

True Heroes

Yuk Yee Chan Fung

Ten years have passed since the attacks of 9/11. We cannot forget the pain of that day, but we are wishing for a peaceful and beautiful tomorrow. So let us remember that people showed courage on that day. Their stories show that human beings' real nature can be kind and generous.

He Died Helping Others

Some people devoted themselves to saving other people's lives after the disaster. For example, Welles Growther, 24, carried injured people down the stairs of the World Trade Center and returned to help others. He found Judy Wein on the 78th floor. She had a broken arm, a broken rib, and a punctured lung. She could not find the stairs due to all the smoke and debris. But Welles Growther helped her get out of the building. He was an "incredible hero, running back and forth and saving the day," recalled Judy Wein, "If he hadn't come back, I wouldn't have made it."

They Worked Night and Day

When the planes hit, many emergency workers were going home from their night shift. One of them, Mr. Strauss, was on the subway when he learned about the attacks. "We didn't need to be called back. We knew where we needed to be," he said. He joined hundreds of off-duty emergency personnel who flocked to the site and worked nonstop for days and nights, trying to find survivors. Many people who had witnessed the disaster

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joined the emergency workers.

A Blackout Unites New Yorkers

About two years after 9/11, there was a sudden electricity blackout in New York City. We were so afraid that it was another terrorist attack. We were picturing planes crashing into buildings. We remembered the horror of 9/11. But we also remembered how to help others. All day and night, people helped strangers when they were walking home. Some of them lived too far from home and had to sleep on the streets in the dark. People lit candles and gave water and food to the "homeless." We could see how 9/11 had taught us to be united and to help one another in a difficult time.

Learning from Our Heroes

Ten years could not wash away the sheer panic of the people who lost their loved ones and the ordeal that we experienced on 9/11. We cannot rewrite history. But we can learn from the stories of ordinary people being heroes. I believe we can find a way to solve the conflicts between countries, races, and religions. We want our troops back home. We should stop destroying lives around the world. It is time for us to think of how to make our planet healthier and allow future generations to live in a warm and beautiful world with love.

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