

September 11, 2001: Where Were You?

Juan Bueno

[Reading - Pottsville Pike](#)

I went to high school in lower Manhattan, one mile north from the trade center. On 9/11, I was sitting in my 11th grade science class. I remember hearing a plane flying low and seeing a shadow of it out the window followed by a distant thud sound moments later. I later stepped outside and saw the towers on fire. One of those memories you never forget.

Kathie Clark

[Wadsworth Control Center](#)

I lived on Long Island at the time. Cell phone networks were disabled to allow for enough coverage for emergency responders and there was no travel off the island. A woman on our street died in the collapse and my son made cookies for her memorial. Three people in our development passed in the collapse.

Jo Anne Hands

[JCP&L's Holmdel Office](#)

I worked at Citigroup in NYC on the 36th floor. At 8:46 a.m. when the first plane hit, coworkers yelling "a plane hit the Twin Tower!" We could see the plane clearly and smoke was pouring out of the tower. We were in shock and started calling 911 to alert the police. As we were praying for people to escape the building, at 9:03 a.m. we witnessed the second plane hit the south tower and pandemonium broke loose. People screaming, crying and hugging one another because at that moment we knew it was not an accident, that NYC was under attack. I told everyone we need to evacuate now! I directed my coworkers and we evacuated down 36 flights of stairs. We witnessed the towers crumbling into dust, people jumping from the towers to escape the fires. I lost a friend who worked in the North tower. That day is etched in my brain.

Jeff Resnick

[Akron General Office](#)

I was in Times Square.

The day started early, I was in the middle of job training for a banking job and had to join the rest of my class in a conference room at a hotel in Times Square. The day's program had just started when someone said a small plane had hit the World Trade Center. But no one was sure what had actually happened -- it was just chatter before class started. We soon had confirmation that something more significant was going on. Class was cancelled and many of us made our way down to the hotel lobby. I walked outside, peered down Seventh Avenue and saw the smoke. I walked into the hotel bar, it was crowded, dozens were gathered around the big screen TV, and we all watched the buildings burn. Disbelief turned into dread when the first building fell.

I walked with a friend to my apartment. The trains and taxis had stopped, and there were few cars out. Office workers emptied out of their offices and into the streets. The cell phone network was overloaded so lines were snaked around blocks waiting to use a pay phone. We walked past bars and restaurants with crowds gathered around TVs. We got to my apartment but didn't stay long; it was too close to the United Nations, another potential target. We thought about heading downtown to try and help, but seeing people walking uptown covered in soot changed our minds.

Haroon Khalid[Greensburg Corporate Center](#)

I was in my fifth-grade class in Bronx, N.Y. Several classmates were getting pulled out of class one by one and we didn't know why. When I got home after school, I found out about what happened. I could even see the smoke coming from the Manhattan area from the rooftop of my apartment building.

Tom Bainbridge[Reading - Pottsville Pike](#)

I was in Manhattan for a meeting at Consolidated Edison when the first tower, and then the second, collapsed. I spent the rest of the day trying to find out what was happening, while military jets flew overhead. Streets were empty of traffic and confusion and fear reigned. Ash and smoke everywhere, people crying. It was a very long day; one I will never forget.

Glenn Thompson[Connellsville - West Side](#)

I was on assignment at Fort Dix, N.J. as an aide to headquarters when a call came through from the Pentagon. As a staff sergeant, I was tasked to inform the generals of the "Issue in the Northeast Corridor." All Marines and former Marines know to keep their B-Bag packed, and their A-Bag ready to move. Shortly afterwards I found myself and my "passenger" headed to Ground Zero.

Bill Kenyon (Retired USAF Senior Master Sergeant)[Penelec's Oil City District](#)

I was an instructor at Scott AFB (near St Louis) training a five-day future communications systems seminar to personnel from around the USAF on two 120-inch-wide screens. We halted the seminar and watched the second plane fly into the WTC tower and then watched both towers crumble on those screens. An hour later, I received a note, as also acting first sergeant, I had to account for all enlisted military in the whole USAF Communications Agency because we were also located just 500 feet from US Transportation Command Headquarters with an unaccounted-for aircraft from St Louis airport. And three years later, I was deployed to Guantanamo Bay to coordinate the Presidential teleconferencing to watch the first military tribunal and commission (court hearing) for prisoners there.

