

**National Day of Prayer and Remembrance
NOD Headquarters Building
Comments for Col. Thomas Julich
September 14, 2001**

Today we meet for a very solemn occasion. Represented by several faiths, we gather, not just here but throughout the city and country, in response to our President's call for a "national day of prayer and remembrance." We will begin our ceremony with a moment of silence as we remember the thousands who died in Tuesday's attacks.

Moment of Silence

This is a time in our lives and in the nation's history that will never be forgotten. The overwhelming range of emotions has left many of us numb and in deep sorrow. This small ceremony is one way we can, together, mourn with those who have suffered great and disastrous loss. We share our grief, reflecting on the importance of family and friends. We share our sense of new insecurities wrought by the actions of those who attacked our great nation.

It is a time of mourning throughout the land. The nation's churches have been asked to ring their bells as a way of showing support for the victims and for the country.

Our bell, which Bill Cook of Information Management has volunteered to ring for us, is about all that's left of the Gen. John Newton, a Corps steamboat from the 1800's named after the Union officer and former Chief of Engineers. While symbolic of another time, today it is rung to express our mourning and support.

Bill Cook to ring the bell five times.

We must now exhibit courage and strength in the days and weeks ahead. Our leaders will need our prayers. They will have many hard decisions to make.

We are a blessed nation and are up to the challenge. God bless America.