

## CITY OF SWEENY OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

On September 11, 2001, as ordinary people started their days in New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania, cowardly and senseless acts of terrorism and hate stole 2,977 innocent lives, devastating families and communities. People across the world were shocked by the cruelty and horror of the terrorist act, even as they were inspired by the bravery of the first responders. That Tuesday morning, the United States was forever changed.

Over the course of that morning, our Nation lost family members, friends, loved ones, coworkers – each one with hopes and dreams. Over twenty years later, we still feel the loss, the trauma, the pain, and the quest for justice. The images still within our collective memories. Planes piercing buildings. Smoke filling skies. Towers turning to dust. The injured fleeing to safety. The heroes rushing toward danger.

In the grief that followed, what Americans found was solace in one another. In one of our Nation's darkest days, we united in the face of evil and uncertainty. And in the midst of the destruction, we witnessed incredible acts of bravery from law enforcement officers and first responders who charged into buildings to rescue their fellow Americans, to regular citizens who stepped up to help in a time of need.

The aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001, proved that we are stronger together. Even as we continue to recover from this tragedy, we know for certain that there is nothing that America cannot overcome. Through sorrow, with God's help, we find strength. Through remembrance, in God's mercy, we find healing. We move forward with resolve, forever cherishing the memories of the souls who perished that day.

I encourage the citizens of Sweeny to pause in remembrance of the innocent lives lost on September 11, 2001. As our city, state, and nation united in the face of destruction and tragedy over twenty years ago, let us once again remember the enduring patriotism that binds us together not only as a nation, but as A City With Pride. Together, we will be a guiding light for our future generations.

Therefore, I, Dusty Hopkins, Mayor of Sweeny, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2023, to be

## **Patriot Day**

in Sweeny and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

**Mayor Dusty Hopkins**