

# SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

OCTOBER 2001

## Chapter director to present October program

The vast open spaces of the Texas landscape and the bountiful water resources of the state support a diverse array of plants, fish, and wildlife and provide recreation and sustenance for millions of people. Protecting the land and water heritage of Texas provides the focus for two major conservation campaigns of the Lone Star (state) Chapter of the Sierra Club. Chapter representatives Brian Sybert and Ken Kramer will be at the Oct. 17 general meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club Group to describe these two exciting campaigns and how local citizens may participate in them.

Brian Sybert, Natural Resources Director for the Lone Star Chapter, will

present "Saving Texas' Wide Open Spaces." Brian's presentation will include a slide show and discussion about the biological diversity of Texas, how it is impacted by rapid growth and development, and what needs to be done to protect it. Brian's presentation will also outline the Lone Star Chapter's Wide Open Spaces Campaign, aimed at involving citizens in the identification and protection of ecologically significant lands throughout the state.

The "Saving Texas' Wide Open Spaces" presentation will provide you with important information about what is happening to our state's natural heritage and what you can do to protect it. Ken Kramer, Chapter Director, will

present "Water for People and the Environment." Ken's presentation will include a slide show and discussion of current water issues in Texas and how plans to address water demands through proposed reservoir and pipeline projects might jeopardize the state's fish and wildlife.

Ken's presentation will describe the Texas Living Waters Project being conducted jointly by four statewide environmental groups (including the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club). The aim of the project is to promote environmentally sound and cost-effective ways of meeting real water needs while also assuring that water flows are main-

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## Wave your flag, but don't forget what it stands for

Like virtually every other American, I was shocked, angered, and saddened by the tragic loss of life in the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Like everyone else, I felt a rekindled sense of patriotism and an almost consuming desire to see the perpetrators of this cowardly attack punished.

None of those emotions has diminished in the days since the World Trade Center was reduced to a pile of rubble and a temporary tomb for more than 6,000 of my fellow Americans.

But there no longer seems to be a single mindset between me and a growing segment of the American population. Or at least that's the way it seems after hearing what others have

expressed in newspapers, on television, on the Internet, and through polls.

### Commentary

Everywhere I find incessant references to the "silver lining" in all this, referring to the sense of unity and patriotism the tragedies have spawned.

That doesn't work for me. Six thousand good, hard-working, innocent Americans are dead. It's no consolation to me that this provides us renewed incentive for flag waving.

While I love this country as much as the next person, not every aspect of obsessive patriotism is for the good. Nazi

Germany proved that. Many Islam countries fall into that same category.

This country is based on individual freedoms, not government idolatry. It's healthy for us to have our differences during the good times, then present a united front when crisis hits.

Much of what I'm hearing disturbs me. I hear people say we need to suspend the Constitution and Bill of Rights to provide law enforcement agencies more tools with which to work.

Many others want to recklessly and indiscriminately start dropping bombs because "somebody's gotta pay for this."

Somebody, yes, but wouldn't justice  
*Please see FORUM, Page 5*



### Remember, you heard it here first!!

In November, the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club won't be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. The meeting date has been changed, for that month only, to the second Wednesday, which is Nov. 14. The reason for the change is the annual bus trip to Big Bend National Park, which leaves the evening of Nov. 21.

The *Sierra Club Crier* is published monthly by the

# Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth, TX 76101  
817/588-1167

All the following numbers are Area Code 817 unless otherwise noted

## Executive Committee

Chair	Tolbert Greenwood	346-3140
Vice-chair	Jenny Lehman	263-1357
Treasurer	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Secretary	Russell Andrew	561-7628
	Paula Thomson	860-4441
	Jim Walling	444-4416
	Dan Smith	410-2955

## Campaign Coordinators

Conservation	Bob Scott	282-1372
Clean Air	Earl Burnam	244-2328
Clean Water	Bob Scott	282-1372

## Outings Contacts

Chair	Claudia Blalock	626-6063
Canoeing	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
Bicycle	Don Bowles	571-9778
Backpacking	Claudia Blalock	626-6063

## Administrative Contacts

Membership	Claudia Blalock	626-6063
Assistant	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
Programs	Susan Robinson	582-8228

