

From:

To: AAMVA BoardBoardOfDirectors@aamva.org

CC: AAMVA AllAAMVAAll@aamva.org

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Subject:

Remembering September 11:
Isolated, But Not For Long

I was surprised when I entered my office this morning to find my window blocked by a large American flag hanging on the outside of our office building. I quickly learned that the flag flies every September 11 in remembrance of those who lost their lives 6 years ago.

The flag, and the incidents on September 11, will be in my field of vision throughout the day. As I reflect on the tragedy, I'm also reminded of a renewed sense of community that began to develop that day six years ago.

Speaking at a 9/11 remembrance ceremony this morning, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, "That day we felt isolated, but not for long and not from each other." I spent September 11, 2001 at the Annual Meeting of IBTTA, the international trade association I had the privilege of leading earlier in my career. IBTTA members from around the world, forced to remain in Boston for an extra few days, sought support with the community at hand – their IBTTA colleagues and friends, many of whom are located in or near the World Trade Center. In reaction to the tragic incidents that day, the association's community quickly became a source of support and friendship to those in attendance. We were isolated, but certainly not from each other.

My first few weeks at AAMVA convince me that we are a strong community – a place where professionals gather to learn from each other, to advance the state of practice in the motor vehicle and law enforcement arena, and, to create and sustain friendships.

Our world has changed since 9/11 in many ways. The AAMVA community is at the forefront of efforts to redefine safety, security and personal identification designed to prevent another 9/11. We – AAMVA members and staff dedicated to motor vehicle and law enforcement in North America – are essential to the effort. And we will always be a source of support, comfort and friendship to all who we touch, and never isolated from each other.

Best regards,

Neil

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AAMVA's members in the United States and Canada work collaboratively to support and improve motor vehicle administration, safety, identification security and law enforcement.