow our heads for a moment of silence to honor the memory of all who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.