Jesse LaFromboise[Ohio Edison's Elyria Service Center](#)

On this date that I will truly remember forever, I was a young 21-year-old corporal in the Marine Corps stationed at Cherry Point, N.C. Our base immediately went on high alert and I found myself leading security patrols around the air base through the night. 911 - NEVER FORGET!

Ted R. Korzeniowski[West Penn Power's McConnellsburg Service Center](#)

Reading meters on Knob Road in Mercersburg, Pa., as a then meter reader for Allegheny Power. To this day, I can take you to the exact spot where I heard the news. It was unbelievable, but sadly, it was true.

Crystal Kenmuir[West Akron Campus](#)

I was sitting in English class in ninth grade when the teachers were notified and turned on the TVs throughout the building. We watched the news and spent the day discussing it, at home that night as well. The emotions... thinking it was an accident then finding out it was terrorism.

Barbara Bower[Akron General Office](#)

I was working at Cleveland Hopkins Airport on the airport renovation project; it was surreal being in that environment that day. My cousin, an iron worker in NYC, volunteered to help clean up the tons of debris. The memories still haunt him.

Amy Wright[Greensburg Corporate Center](#)

I was working on closing the books that day for Allegheny Energy (pre-merger). Someone had gotten a small TV and placed it in the conference room and a bunch of us gathered and watched in disbelief as the events unfolded. There was talk that another airplane might be headed our way (I guess now we know that airplane was Flight 93). A very dear friend of mine worked for the Department of Defense in the Pentagon and I tried desperately to get ahold of her that night, but the phone lines were not working. I tried frantically to get in touch with other mutual friends to try to make sure she was alright. Thankfully she contacted me the next day to confirm she was OK. She was the one who put together the press conference (from a gas station around the corner from the Pentagon) that day for the Secretary of Defense. She was lucky. Her office was on the other side of the building. She felt and heard the impact and saw the smoke making its way toward them. She struggled for years after that with what I guess was post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. I imagine everyone who had first-hand experience with the events of that day suffered similar mental and emotional anguish for years afterwards and may even still be suffering. So, hold your friends and loved ones close every day, but a little closer on Sept. 11. God Bless our first responders and health care workers!

Gerald R. Mason[Ohio Edison's Fairlawn Building 1](#)

I was working in my office after having extensive brain tumor surgery four weeks prior when my wife called and told me to turn on the TV. That's when I saw the second plane hit the World Trade Center. I will never forget the feeling I had that day for all those innocent people.

Carl Alkire[Mon Power Headquarters](#)

I began my schedule at 8 a.m. that morning and had an early first break. I went on break at 9 and walked over to the Radio Shack next door. As I walked up to the store front, I saw the news about a plane hitting the North World Trade Center on the TV. As I stood there watching live news coverage, I saw the other plane hit the South tower at 9:03 a.m. I couldn't believe what was happening. I attempted to reach a close family member who worked for the FBI in Clarksburg, W.Va., and couldn't get through. The phone lines were jammed because of the tragedy. It was a very somber day.

Karen Clark[Akron General Office](#)

I was a junior in college and that morning, I was running on a treadmill at the campus rec center. I watched the events unfold live. I'll never forget the eerie silence and shock in that moment.

Marci Eskridge[West Akron Campus](#)

On that day, I was to report to the Akron Contact Center for work at 11 a.m. I was still at home when the attacks on the U.S. began and I was not watching television, so I had no clue. My mom called me to ask if I was still going to work considering everything that was going on. I asked her what happened, and she told me about the plane crashing into one of the towers. When I did get to work, it was a somber, quiet day. Very little calls were coming in from customers that day.

