

**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
 Florence, OR 97439

# Opinion

**The First Amendment**  
 Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." — Thomas Jefferson (1800)



## A Proclamation on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, 2021

BY U.S. PRESIDENT  
**JOSEPH R. BIDEN**  
 Sept. 10, 2021

Twenty years ago, the United States endured one of the most unconscionable tragedies in our country's history. The cowardly terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and onboard United Flight 93 cut short the lives of 2,977 innocent people. These attacks tore a hole in the heart of our Nation, and the pain of this tragedy still remains. Each year on this somber date, we remember the horror and bravery shown that day, just as we remember how we came together, united in grief and in purpose. Each year, we renew our solemn vow to never forget what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, or those who lost their lives. On Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, we honor every life that was taken too soon. We honor the first responders — firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency workers, and service members — who answered the call of duty, and the brave civilians who rushed into action to save lives that day. Their courage embodies the American spirit and resilience, and their heroism continues to inspire new generations of Americans.

instant but where there were survivors to be found; a determined group of heroes onboard United Flight 93 sacrificed their lives to save the lives of others — in every case, Americans faced the unimaginable with resolve and courage. Today and every day, we draw hope from the strength and selflessness of those who stepped up to serve their fellow man and our Nation on that tragic day.

We also remember the patriotism and valor of our service members who pursued our attackers, delivered justice to Osama bin Laden, and degraded al-Qa'ida. We will keep our sacred obligation to care for our service members and veterans who served in Afghanistan over the last 20 years, as well as their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Over the last two decades the American people have demonstrated that the harder the circumstances, the more resilient and stronger we become. Our shared love of country and our shared values — regardless of race, gender, religion, origin, or economic status — unite us as Americans against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Today, on this Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, we move forward as one Nation, united by our common goal of liberty and justice for all. We remember those killed on Sept. 11, 2001, and honor them through acts of service. I encourage all Americans to visit [ameri-corps.gov/911-day](http://ameri-corps.gov/911-day) to learn about and seek opportunities to serve others on this day and to demon-

strate once again that the ideals we hold, which many have tried to attack and destroy, are the very bonds that hold us together — even tighter in times of peril.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated Sept. 11 of each year as "Patriot Day," and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, the Congress has requested the observance of Sept. 11 as an annually recognized "National Day of Service and Remembrance."

Now, therefore, I, Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Sept. 11, 2021, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I call upon all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

I invite the Governors of the United States and its Territories and interested organizations and individuals to join in this observance. I call upon the people of the United States to participate in community service in honor of those our Nation lost, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time to honor the innocent victims who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.



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Jenna Bartlett  
 Chantelle Meyer  
 Front Office  
 For Advertising: ext. 318

Publisher, ext. 318  
 Editor, ext. 314  
 541-997-3441  
 For Classifieds: ext. 310

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## Siuslaw News

**Office:**  
 148 Maple St./PO Box 10  
 Florence, OR 97439

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The *Siuslaw News* welcomes Letters to the Editor and Guest Viewpoints as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Email letters to [cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto:cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com)

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- PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN**  
 The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20500  
 Comments: 202-456-1111  
 Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
 TTY/TDD: 202-456-6213  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)
- STATE SEN. DICK ANDERSON (DIST. 5)**  
 900 Court St. NE - S-417  
 Salem, OR 97301  
 503-986-1705  
 Email: [Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov)
- OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN**  
 160 State Capitol 900 Court St.  
 Salem, Ore. 97301-4047  
 Message Line:  
 503-378-4582  
[www.oregon.gov/gov](http://www.oregon.gov/gov)
- STATE REP. BOOMER WRIGHT (DIST. 9)**  
 900 Court St. NE  
 Salem, OR 97301  
 503-986-1409  
 Email: [Rep.BoomerWright@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.BoomerWright@oregonlegislature.gov)
- U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN**  
 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg  
 Washington, DC 20510  
 202-224-5244 | 541-431-0229  
[www.wyden.senate.gov](http://www.wyden.senate.gov)
- LANE COUNTY DIST. 1 COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH**  
 125 E. Eighth St.  
 Eugene, OR 97401  
 541-682-4203  
 Email: [Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us](mailto:Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us)
- U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY**  
 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
 Washington, DC 20510  
 202-224-3753 | 541-465-6750  
[www.merkley.senate.gov](http://www.merkley.senate.gov)
- FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR JOE HENRY**  
 Florence City Hall, 250  
 Highway 101, Florence, 97439  
 541-997-3437  
[ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us)  
 Email comments to Florence  
 City Recorder Kelli Weese at  
[kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us](mailto:kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us)
- U.S. REP. PETER DEFazio (4TH DIST.)**  
 2134 Rayburn HOB  
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 541-269-2609 | 541-465-6732  
[www.defazio.house.gov](http://www.defazio.house.gov)