We Remember: 20th Anniversary of 9/11

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. As the nation’s record keeper, the National Archives holds many documents and photographs related to the events of September 11.

*Firefighters unfurl a large American flag over the scarred stone of the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia on September 12, 2001. Photographer: Paul Morse. [National Archives Identifier 5997275]*
9/11 Commission Records

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, known as the 9/11 Commission, was an independent, bipartisan commission created by Congress. The Commission's mandate was to provide a “full and complete accounting” of the attacks of September 11, 2001 and to provide recommendations as to how to prevent such attacks in the future. When the 9/11 Commission closed on August 21, 2004, it transferred legal custody of its records to the National Archives. The Commission encouraged the release of its records to the fullest extent possible in January 2009. A large percentage of the Commission's records are national security classified files. The National Archives maintains a list of documents released since the records were opened in 2009.

Staff members wave American flags as they gather on the South Lawn of the White House as President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush depart for Camp David aboard Marine One. 
Photographer: Paul Morse. National Archives Identifier 5997343

Learn more about the 9/11 Commission Records, and view the released records in the National Archives Catalog.
Team 6 Interview with Paul Akman of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 12/23/2003. National Archives Identifier 2609588


A worker stands at Ground Zero in New York City. Photographer: Paul Morse. National Archives Identifier 5997364
9/11 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Records

Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (Record Group 237) compiled records from its staff and aviation facilities to support internal and external investigations of the events. The records consist of 126 cubic feet of textual, audio, and electronic files relating to the actual terrorist attacks, the FAA’s involvement in the monitoring of United Airlines Flights 175 and 93 and American Airlines Flights 11 and 77, and the Federal Government’s subsequent actions in the aftermath of the attacks.

Learn more about the 9/11 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Records at the National Archives and view the Finding Aid.

View the processed FAA records in the National Archives Catalog.


9/11 Photograph Collection

In the days following the September 11 terrorist attacks, White House photographers took over 50,000 photographs capturing the horror and heroism, the courage and compassion surrounding the attacks.
Firefighters await the arrival of President George W. Bush to Port Authority in New York City. 
Photographer: Paul Morse. National Archives Identifier 5997307

View the collection of 9/11 photographs from the George W. Bush Presidential Library, and a selection of photographs in the National Archives Catalog.

President George W. Bush embraces a firefighter at the site of the World Trade Center during his visit to New York City. Photographer: Paul Morse. National Archives Identifier 5997299
9/11 Fireman’s Son Sees Dad on National Archives Instagram

On the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, the National Archives shared a Catalog image from President George W. Bush’s visit to Ground Zero on September 14, 2001.

Firefighters look on as President George W. Bush surveys the destruction left by terrorist attacks on New York City. Photographer: Paul Morse. National Archives Identifier 5997302

The son of a 9/11 fireman saw the photo on the National Archives Instagram account and asked: “Hello, I just came across this picture that you posted and the firefighter in the middle is my dad. Is there any way you can send me the original photo?” Learn more about this remarkable story and connection on National Archives News.
Upcoming Programs and Resources

The National Archives and the National Archives Foundation will commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with a series of virtual programs accessible live to viewers across the country. Learn more about the live programming, as well as featured documents and educational resources on the [National Archives Foundation website](https://www.archives.gov).

September 11, 2003 - Temporary memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania honoring the passengers and crew of Flight 93, hijacked on September 11, 2001. [National Archives Identifier 5616340](https://www.archives.gov)

Additional posts and resources:

- [Rusty the Comfort Dog – The Text Message blog](https://www.archives.gov)
- [The Zone – The Text Message blog](https://www.archives.gov)

Citizen Archivist Mission

U.S. v. Cassius Clay, Jr. aka Muhammad Ali

Looking for some new records to transcribe? Help us transcribe documents from the Vietnam War draft evasion criminal case, United States vs. Cassius Clay, Jr. aka Muhammad Ali. Records include orders, affidavits, motions, subpoenas, transcripts, testimony, and more.

New to the Citizen Archivist program? Learn how to register and get started.

Get started transcribing!

Start your research on History Hub
Have a question? Find your answer on History Hub!

Recent posts include:

"Where can I locate interviews with first responders from September 11?"

"I am looking for collections of artifacts and tributes from 9/11"

See our recent newsletter for more details, information, and instructions about using History Hub for your research.

Make History Hub your first stop! You can ask—or answer—questions on History Hub, or see if your question has already been answered.

COVID-19 Update
The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.