

CITY OF CLAY, ALABAMA

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 09-04

A RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE, HONOR, AND RESOLVE ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

WHEREAS, September 11, 2026, marks twenty-five years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a day that forever changed the United States of America and remains solemnly etched into the memory of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, on that morning, innocent men, women, and children began an ordinary Tuesday—traveling to work, boarding airplanes, serving their country, protecting their communities, and saying goodbye to their families—without knowing that history would soon record their names among the victims of one of the darkest days our Nation has endured; and

WHEREAS, nearly three thousand lives were taken at the World Trade Center in New York City, at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and aboard United Airlines Flight 93 near Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, among those lost were firefighters, law-enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, military personnel, public servants, office workers, travelers, parents, spouses, sons, daughters, friends, and neighbors—individual lives whose value can never adequately be expressed by a number on a page; and

WHEREAS, in the moments when others fled danger, first responders ran toward it; strangers carried strangers to safety; passengers aboard Flight 93 acted with extraordinary courage; and Americans throughout the Nation answered tragedy with service, sacrifice, compassion, and unity; and

WHEREAS, the full cost of September 11 did not end when the smoke cleared, as firefighters, police officers, emergency personnel, recovery workers, members of the Armed Forces, and countless others continued to bear physical and emotional wounds in the years that followed; and

WHEREAS, an entire generation of Americans has now reached adulthood having no personal memory of September 11, 2001, making the responsibility to preserve its history and teach its lessons increasingly ours; and

WHEREAS, remembrance requires more than recalling how people died—it requires remembering how they lived, how others responded, and how a wounded Nation chose to stand together; and

WHEREAS, the passage of twenty-five years does not diminish our obligation to remember those who were taken, to honor those who answered the call to serve, or to teach future generations that freedom, security, and self-government carry responsibilities that must never be taken for granted; and

WHEREAS, the City of Clay is especially mindful that service to community often occurs quietly and without expectation of recognition, and that firefighters, law-enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, members of the Armed Forces, public servants, volunteers, and ordinary citizens continue each day to accept responsibility for the safety and well-being of others; and

WHEREAS, on this twenty-fifth anniversary, the City Council desires that the citizens of Clay remember September 11 not solely as a date associated with destruction, but also as a testament to courage in the face of fear, service in the face of danger, unity in the face of division, and hope in the face of unimaginable loss.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLAY, ALABAMA, as follows:

SECTION 1. REMEMBRANCE.

The City of Clay solemnly remembers the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and extends enduring respect to their families and loved ones, whose loss remains part of the American story twenty-five years later.

SECTION 2. HONOR.

The City recognizes and honors the firefighters, law-enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, members of the United States Armed Forces, public servants, recovery workers, volunteers, and private citizens whose courage and selflessness on September 11, 2001, and in the years that followed demonstrated the highest ideals of service to others.

SECTION 3. GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY.

The City further expresses its gratitude to the men and women who presently serve our community, state, and Nation in public safety, emergency response, military service, public service, and volunteer service, recognizing that their willingness to answer the call of duty is an essential part of a strong and resilient community.

SECTION 4. DUTY TO REMEMBER.

The City Council declares that the passage of time must never become permission to forget. The City encourages parents, educators, community organizations, and citizens to

share the history of September 11 with younger generations so that its victims are remembered, its heroes are honored, and its lessons are preserved.

SECTION 5. A COMMUNITY OF RESOLVE.

On this twenty-fifth anniversary, the City of Clay calls upon its citizens to honor September 11 through acts worthy of remembrance: service to a neighbor, gratitude toward a first responder, respect for those who serve, kindness toward a stranger, and renewed commitment to the responsibilities of citizenship.

SECTION 6. SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 — A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND SERVICE.

The City Council hereby recognizes September 11, 2026, as a Day of Remembrance and Service in the City of Clay and encourages all citizens to pause in remembrance of the lives lost and to consider an act of service in their honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on this twenty-fifth anniversary, the City of Clay joins communities throughout the United States in making this simple and enduring pledge:

We will remember those who were lost.

We will honor those who served.

We will teach those who were not yet born.

We will stand beside those who serve today.

And we will never forget.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Clay, Alabama, at a regular meeting held on the 8 day of September 2026.

CITY OF CLAY, ALABAMA


Jane Anderton, Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk/Treasurer

IN MEMORIAM

September 11, 2001 – September 11, 2026

Twenty-Five Years Later — We Remember.

For those who left home that morning and never returned.

For those who ran toward danger when every instinct said to run away.

For those who carried the burden of September 11 long after that day had ended.

For the families who have lived twenty-five years with an empty place at the table.

For the generations who must now remember a day they never personally witnessed.

May our remembrance be measured not only by what we say, but by how we serve.