

A day to remember:

Today we commemorate 13 years in which the fire and police services are forever connected. Your Fire and Police Departments are tied by our commitment to be the domestic defenders of all those in need. The remembrance today is twofold, of the emotional heartbreak and pride of selfless service and the awe and inspiration by those who unfalteringly fulfilled their duty. No passage of time will change the nature of these events, nor the character of the men and women who stood in defiance of these threats and defense of our values.

Today is a day of remembrance, a day when we honor those who were true to their oaths, when we pray for their families. Today is a day that we remember them all and gain strength from their memories. Today is a day we pray that when we are called on we will show the same kind of courage and loyalty. Today is a day that we remember that evil does exist and that we can find comfort that we have extraordinary men and women who will face it and defeat it, regardless of risk.

Bless all of you who watch over others, defend the weak, to all of you who honor your oaths and stand against evil and danger. Today is a day to remember, and thank you.

We will never forget the losses of thirteen years ago. We are blessed to have a memorial in Coeur d'Alene to show our pride and honor the memory of those lost on that day, and all lost before and since. We have truly as fine a public safety force as you will find anywhere and I am proud to simply be a part of it.

I sincerely thank the members of the Coeur d'Alene Fire and Police Departments and to all who support and give opportunity to the Departments and allowing us to make Coeur d'Alene great. If you get a couple of extra minutes today, I ask you to take a drive to Heroes Plaza and simply never forget.

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