



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **Sept 13, 2024**

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“No matter how you’re feeli9ng, remember that there are people in your life that care about you deeply.” –

Unk

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The Chief's Desk

I typically write the first draft of *The Chief's Desk* on Wednesdays because it gives me time to send it to my editor for editing and then back to me for *The Review*. This week, Wednesday happens to be September 11, 23 years since the murderous terrorist attacks on our country. They callously took over 3000 lives. Innocent people who were going about their day, people with families, hopes, dreams, and bright futures.

Over the last 23 years, thousands more have given their lives on the battlefield fighting for our freedoms. Many more have committed suicide back here at home as a result of the trauma they experienced in war. Others who were survivors of 9/11 and/or those brave folks who worked Ground Zero for weeks and months have lost their lives as a result of 9/11-related illnesses.

I remember being on duty as a captain at Station 3 in the City of St. Charles. My wife sent me a page, which was out of character for her. When I called her back, she told me there was an attack and that I should turn on the news. I turned on the TV just as the second plane hit the second tower. In disbelief, I went outside to get my crew. We backed the ladder into the station and spent the rest of the day glued to the television and any reports we could get.

Very little information came from our admin, other than to lock the stations down and not to leave unless we got a call. For years, I was frustrated that we didn't get more information throughout the day from our senior leadership team. However, looking back, what more could I expect from them? They had the same information we did and from the same sources.

The Boeing Missile Plant is in the City of St. Charles in between Stations 1 and 4. In the days after 9/11, the security of that facility became a priority, as well as a source of concern for us.

While the events of 9/11 took a little piece of each of us, it also lit a fire inside of nearly every American as our sense of pride and patriotism reignited, bringing us together as one. Community support for firefighters, law enforcement, and the military was off the charts. People were stopping by the fire stations dropping off baked goods, candy, and cards with heartfelt notes. Back then, marijuana wasn't legal, so the brownies and chocolate chip cookies weren't as much of a concern...

Not only did 9/11 awaken a nation that had been asleep, it also ignited an immense sense of pride for all of us in the Fire Service. Much of the petty bickering stopped, the shift battles subsided (slightly), and we walked with a little more spring in our step.

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Upcoming Events:

Sept 16: Senior Staff Meeting,
Stop by academy

Sept 17: Leza Live Radio Show,
Prescott Valley Safety Summit

Sept 18: PRCC Chiefs Meeting

Sept 19: PV Chamber Board
Meeting

Board Meeting:

Board Meeting: Sept 23

Joint Meetings – 1600-1900

Chiefs Desk Cont.

Back then, all a fire department had to do was hint that we were opening applications and potential candidates would line up at the door. The same was happening in law enforcement, EMS, and the military. People wanted to serve their community and their country in any way they could.

Times have changed. Today it's become difficult to find people who truly want to serve others, and we've had to increase our marketing efforts since post-9/11. Fortunately, we're finding quality candidates who want to serve – 14 of them just started the academy for CAFMA on Monday – but the numbers aren't as high as we'd like to see, and we want to add more firefighters. In total, 21 new firefighters started the first-ever CAFMA/Prescott joint academy at CARTA on Monday. What an amazing sight!

Normally, each year on 9/11, you'd find me on stage at the Healing Field either acting as the emcee for the event or as the speaker. This year, because of my shoulder replacement, I can't get in my uniform, so Chief Feddema was on stage representing CAFMA. I heard he was excellent!

Every year I encourage folks to get back to where we were on 9/12/01. That day we united as one – one country, one community, one fire department, just humans. We worked together, we mourned together, and we joined as one in our efforts to seek justice for those we lost on 9/11.

Today, as a country, we're divided seemingly more than we've ever been. It's as if the person who can shout the loudest, rules the day. Truth is no longer important, rather it's rhetoric and false narratives, whatever one needs to use to get what they want. In a time where instant gratification has become the norm, we rush to judgment without the facts because it's easier to simply make up our minds and be done with it than to seek the truth. This isn't just a national level issue.

What a strange world and time we live in. I didn't watch the debate this week, nor have I been following the politics and the election. It's just too depressing, and quite honestly, there's no reason for me to get upset about things I can't control. My opinion will be heard when I cast my ballot in November. It may be just one small voice in a churning sea of discontent, but my voice can still make a difference.

I hope one day we can get back to where we were on 9/12/01. I also hope that it doesn't take another horrific event to move us in that direction. We need to wake up, be thankful that we live in such a great country, and that we get to serve in such an admirable profession with so many like-minded people.

This is where we'd start singing a patriotic tune, but you're reading this and I'm writing it, so we can't sing out together. Just know, there's a song in my head right now and I can picture us all singing together as the American flag furls gently in the wind.