Kim Goodwin[Fairmont Contact Center](#)

I was sitting on the second floor in the Fairmont Contact Center (we were Allegheny Power then). The day was like any normal day until my manager came out of her office and turned on the TV in our area. The news was showing the first building being hit in New York. We all stood there watching in disbelief, hoping it was just a sad mistake. But as we watched it unfold, it was NOT a mistake. Terrorism on U.S. soil. Alan Jackson's song, "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning" was such a true statement. The phones STOPPED ringing that day. It was no longer a normal day. I worked 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and may have taken 10 calls all day. It was an AWFUL day in our U.S. history and one that I will NEVER forget.

Luanne Snyder[Ohio Edison's Fairlawn Building 1](#)

I was at a staffing agency and the secretary suddenly announced that they were closing immediately. I'll never forget the vacancy of downtown Dayton that Tuesday morning as I drove back home.

Doug Milbrand[Mon Power's Virginia Avenue Facility](#)

I was at a rock quarry in rural Virginia just outside of Washington, D.C., performing shock testing on Navy Destroyer communication electronics. I had just gotten engaged on Sept. 8, 2001 and I could not get ahold of my new fiancé nor family to let them know I was alright.

Julia Tustin[Akron General Office](#)

My 90-year-old parents always talk about the impact that the bombing of Pearl Harbor had on them. I never really understood how they felt until 9/11 happened. I was on the 14th floor of the General Office that day and witnessed on TV when the second plane hit.

Barbara Elkins[Potomac Edison's Williamsport Service Center](#)

My husband, who has retired from the company, was lines manager in Petersburg, W.Va., at the time. I was off work that day and what I remember was the eerie silence surrounding our neighborhood. Usually, you would hear planes over head and instead it was complete silence due to all flights being grounded. It's sad to say but I've learned to always be aware of my surroundings. Those that lost their lives are gone but not forgotten by the American people.

Nancy Davis[West Akron Campus](#)

I was working at my desk and my boss came out and told me what happened. We gathered in the conference room to watch the news. I spent the next several days glued to the TV and will always remember the horrific scenes unfolding. I remember the panic and I wanted my kids home with me.

Stephanie Morman[Akron General Office](#)

I was at work and a co-worker asked if I had heard the news about a plane crashing into a building in New York. Initially, we thought it was a small plane. My uncle worked at the Pentagon and it took 18 hours until we heard that he was safe.

Eric Foster[West Akron Campus](#)

I was working at Alcoa's forging plant in Cleveland when we heard that the first plane hit the North Tower. We gathered around a TV in the conference room, just in time to see the second plane hit the South Tower. We were all shocked that this was happening in America because terrorist attacks were usually in distant countries overseas.

Deloren Neal[CEI's Concord Service Center](#)

On that day, I woke up and went to get a physical. I walked into my first day at my first duty station in the Marine Corps as the second tower was hit. It was the most silence I think I ever experienced, followed by crying, hugging, anger and the question of if we were going to war.

Lisa Rouse[Akron General Office](#)

I was living in Florida at the time, attending training 60 miles from home. I found a pay phone and called my husband – he went and picked up the kids from school. We decided that life is short, and we needed to be near family. We moved back to Ohio in February 2002 and I started work with FE.

Erik Johnsson[Potomac Edison's Williamsport Service Center](#)

I was working at the construction site for AE Units 12 and 13 south of Chambersburg, Pa. Many of the contract workers were from the Pittsburgh area and left to return to their families. Work continued with new security measures at the site.

Jon Kerr[Akron General Office](#)

I was in class at my elementary school. The teachers were told not to turn on the TV, but mine did. I saw what was happening but did not realize the impact it was going to have.

Michael Brobst[Reading - Pottsville Pike](#)

I was on vacation in Wytheville, Va. I did not know anything was happening until I went out to lunch at Applebee's and saw it on the TV news.

