

Friday, Sept. 9, 2016

REMARKS FOR USC 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY:

- Thank you, Chief Thomas and Dean Soni, and good morning, everyone. I welcome you all on behalf of the Sol Price School of Public Policy.
- Fifteen years ago, our nation changed forever with the terror attacks of 9/11. For the first time, global terrorism hit American soil, and we witnessed the loss of thousands of lives.
- The effects reverberate through our society still today. Grief, loss as well as physical and mental health challenges continue to impact survivors, responders and the families of everyone touched by this tragedy.
- It also dramatically changed US national security policies. The federal government declared a “War on Terror” that discontinued the national security doctrine of containment and deterrence of our enemies that was adopted after World War II. The Bush Administration initiated a new strategy of “regime change” and “if you are not for us, you are against us.”
- These changes served as the rationale for two, large- scale wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as numerous smaller violent conflicts around the world.
- The “War on Terror” also ushered in a much harsher version of interrogation, with “water boarding” techniques used on captured combatants, and it led to a massive increase in the national surveillance of citizens.
- The federal government established the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, considered the most significant transformation in government organization in more than a half century. And, we’ve all experienced the increased security at airports and elsewhere.
- And directly or indirectly, we are all affected by the economic costs of fighting and responding to acts of terror – although difficult to measure, many economists peg these costs in the trillions of dollars.
- Unfortunately, the United States is not alone. 9/11 was but one of hundreds of terrorist attacks across the globe that have killed or injured thousands of people since then. From the San Bernardino and Paris shootings in 2015 to the 2016 bombing in Brussels and the ongoing attacks by the Islamic State in Syria and Africa, people far and wide are exposed to the reality of extremism.
- In 2016, it is estimated that there have been 1,213 attacks and 10,459 people killed

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worldwide from terrorist attacks.

- Two recent incidents at the Los Angeles International Airport underscore the heightened awareness of terror and the fear that it creates.
- As the late Boutros-Boutros Ghali, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, said 20 years ago, "As a global threat, only global action can eradicate the evil of terrorism ... The cooperative action of all is required to eradicate this threat to all nations."
- At USC and the Price School, we are doing our small part to help fight against the continued violence of terrorism. Our CREATE Homeland Security Center, joint with the Viterbi School of Engineering, since 2004 has conducted research and fostered dialogue among leaders in all sectors.
- It has strengthened our knowledge base in assessing consequences of terrorist events, gauging their economic impacts, and evaluating the effectiveness of counterterrorism measures. And, it has created valuable tools used today in the field by counterterrorism personnel at all levels.
- The USC Price School's Safe Communities Institute (SCI) studies the roots of radicalization to help citizens and law enforcement at home and abroad identify risks and act before threats become a reality.
- SCI recently engaged a delegation of public officials and community leaders to discuss building community resilience against radicalization and extremism.
- And through the U.S. State Department, SCI hosted a delegation from 11 European countries to share research and exchange ideas for countering violent extremism.
- Terrorism eats away at our trust in others and our sense of safety and community. It underlies some aspects of our anti-religious and anti-immigrant sentiments, especially against Muslims.
- But as Dr. Erroll Southern, the director of Homegrown Violent Extremism Studies at SCI emphasizes, it is important to widen our understanding of the scope of terrorism beyond religious beliefs and foreign borders.
- As Dr. Southern has written, "For many, violent extremism has become synonymous with Islamic radicalism, but this is a woefully myopic view. Religious belief is only one example of a legitimizing ideology that can contribute to violent activity."
- Anti-terrorism, and especially the declared "War on Terror" have led to surveillance, security, and military tactics that potentially challenge our nation's values of openness, liberty and freedom.

- One important way of honoring those who died in the 9/11 attacks is to assure that in the midst of our concerted efforts to prevent further attacks, we also preserve our values and way of life that so many have sacrificed and fought for over generations.

- We also want to recommit to be resolute and resilient, and remember how we all came together as one nation to support recovery efforts and encourage healing.

- We must hold on to this sense of being one community, especially in a political climate as explosive and divisive as the one we are in the midst of today.

- 9/11 reminds us to set aside our differences in favor of rational thought and discussion that brings us to the common ground we reached after that terrible day – a place where ideology takes a back seat to inclusion and respect for those who need our help and understanding, no matter the color of their skin, or their religious beliefs, or their gender, or what neighborhood they live in.

- As we lay wreaths and hold ceremonies to remember those who suffered and died in 9/11, let us remember that, as a human race, we all share each other's sorrows and hopes, and together as a nation and a world, we must not let terrorism defeat us nor alter our commitment to the values we hold dear of inclusion, social justice, freedom, and liberty.

- I want to thank each and every one of you for joining us on this special day of remembrance.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack H. Knott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "J".

Jack H. Knott, Dean