



Flags on Caroline Street sent message of pride

Date published: 9/18/2001

[Visit the Photo Place](#)

When I stepped out into the cool fall air I immediately noticed the familiar train whistle from the engineer as the 6:30 a.m. CSX freight train rumbled over the Rappahannock River. The trains were running again.

To my right, through the morning mist, I saw a row of American flags hanging proudly, or perhaps resolutely, from porches on both sides of Caroline Street. The message seemed clear: patriotism. This was a small town's reaction to a nation under siege.

Everywhere I had turned since 8:45 on the morning of Sept. 11, I felt the effects of the terrorism.

My 25-year-old nephew, missing for almost two hours, had gotten up to the 66th floor of the second tower of the World Trade Center, only to be pushed back into the elevator by his co-workers as he arrived for work at Morgan Stanley & Co. Falling human beings landed on the pavement in front of him as he raced to leave the ruptured building. He watched the building implode with friends still trapped inside.

Terror was everywhere, but Americans rallied across the nation. This is a great country and one where a flag symbolizes our pride, courage, and our ability to rally in the face of a devastating event.

Our lives may have been changed forever by the day's events, but this morning, when I saw my neighbors' flags, I realized something else--that this nation still stands, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Marilynn Deane Mendell Fredericksburg