## Newsletter Staff

Editor	James Moody	295-1623
Ad director	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Circulation dir.	Steve Turner	457-7131



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

## Web Pages

Fort Worth Group <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>

National, Lone Star [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

Lone Star Chapter [www.texas.sierraclub.org](http://www.texas.sierraclub.org)

The Planet [www.sierraclub.org/planet](http://www.sierraclub.org/planet)

Political page [www.sierraclub.org/politics](http://www.sierraclub.org/politics)

## Action Alert

To subscribe, send message to: [majordomo@igc.apc.org](mailto:majordomo@igc.apc.org) with the following command in the body of your e-mail message: subscribe sc-action

# Attend a regional water conference

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person (includes lunch, beverage service, and conference materials.)

The specific agendas for each of the regional conferences, along with other information for each conference, will be available on the Lone Star Chapter web site: [www.texas.sierraclub.org](http://www.texas.sierraclub.org).

For more information on the Dallas conference, you may also contact the Sierra Club State Conservation Office, 512-477-1729 or the Conference organizers Molly Rooke, 214-369-6667, [molly@larosa-ranch.com](mailto:molly@larosa-ranch.com) or Rita Beving, 214-373-3808, [Antiquerita@aol.com](mailto:Antiquerita@aol.com). All registrations for regional conferences need to be sent to the Sierra Club state office.

Every effort is being made to gather a wide range of attendees. The public is encouraged to attend. Conferences are held on Saturdays to facilitate participation by people who work during the week. All locations are easy to reach, and ample parking is available.

Regional water conferences are a way for people to learn about critical water issues being debated around the state and about key water decisions being made that will affect their lives. Another set of activities this fall will give people an opportunity to give their views about water matters to state and regional officials making those decisions.

As an outgrowth of a regional and state water planning process initiated

by the passage of Texas Senate Bill 1 in 1997, the first revision of the state water plan in five years is being finalized this fall. Regional water plans from 16 regional water planning groups were submitted to the TWDB in January. Those plans were reviewed in the spring and approved by the agency this summer. The regional plans have been aggregated by the state agency into a state water plan.

In addition to the material from the regional plans, however, TWDB is also including in the draft state water plan a series of water policy recommendations that have been crafted with input from a stakeholder process this summer involving representatives of a variety of groups with interest in water issues. Policy recommendations, along with the rest of the draft water plan, will be released for public review and comment in October before final adoption by TWDB. Twenty public hearings on the draft plan will be held around the state by TWDB the second half of October.

More information about the draft plan and the Sierra Club perspective on it will be forthcoming. Meetings/hearings for the D/FW area are at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Oct. 24, at the Trinity River Authority of Texas Central Wastewater System, Administration Bldg., 6500 W. Singleton Blvd., Dallas, Texas.

## October-November

## Fort Worth Sierra Club

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8	9	10	11 ExCom meeting 6:30 p.m.	12	13 Beginner Backpack	14
15	16	17 General Meeting 7 p.m. Newsletter deadline	18	19 Sierra Celebration, Oct. 19-21	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Caddo Lake canoe outing	28
29	30 Conservation Committee meeting	31	Nov. 1	2	3	4
5 Newsletter folding/labeling party 6 p.m.	6	7	8	9	10 SE Oklahoma backpack	11

# Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

*Fort Worth Sierra Club outings are open to members and nonmembers. Trip leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of organizing the trip. If you have special needs or medical requirements, notify the leader prior to the trip. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Many outings require advance reservations at the trip designation as well as from the participant. Notify the trip leader promptly if you must cancel. Donations of \$3 per person and \$5/family are requested for overnight trips to be used for conservation efforts of the club. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant. In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.*

## **October 6-7, Saturday-Sunday**

Beginner backpack on Big Brown Creek Trail, in Fairfield SP. Sat. morning we will hike through 3 miles of wooded and swampy areas. Some bluffs along the trail offer excellent views of the lake. The campsite has water and flush toilets – so it is not very primitive. Sunday we will hike out on the same trail. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Wendy Lambert 251-0016 (H) or [w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org)

## **October 13-14, Saturday-Sunday**

Beginner backpack at Buckeye Mountain/Caney Creek Wilderness in W. Cent. Arkansas. Dense hardwood forests cover the area and wildlife is abundant. Sat. we will hike the Buckeye Mountain Trail 6 miles to camp near a waterfall. Sun. we will hike 4 miles on the Caney Creek Trail. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Marcos Jorge. Co-leader: Wendy Lambert 251-0016 (H) or [w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org)

## **October 19-21, Friday-Sunday**

Sierra Celebration. Join Sierrans from across Texas for the Lone Star Chapter's fall celebration at the MO-Ranch in Hunt, Texas, near Kerrville. Stay in Moran Barn or camp for the weekend. Outings on Saturday includes tours of the Kerr WMA with a staff biologist as your guide. Swimming, canoeing, and horseback riding are available at MO Ranch. On Sunday, hikes are planned for Lost Maples State Park. Cost for weekend: Campsites: \$21/night; barn lodging: \$59 per person for 2 nights; communal meals \$18 per person for weekend. To register, visit the Lone Star Chapter Website at [www.sierraclub.org/texas](http://www.sierraclub.org/texas) for a registration form or call 512-477-1729.

**October 2001**

## **October 20-21, Saturday-Sunday**

Car camp at Lake Mineral Wells State Park. Meet at the park by 2 p.m. for site check-in. We will plan potluck dinner for Sat. night and hike on trails within park on Sunday morning. State park is offering special program on Sat. night of cowboy poetry and music as well as nature programs during the day. You will need to reserve your own campsite by calling 512-389-8900 or by contacting the Texas State Park Website. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 626-6063.

## **Oct. 27-28, Friday-Saturday**

Join us for a repeat trip to Caddo Lake State Park over the Halloween weekend and enjoy canoeing with a full moon. For those able to leave the Metroplex on Friday night, camping is available by reservation at Caddo Lake State Park. Call 512-389-8900 for reservations or contact the Texas State Park website. On Saturday, we will canoe from Pine Needles Lodge near the state park to a remote island and camp there. Canoe rentals are available through Pine Needles Lodge. Enjoy a potluck dinner on Saturday Trip ends with a catfish lunch at noon nearby. Leaders: Marilyn Sumner, 491-2382 or Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

## **November 10-11, Saturday-Sunday**

Backpack the David Boren Trail. The trail is located in Beavers Bend State Park in Southeastern Oklahoma. The trail will cover about 10 miles with spectacular views on a bluff overlook. Camp will be along a flowing stream. The trail will have some steep hills and stream crossings. If you want a challenging hike, come and join the fun. Leader: Wendy Lambert (817) 251-0016 (H) or [w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org) Co-leader: Marcos Jorge.

## **November 18, Sunday**

Dayhike on the Trinity Trail. Join Clau-

dia Blalock and her dog Molly for a canine-led hike of approximately 3 miles on the Trinity Trail. Meet at the parking lot just south of the Hoffbrau Steakhouse on University Dr. in Fort Worth approx. 1 mile south of I-30. Bring water for yourself and your pet and wear appropriate clothing. In the event of rain, hike is cancelled. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 626-6063.

## **November 21-26, Wednesday-Monday**

Bus trip to Big Bend National Park. A sleeper bus will depart Wed. evening before Thanksgiving to carry 40 campers to the park and return by 5 a.m. on Monday. Four trips will be offered to accommodate all levels of physical fitness. Trip 1 is a strenuous three-and-a-half day backpack in the Dead Horse Mountains. Trip 2 is the High Chisos backpack, rated moderate. You'll hike into the mountains to set up a base camp and make day hikes. Trip 3 (also rated moderate) participants will camp in the Basin and make day hikes. Trip 4 group will camp at Rio Grande Village and make easy day hikes. More information on the Fort Worth Group web site: <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html> or for the Dead Horse Mountains backpack: [www.thestargroup.com/BigBend.htm](http://www.thestargroup.com/BigBend.htm). Registration form is on Page 5.