Dave Carroll[Greensburg Corporate Center](#)

I was a lineman in Jeannette at the time. While working with Vince Roy to change out a pad mount transformer in Penn Township, we were listening to the Howard Stern show. When we heard Stern speaking about the airliner crash into the first of the twin towers, we both thought it was one of Stern's outrageous skits, but soon we understood that the situation was devastatingly real. At some point not long after, we noticed a distinct lack of aircraft over us in what normally is a heavy area for planes due to our proximity to Pittsburgh International Airport. At this point, we were both struck by the enormity of the events happening in the country. Vince texts me on the anniversary most years and we reminisce about the day, the result and the history that has unfolded since.

Reese Adomaitis[Greensburg Corporate Center](#)

I was working at my desk in Greensburg. The guy next to me got a phone call. He told me his wife said a plane flew into one of the World Trade Center towers. We wondered how such an accident could happen. Then his phone rang again. He told me another plane flew into the other tower. We both said together "something's going on." After that, we were tuned in to every news report.

Samantha Sarah[Akron General Office](#)

I was on Kent State's main campus getting ready to walk into my Spanish class when news of this tragedy was breaking. All classes were cancelled, and the university sent all commuter students home and all other students to their dorms immediately.

John Greenwood[Penn Power's New Castle Service Building](#)

I was sitting in a Reactor Physics class at Naval Nuclear Power School in Charleston S.C. The school commander came over the 1MC (shipboard public address circuits) and updated the school about the attack. Instructors were as confused on what if anything the news meant. After a brief comment from the instructor, we carried on and completed the day's training. After class, we gathered in the barracks lounges to watch the news. Several months later, I relocated to Saratoga Springs, N.Y., to complete Navy training. While relocating, I passed by NYC and saw the Towers of Light. I will never forget.

Stan Holmes[Ohio Edison's Youngstown Service Building](#)

I remember working right outside the Ravenna arsenal in Ravenna, Ohio. Listening to the radio they said that a plane hit a tower and then another.

Alexis Ransom[CEI's Mayfield Service Center](#)

I was in my Naval Science class. My instructor (Maj. Zink) got a call and turned on the TV. We saw the second plane plummet into the South Tower. In that moment, he didn't know what to say, and we weren't sure what was going on. It is a day I will never forget.

Jamie Vail[Reading - Pottsville Pike](#)

I was working for another local utility at the time and was selected to participate in the United Way Day of Caring. We were at the Salvation Army in Reading, making a picnic lunch for our local low-

income housing towers when the leadership came into the kitchen to give us the frightening news of the first tower being hit.

Lisa Swan

[Akron General Office](#)

The morning of 9/11, I flew to Washington, D.C. for a conference. My flight landed at Dulles Airport at 8:20 a.m. – around the same time American Airlines Flight 77 departed for Los Angeles, before it was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon. I learned about the Twin Towers and Pentagon attacks while checking into my hotel. I'll never forget the freighted look on the face of the young man who said, "Did you know our nation is under attack?" It was a very chaotic and eerie time to be in Washington. Cell service was sporadic and there were no flights, rental cars, buses, trains or any other transportation to leave the city. I remember the feeling of uncertainty about being in a terrorist target area and not knowing what may happen next. At that time I worked for Knight Ridder Digital and was meeting coworkers from Miami, San Jose, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Charlotte and Fort Worth for the first time. It was a bonding experience for our team and a sad, yet uniting time for our country. I have since visited the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York. It's such a well-done tribute to the many who sacrificed and families who lost loved ones that day.

Victoria L. Price

[Fairmont Corporate Center](#)

I had received a call from my middle child's school that he was ill and needed picked up. I was in Cheat Lake and pulled over into a parking lot as the news reverberated through me. I spent nine years of my youth living on Long Island. I am a U.S. Army veteran. I felt it from both ends as a civilian and as a veteran. It was earth shattering.

Kristina Housley

[Akron General Office](#)

I was working at the Akron Quaker Hilton. It was a normal morning when word came to look at the TV screens in the bar area. Then hearing the fear in the voices of people who had flown in from New York, whose plane had flown right by the Twin Towers that morning.

