Greetings from your entire Sheriff Chaplaincy Team,

I will start with a quote that helps me as I think about this tragic day, and truly can help us in any tragedy we may face; whether individually, as a team, or as a nation.

“The attacks of September 11th were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified. We feel renewed devotion to the principles of political, economic and religious freedom, the rule of law and respect for human life. We are more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom.” — Rudy Giuliani

As we see the passing of 20 years since the 9/11/2001 attacks upon our country, I am reminded how much changed back then, and how much has changed since. I was in the process of finishing my service as a Combat Engineer in the Army Reserve, and was preparing to resign my commission. Yet, when this tragic day happened, I felt the call to stay in the military and then to transfer to the US Chaplain Branch (now Corps). I had never deployed while in the Engineer Corps, and then began to prepare to deploy as we were now in a global war on terror, as it was called initially. Since that time, I continued to serve as an Army Chaplain in the USAR, and had multiple deployments as a Task Force Chaplain (and also as a Chaplain Detachment) into the Middle East. On my third deployment, I had the honor of serving a Marine Corps Task Force as their Task Force Al Taqaddum (TFTQ) Chaplain in Ramadi 2015-16. An Army Chaplain serving with and ministering to our US Marines, what an honor, and I believe only God could have put that amazing Task Force together. So much of my life has changed in these past 20 years, and I am mindful that even though these changes stemmed from something terrible and painful, it has been a part of shaping me into who I am today; and I kind of like this person God has molded me into these past 2 decades. I am now retired from the Army, and get the honor of serving alongside you all right here where I grew up (stomping ground was Greenacres and CVHS).

I do agree with Rudy Giuliani that 9-11 renewed my devotion to the principles of respect for life, freedom, and rule of law. I'm also more determined than ever to live my life in (and for) freedom, right here in Spokane County with you all.

It is clear that America was forever changed by these attacks, but that tragic day served as a challenging test of our country’s resilience, and the strength of the American spirit. I see that strength of spirit and resilience today, right here in us!

I close with this perspective on how we win at any struggle that we find ourselves in.

“We will win this struggle—not for glory, nor wealth, nor power, but for justice, for freedom, and for peace... so help us God.” — Tom Harkin

Blessings from Above, Chaplain Robert Kinnune

“If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate.” — Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl