

Summary translation on 9/11 memorial service at Patrick Henry Village Chapel

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HEADLINE: **America has responded**

U.S. Soldiers and their families commemorate victims of 11 September 2001 during memorial service.

Once more the twin towers are seen collapsing and the room is hushed in consternation, as is often the case these days where people gather to revisit the images of September 11, 2001. Yet, the atmosphere was a bit different yesterday morning at PHV chapel, where U.S. Army Soldiers and their families attended a memorial service. Despite the sorrow, a sense of pride prevailed as people looked back on the past ten years. America had to respond to the attacks and we did respond," said Col Bryan DeCoster to our reporter. And he continued to say that no terrorist could destroy the power and the self-esteem of the U.S.

U.S. Forces in Heidelberg have surrounded themselves with security as one consequence of 9/11. Chaplain Betz pointed out that "America thought of itself as being invulnerable, up to that day", a feeling which seems unlikely to ever return, despite the image of the Stars and Stripes which proudly flies at the end of the memorial video shown during the service.

Chaplain Hart opened his sermon stating that nobody would ever forget where exactly he or she was that fateful morning when all news reports focused on New York. This included German Federal Parliamentarian Karl A. Lamers who placed a wreath in the chapel on behalf of the American-European Friendship Club (AEFC). The chaplain pointed out that the attacks had caught the U.S. and a post-cold war Army totally unprepared. But he also noted that after the initial shock, Americans quickly perceived it as a challenge which eventually brought out the best in everybody, boosting selflessness and the willingness to stand united, which are - essentially - Christian values. His words went down well among the congregation of approximately 300 attendees ,who were on their feet, singing, dancing and praising the Lord in a way German worshippers would not dare to act during a memorial service.

The AEFC delegation watched the singing and dancing in amazement. Addressing the congregation Karl Lamers emphasized that Germans will never forget the thousands who lost their lives in the attacks. He also said that the strikes had not threatened the U.S. alone, but all democratic nations . "We will continue to stand united, because that is our strength."

CAPTION: Attending a memorial service at the PHV chapel, CDU Member of Federal Parliament Dr. Karl A. Lamers (left in first row) joined the commemoration of victims of the terror attacks.