## **February 15-18, Friday-Monday**

Join veteran hiker John Parker for an easy car camp in the Chisos Basin Campground of Big Bend National Park. Feb. is the perfect time to see this grand park. Day hikes may include: Santa Elena Canyon, Boquillas Canyon, Cattail Falls, Grapevine Hills, Hot Springs, and Ernst Tinaja. On Sunday, we will hike Devil's Den on our way to the Gage Hotel in Marathon where we will stay. To reserve a room at the Gage, call 915-386-4205. For more details, contact John Parker, 817-274-0859.

## **Two important meetings coming up**

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

tained for fish and wildlife.

The "Water for People and the Environment" presentation will provide a preview of the Lone Star Chapter's upcoming regional water conference for North Texas (to be held in the downtown Dallas Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 27). Information will also be

provided on how Sierrans and others may express their opinions on the proposed new state water plan at an area hearing in Grand Prairie on Oct. 24.

More information on these two Lone Star Chapter conservation campaigns may be found on the Chapter website at <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org>.

# Coming Events

## October 11, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at LaMadeleine's Restaurant, 305 Main St. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

## October 17, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting. See box at right for details.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail, email, or on Iomega Zip disks accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O.

## General Meeting Wednesday, October 17

7:00 Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north about a mile to Camp Bowie).

**Program:** Representatives from the Lone Star Chapter will be here to present the program. Complete description of begins on Page 1.

Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email [jmoody166@aol.com](mailto:jmoody166@aol.com).

## Sierra Singles Events

Join the Sierra Singles on Tuesday, October 9, hear great music and help the Dallas Sierra Club raise money. Brave Combo will perform at the Richardson Civic Center from 6:30-10 pm. Tickets are \$35, or \$90 for a family with 2 kids, and will help support the newsletter, the primary expense of the club. Call 214-

369-5543 for more information. On Saturday, Nov. 3, join us for a day of viewing animals and dinosaur tracks. Meet at 10 a.m. at the gift shop/visitor center at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, 3 miles southwest of Glen Rose off Hwy 67. Admission is \$14.95. We will take a drive-through tour in our own cars, eat lunch at the Fossil Rim café, then drive to Dinosaur Valley to hike and view the dinosaur tracks. Contact Sandy Kee, 972-492-4327 ([shkee@worldnet.att.net](mailto:shkee@worldnet.att.net)) or Jenny Lehman, 263-1357, to sign up, as this trip is limited to 20 people. RSVP required.

## October 30, Tuesday

Conservation meeting. Contact Bob Scott, 282-1372.

## November 5, Monday

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

# Hearings more than just 'water under the bridge'

As Texans move from yet another hot summer into fall, attention will focus on a topic that often generates its own heat: how to meet water needs of Texans and their environment. This fall the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, in cooperation with a diverse group of organizations, will hold a series of regional conferences on water issues that will shape the future of the state. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the state water planning and financing agency, will also hold public hearings to take public input on the proposed new state water plan.

These events provide two important opportunities for Texans: a chance to learn more about the decisions being made about water and how those decisions affect their daily lives, and a chance to help shape those decisions.

What plans are being made to provide sufficient water for the rapidly growing population of Texas? How much water needs to be reserved for fish, wildlife, and plants that we value for recreational enjoyment, economic prosperity, and ecological vitality? What are the most cost-effective ways of meeting water needs? Can we use water more efficiently? How do we plan effectively for water use during drought? What are the economic and environmental impacts of large-scale

water projects? Are there new ways of providing increased water supplies? What about desalination of saltwater?

These are some of the important questions that will be addressed through a series of four regional conferences in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi.

Speakers and panelists will include water professionals, environmental group representatives, academic water

experts, public officials, and others. Time will be provided for questions and answers.

The Dallas Water Conference (covering North Central and NE Texas) is Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Dallas Downtown Public Library, 1515 Young St.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m.; conference starts at 9 a.m. and concludes by 4:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$15 per

*Please see ATTEND, Page 2*

## "WATER FOR PEOPLE & THE ENVIRONMENT"

Regional Conferences on the Water Future of Texas

Registration Form:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please register \_\_\_\_ person(s) for the following regional conference(s).

\_\_\_\_ Dallas, October 27 (reg. deadline: Oct. 23)

I/we (specify number: \_\_\_\_\_) prefer a vegetarian lunch.

Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 per person per conference).

Make check payable to "Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club."

Charge my credit card for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Type of card: \_\_Master Card \_\_VISA Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return form & payment to:

Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club

ATTN: Regional Water Conferences

P. O. Box 1931

Austin, TX 78767

# Forum is misused

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be better served if we made sure it was the right "somebody?"

Bigotry and racism are flourishing in the D/FW area with random acts of violence against people of Middle Eastern origin.

Politicians and religious leaders use the tragedy as a forum for agendas that have nothing to do with terrorist attacks.

God is punishing us because we don't allow prayer in schools? Not any God I would want to worship.

It's His way of telling us He's opposed to abortion? What type of vengeful, spiteful God do these people worship?

Few politicians are above using any means to further their own agendas and the present administration isn't above that either. Support the president in his efforts to right this terrible wrong? Of course. We owe it to President Bush; we owe it to our countrymen; we owe it to ourselves; and we owe it to the people who so needlessly lost their lives in New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania.

But we also owe it to all the afore-  
*Please see ABRIDGING, Page 6*

## Big Bend Thanksgiving Trip Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dead Horse Mts. Backpack:** Strenuous. James Moody

\_\_\_\_\_ **High Chisos Backpack:** Moderate. Tolbert Greenwood

\_\_\_\_\_ **Basin Day Hikes:** Moderate. Jim Walling

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rio Grande Village Day Hikes:** Easy. Jordan Minyard

## Membership

**Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$35)     Joint (\$43)

Annual dues include subscription to  
Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications  
(\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

**F94QT19002** -1  
F94Q W99901 Entity Code

Mail to Sierra Club, P.O. BOX 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

# Mountain Sports

[www.mountainsports.com](http://www.mountainsports.com)

The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

## Mission Statement

Return Service requested

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 1925  
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

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Permit No. 714  
Fort Worth, TX 76101

# Abridging freedoms gives terrorists the victory

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5*  
mentioned groups to preserve the American way. Giving up liberties won by the blood of American men and women is not the American way.

I don't believe for a moment that Bush is going to impulsively take action that would result in the deaths of countless innocent people just to further his political agenda. But he wouldn't be a politician if he didn't use this boost in his popularity ratings to push a few stalled programs over the edge.

Look for the environment to be a key casualty on this front.

Talk of our nation being free from dependency on foreign oil was political rhetoric before the terrorist attacks and its political rhetoric now.

I'd venture a guess that if this country doesn't use more fossil fuels than every other country in the world combined, that it's at least close. I'd also venture a guess that we don't have the kind of reserves to feed that insatiable hunger for fuel.

If I'm anywhere near right, then drill-

ing holes in every national forest, monument or refuge makes about as much sense as the holes in the head we'd have to have to go along with that line of reasoning.

The key to eliminating our dependence on foreign oil is to reduce our dependency on oil, not to desecrate our national treasures. The only way to do that is actively pursue alternate energy sources.

That's a no-brainer if the real goal is to eliminate our dependency on foreign oil. Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or other environmentally sensitive areas will not help the war against terrorism effort one iota. What little relief it ever contributes to our energy needs will be temporary.

Developing alternative energy sources is a more permanent solution.

Foolish, self-serving acts, even done in the name of patriotism, are still foolish, self-serving acts.

If we give up human rights in the name of nationalism; if we give up hard-won freedoms; if we desecrate our environment – then we've played right

into their hands and the terrorists will have won.

We won't be any better than they are. In fact, we'll be almost exactly like they are. Figuratively, at least, they wave flags, too. Flags are nice to hide behind but they don't excuse irresponsible actions.

We sent that message to our former enemies following the second world war.

Even if we capture and kill every single terrorist, we still come out the big loser if we become the Home-of-the-not-quite-so-Free and our "purple mountains' majesty" is blighted by even more SuperFund sites.

We'd be a lesser country, a lesser people, and have far fewer reasons to wave the flag.

And all those people in the World Trade Center, in the Pentagon, and on board those four airliners will have died in vain.

Let's don't just rally around the flag; let's rally around what the flag stands for.

–JAMES MOODY