

**Officer Tim Mitten
Community Action Officer
Black Mountain Precinct**

Those of us that were alive on September 11, 2001 will never forget that fateful day, where we were, what happened to our fellow innocent citizens as the tragedy played out in live color on our televisions and computers. This year is the tenth anniversary of the attack on our country but it seems like yesterday. There will be many people speaking about their memories, their opinions, what we should do, how we should memorialize or remember our fallen citizens. How do you think we should remember this day? Many will honor this day by serving in their community, attending a memorial service, attending a prayer service or by some other honorable way. We should *never forget* that day and where it has brought us.

We need to remember this day and the sacrifices of not only the almost 3000 citizens who perished that day, but also remember all of our brave, courageous and patriotic servicemen and women who have fought and died in Iraq, Afghanistan and in other theaters of conflict in the pursuit of freedom, democracy and by stabilizing a world from terror. Let's remember the intelligence officers and analysts, law enforcement and other public safety officials throughout this great country who work tirelessly and with sacrifice to provide a shield of protection over this land, every day, every night, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, through holidays, special events and family occasions.

Many compare this day to Pearl Harbor as the defining moment of their generation. In my assignment I interact with many people from the generation many have called uninterested, unpatriotic and selfish. I have heard how many people feel we will decline as a country because of their selfish behavior. I beg to differ! This generation is dedicated to this country like no other. They serve tirelessly as protectors of neighborhoods, saviors of those in need and by joining up and serving in our military services. They go into conflict, many straight from high school, to go abroad and protect this country from harm and to expand freedom and democracy in unstable regions. They are also going back time and time again, even after suffering wounds that would incapacitate many, getting prosthetics and returning to serve. Many citizens do not hear of the schools we are building, infrastructure improvements, children we are giving an education, business training and much more. Why, because it is not controversial or bloody. We need to be thankful that these citizens have stepped forward to answer their country's call.

Many of you will wonder, why am I writing about September 11th, I should concentrate on crime prevention. Protecting this country and its way of life is part of our oath to serve and we all are dedicated to protecting our citizens from all forms of crime. This is not about any political belief of where our country is headed and who should lead us. I believe that this country, conceived in liberty, is a beacon of freedom to the world and is still the greatest country in the history of mankind and will always be. There are many things that should be improved but that is for another discussion, but *ALL* citizens should be involved in serving their country. You *can* make a difference. You can do it in honor of those who gave their lives on September 11th, 2001 and after. Please consider honoring those patriots by serving your country, your city and your neighborhood by volunteering, giving or donating items to those in need, or in any other of the many ways one can serve.

If anyone has any questions about how you can help serve your neighborhood and the City of Phoenix, please do not hesitate to contact me at 602-495-5238 or at tim.mitten@phoenix.gov. I will conclude by saying THANK YOU from me and my family to all of you who have served your country, you are heroes to all of us and we are very proud of you and the tough job you have in ensuring freedom reigns.