Cynthia James-Ross

[Ohio Edison's Fairlawn Building 1](#)

I was on the phone at Customer Service, Fairlawn, with a customer. He stopped talking and told me a plane hit one of the World Trade Center towers in NYC. He then told me – as it happened on TV – about the second plane hitting the other tower and then the phones quit ringing.

Glen Moore

[Akron General Office](#)

I was in my second Emergency Management course. The lead professor called students into a room where we watched things unfold. The professor said: "these are the type of things we lead the planning and preparing for in this profession, and this incident just guaranteed you all jobs for life."

Abby Burks

[Ohio Edison's Fairlawn Building 3](#)

I was six years old and in my first-grade class. We lived in Florida at the time, which is where President George W. Bush was located that day. I don't remember much aside from being herded into the library and leaving school early. Everything was pretty confusing, and I didn't understand until later what happened.

Albert Boehlke Jr.

[Wadsworth Control Center](#)

I was working at NCI as a field service tech. I was returning to Cleveland at 11 a.m. and I was amazed at the traffic leaving downtown. At the office, everyone was around the TV. I knew something major had happened!

Karen Finney

[Penelec's Clearfield District](#)

I was a HEO in the Altoona Warehouse when our manager, Fred Petrazio, called us into the breakroom to see the news. Coworker, Richard Burk, and I were asked to deliver our command center, normally used for storms, to the Shanksville site that day; a day I will never forget.

Christa Bennett

[Penelec's Altoona Office](#)

I was at home, getting ready to go to afternoon kindergarten. My mom was frantically trying to contact my brother who was serving in the Air Force. I can still see the images and videos in my mind that were continuously played over and over on all the news networks.

Jamal Rodgers

[West Akron Campus](#)

I was in my 10th grade Personal Development class. The teachers turned the TV on to watch the news and parents were frantically calling the school to arrange pickup of their kids. The staff was frightened to let people walk home for fear of us being at war.

Michael Strozak

[Reading - Pottsville Pike](#)

Our departments were celebrating three milestone birthdays that day – mine happened to be my 40th. We were getting ready to cut cake when we heard that a plane had crashed into one of the towers. We gathered in a nearby conference room only to see the second plane crash into the second tower. The room was dead silent.

Jeri Hasanaj

[Akron General Office](#)

That morning I was driving to the supermarket before going to work. I was listening to Howard Stern on the radio when the first plane hit. Stern, like everyone else, was not sure if something was wrong with the plane or if it was purposeful. And then the second plane hit, and everyone knew our country was under attack. It was a very scary feeling, not knowing if more was coming for us.

Ginger Masters

[Fairmont Corporate Center](#)

I will never forget where I was on 9/11. I was at home and had just turned on the news. My heart immediately sank and the only thing I wanted to do was get in my car and go to New York to help them. I never take life for granted because it can change in a blink of an eye.

Rachel Elkins

[Akron General Office](#)

I was at my sister's house. She was watching Good Morning America and they were talking about a plane having flown into the first tower. As we watched, another plane flew into the second tower. I worked in a call center at that time; we had no calls that day. It was so quiet.

Maggie Myers[Akron General Office](#)

I was in high school, watching the scene unfold and then was quickly evacuated because the school received a bomb threat. I'll never forget the feelings I had that day and the days following. Too often we take our safety for granted.

Torey Tolson[Akron General Office](#)

I was at Penn State University supporting our HR Recruiting department at a college fair. That morning I had the television on and heard in the background them saying: "is this real, is this real." I sat down and that's when the second plane hit. It was the most harrowing feeling of despair I can ever recall. I immediately went to the school to join my coworkers only to find out that we were on lock down because Flight 93 crashed an hour down the road. We decided to jump in the car and head back to Ohio. With the high safety alert and traffic out of PA, it took seven hours to get back home.

Elaine Vincent[JCP&L's Holmdel Office](#)

I was sitting on a train with a group of Chamber of Commerce members because we were going into NYC for a boat trip around the Statute of Liberty. We never left because we learned that "a small private plane" hit a World Trade Center building and all transportation was halted. When I returned to the office, everyone was crying and watching the TVs. It was so surreal and very scary. Everyone was told to go home and stay safe.

