

Our County
D. Gary Davis
County Mayor

Wednesday, September 09, 2020

Certain days are etched in our collective memories. These would include July 4th, 1776, December 7th, 1941, and September 11th, 2001. While no one living can personally remember the beginning of our Country, the number increases to a small portion of our population that can remember hearing the words spoken by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In speaking to congress and America by radio and newsreel he stated the famous words “Yesterday, December seventh, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. We will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us, God.” Bradley County Citizen George Allen, not only heard those words, but he was also stationed at Pearl Harbor and survived the attack! In two days, we will once again be reminded of a similar attack on our homeland that seems hard to believe that it was now 19 years ago.

September 11th, 2001 started like any other day for the majority of Americans. By the afternoon it was evident that New York, and indeed our world, was a different place altogether. The thought that one could harness so much hate that they live to die, and to take as many as possible with them in the process, is a thought process that has entire teams of law enforcement officers and homeland security trying to understand motives and motivations with efforts to intercept and stop future attacks being routinely evaluated.

It is concerning to me, and others, that in a mere 19 short years many seem to have forgotten what a few people focused on violence are capable of unleashing on society. We have watched law enforcement officers, first responders, and medical personnel who ran towards this terrorist strike to help others while everyone else was running away towards safety in some weird twist of logic become targets themselves by some within our society.

I miss the patriotic times where it was not unusual to see communities working together to help support those who protect, serve, and mend our injuries. I guess I never really understood the gravity of the truth contained in President Ronald Regan’s quote when he said “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for,

protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.” We are indeed at a place in history where very few of us thought possible just a few short years ago.

May we always remember, and never forget, that Bradley County is blessed with an abundance of people who not only remember September 11, 2001, but those who also work each day to help improve life for themselves, their families, their friends, and their community. We are better, because of their actions, their work, and their witness. They are worth remembering and also worth thanking for their part in keeping Bradley County, Tennessee at its best!

Again this week, I must remind everyone of the 4 guidelines. To get thru this pandemic, we must get the “active cases” down. They have continued to decrease over the last several weeks, however, let’s not get complacent. Remember to wash your hands or use sanitizer, remember the 6 ft. rule, please avoid large gatherings, and please wear a mask when around other people. Let’s all do our part.