

Patrick Maloney

Newspaper Article 1

Theresa Maloney, a market researcher who worked in Midtown Manhattan, recalled one of the scariest and saddest days in her life. That day was September 11th, 2001. “I was on the 44th floor of my building on 43rd Street, I and my colleagues looked out the window to see one of the twin towers billowing with smoke,” Theresa explained.

Theresa and her co-workers still had no idea what the problem was. A call came in from the Boss’s son, a police officer in Bordentown, Pennsylvania.

“A plane just crashed into the World Trade Center,” he said. Theresa and her co-workers turned on the radio and listened to the news to find out more information about happened. “We have received confirmation that a second plane has hit the South Tower,” the reporter said. Everyone in the office huddled around the radio for more news.

“What do we do now?” said the secretary. Out of fear, Theresa and her co-workers made their way down to the street. “My son Thomas had called me to see if I was alright”. Receiving this call, Theresa wanted to do the same and call her family.

“The first person who I tried to call was my niece because she worked a block away from the towers, but she didn’t answer my call,” Theresa said. Theresa made her way through the hectic and confused crowds in Midtown. She made it to the West Side Highway and tried to catch a ferry back to New Jersey, but ran out of luck at the site of the ports.

“There must have been at least 4,000 – 5,000 people waiting in line to get across the Hudson,” Theresa stated. According to her, the bridges and tunnels leading into and out of the island shut down for security reasons. “I felt trapped for the first time in my

life in this city, I was born and raised here but I guess it needed to be done for safety reasons,” she said.

Theresa made her way back to work. She was on 42nd Street. “I looked up at the big screen television in Times Square to see the broadcast of what had happened,” she said. When Theresa looked back down she was amazed at what her eyes had seen. “I looked over on the other side of the street and there was her niece, a wreck sitting on the sidewalk covered in white; crying, she had walked uptown to try and find me.” Theresa couldn’t believe that she found her.

“It was nice to find someone you knew and loved on a day like that,” Theresa explained. She was also happy to leave the city at 6 o’clock that day. “The bridges and tunnels finally opened after five o’clock and I was able to get out.” Theresa got the Long Island Railroad to her daughter’s house in Queens.

Theresa will never forget that day. “I knew my exact actions that day; every other day I have spent in that city were just a blur in my mind, but the catastrophe that day will forever be in my mind. Going to work in the city was never the same after that day.”

Three miles away, Theresa’s son Thomas was working in Linden, New Jersey. Thomas a Steamfitter, worked on Newark Bay. “I would work and jets would fly over me everyday flying out of Newark Airport; I was cared of the planes alone being so close,” he said. “I always looked at the city skyline in the morning as well; it was nice,” Thomas said.

At nine o’ clock, the crew would take a coffee break. When he looked up at the skyline just before nine, he noticed that one of the towers was filled with smoke. “I had no clue what happened.” Word on the job was that it was a Cessna accident. “I looked

up again and saw an airplane slam into the other tower, let me tell you, this was no Cessna” Tom said. Tom could not believe his eyes.

“I got off my lift and down to the ground as fast as I could, I got sick,” Tom explained. He thought about his mother in the city. “I was scared for her, my mind was going a thousand miles an hour, I thought about where she could possibly be”. “I can’t explain what I was feeling that day, but I honestly remember every step I took that day.” Thomas along with Theresa both knew exactly what happened that day because of its significance. It affects them along with the millions who travel to the city to work to this day.

These stories show an up-close impact of that fateful day. It shows that people have not forgotten how that day affected them. Every American knows their exact actions that day. Life in America is still not the same as it was before 9/11. What were you doing that day?