Linda Moss[Reading - Pottsville Pike](#)

I was working as a Transmission Planning manager for Allegheny Power in Williamsport, Md. at the time. I traveled to Greensburg that morning for a joint meeting with our Pennsylvania engineering team. I drove right past the Shanksville site on my way across the PA turnpike. When news began to filter in about what was happening in New York, we turned on the projection TV in the Greensburg Conference Center and watched in horror the events taking place. I'll never forget the feeling of helplessness and terror knowing how close I was to the plane that crashed in PA that day.

Connor Griffin[Warren Service Building](#)

I was at school (second grade) and my mom picked me up early. She didn't say much other than she wanted me home. When we got home, she turned on the TV right as the second plane hit the world trade center. Watching that unfold in real time will always be with me.

Greg Genega[Information Systems Operations Center](#)

I'll never forget 9/11 as it happened during my very first week of college where my dorm had a horrifying view of the billowing smoke. I'm proud of my mother and the rest of the brave paramedics and firefighters who were ground-zero first responders that day.

Mary Bowers[West Akron Campus](#)

I was at the BETA Lab and our pagers alerted us at the beginning. We gathered in a conference room to watch the news but didn't have any sound. We saw the first building collapse live and when the second collapsed, we thought it was just a replay. I remember feeling that the world had changed forever.

Linda Foster[Akron General Office](#)

I was working in Marketing at FES when the planes hit. I remember we were all in shock and stunned. We turned on the TV to watch the footage. It was heartbreaking. We were sent home that day – I remember praying with my mom and asking God to protect us. This has forever changed the United States.

Carlos Vidal[Reading - Pottsville Pike](#)

I was flying commercial to Akron from Reading on 9/11/2001. I had to change planes in Pittsburgh, so I was on the ground when the attacks occurred. Since all flights were cancelled, the airline arranged for a taxi to take me to the Akron airport. Scariest day of my life.

Thomas Shupp[Fairmont Contact Center](#)

I was enjoying a quiet morning off from work when a relative told me to turn on the TV because an airplane had hit the World Trade Center. Minutes later a second plane hit, and I knew this was no accident. It hit home for me because I had been in the World Trade Center years before. To see that happen to a building I had been in was very personal. I'll never forget those video images.

Art Buanno[Akron General Office](#)

I was working on the 10th floor in the General Office in Akron that day. My Planning counterpart got a call from his wife that a plane hit one of the towers at the WTC. I figured it was just one of those small sightseeing planes and kind of dismissed it. However, he said it was a jet and then the other tower was hit. A few minutes later, there was news of a plane that was heading toward Cleveland that had turned around. It was Flight 93. That is when they decided to evacuate the building because no one knew what the next target was. I headed to my daughter's pre-school where she was having her first class. Many other parents were there – shocked by the news and wanting their children to be safe.

Jamey Barnhart[Mon Power's Morgantown Service Center](#)

I was enlisted as an active-duty member of the United States Air Force stationed at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina. The intense feeling that surrounded that morning is something that I will never forget. We were changing threat con levels and securing the base in a way that was much different than the drills we had previously performed. I worked as a calibration technician (PMEL) but volunteered to load cargo planes with supplies/equipment of the neighboring 82nd Air Borne Division out of Fort Bragg. The overwhelming feeling of patriotism and courage of the soldiers and airmen is something that has molded me into the person I am today.

Doug Hartman

[West Akron Campus](#)

Our FirstEnergy air-emissions test team was conducting environmental tests on Sammis Unit 5 stack when our pagers began updating the events of that morning. We were listening to the live radio broadcast when the towers came down, leaving everyone in the CEMS shelter in shock and disbelief.

Luke Anderson

[Akron General Office](#)

I was a junior in high school. My dad came and picked me up from school and I saw a look from him that I had never seen and haven't seen since.