

the front office

Day to Day



We're all day to day," former ESPN anchor Keith Olbermann used to say after reporting that a certain athlete's injury status was "day to day." I thought it was funny then. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, it doesn't seem so funny. In 42 years, I've never been afraid of what tomorrow might bring until now. If our fellow American citizens can die in such a horrible way, there's no guarantee you or I might not as well.

How do we respond? Though our lives changed forever last month, in ways we don't even understand yet, we cannot let those changes destroy what our forefathers and we have built in the past 225 years.

We must go to work, we must continue to gather together, we must sustain the fabric of our country. Our enemies want nothing more than to destroy what America stands for in the world, things like freedom, tolerance, and individual choice.

Like many of you, my first reaction was an emotional desire for massive retaliation. But we know that is not what we should do any more than we should take out our anger on American citizens who are Muslim; both these reactions are exactly what our enemies desire. Though "justice" doesn't seem enough revenge, it is what we first must seek, with the help of our allies, especially those in the Middle East. If we are thwarted in our quest for justice, then yes, it will be time to turn to military action. But a careless response on our part just goes against America's ideals, which is just what the radical Islamics seek.

Perhaps there will be a silver lining in this tragedy. Perhaps more Americans will see themselves as just that, Americans first, instead of German-American or African-American or Asian-American or Irish-American or Republican or Democrat or gay or whatever. Perhaps we'll all think more about the responsibilities that go hand in hand with the "civil rights" that you hear about so much.

I cried and was unable to sing the words during the National Anthem when I heard it over the radio before a baseball game after the season resumed. I cried for the victims, for America's lost innocence, for my family, for myself. And I resolved not to stay behind locked doors, not to quit living this American life, but to carry on the best I can. That is what we all must do so those who hate us will not win.

Sporting events have led the way in the nation's effort to get back to "normal." The hundreds of thousands of Americans gathering together in stadiums, large and small, around the USA, shows such support for our country. You should be proud to be part of that spectacle.

COMMENTS ALWAYS WELCOME

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