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9/11 The Historical Significance Presented by George W. Engler

September 11th 2001 will live in the memories of every American alive on that date. 9/11 as it is referred to is an infamous date in history and for many the most infamous day in history. One then has to consider is this date significant in mankind's past. This day has stirred memories in mankind of wonderful events as well as horrible violence.

Dr. Ernest L. Martin, a noted historian, wrote a book entitled, "The Birth of Christ Recalculated" in 1981. Supported by many biblical scholars, theologians, other historians, and astronomers; Martin claims the star of Bethlehem, signifying the birth of Christ, can be calculated to within a few hours of September 11, 3 B.C. Dr. Martin claimed that the signs in the sky could have occurred on only one day in 3 B.C., September 11th, between 6:15 P.M. and 7:45 P.M. EST. Could it be that Christ was born on 9/11?

In 1296, King Edward I of England drove out the king of Scotland. A patriot by the name of William Wallace led a resistance movement against this invasion. Wallace led a spirited revolt depicted in the movie "Braveheart." The one decisive victory for the 15,000 Scottish soldiers over Edward's forces came at the Battle of Sterling Bridge. This battle occurred on September 11, 1297.

In 1609, an English Sea captain and explorer was hired by The Dutch East India Company to find an inland route to the Pacific Ocean. Henry Hudson and twenty seamen were aboard the 75 foot long "Half Moon". They sailed up a river today named the Hudson River. They sailed into a harbor, New York Harbor, and discovered an island today known as Manhattan Island on September 11, 1609.

Our own Revolutionary War holds many revelations to the 9/11 significance. In the early years of our war for independence, 1776 to be exact, the British were successful in many early battles. General ~~Have~~^{Howe} captured New York and expected the upstart rebels to quickly surrender. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge; three prominent members of the upstart Continental Congress met with General Howe on September 11, 1776. When the brash Americans refused to budge on their main demand for separation from England, General Howe left in a huff. The war would continue for seven long years.

General William Howe in 1777, decided to invade Pennsylvania and capture Philadelphia. General Howe and General George Washington clashed at Brandywine Creek, southwest of Philadelphia. On September 11, 1777, General Howe defeated General Washington by using a fake frontal attack and sending General Cornwallis around the Continental

Army's right flank. Major General Nathaniel Green stopped General Howe and prevented a slaughter. The battle is regarded as the first where Americans carried the American Flag (Old Glory) into battle.

The Revolutionary War concluded for most historians on October 18, 1781, when General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. But occasional fighting between the patriots and the redcoats continued for almost a year, chiefly in the South and West. On September 11, 1782, about 300 Indians and 50 British soldiers began the siege of Ft. Henry. This would be the last battle of the American Revolution.

The War of 1812 began on June 18, 1812, when the United States declared war on Britain. The war raged for over two years and in late 1814 two major events occurred.

A British force led by General Robert Ross invaded the nation's capitol. They were escorted by a British fleet to Chesapeake Bay and proceeded to Washington where they burned the Capitol and the White House. The British would later claim it was in retaliation for the burning of Canadian government buildings by U.S. troops. The British occupied Washington for almost a month.

On September 11, 1814, it was reported that a great unexpected hurricane swept through Washington and drove the British invaders out of the nation's capitol.

On the same day during the Battle of Plattsburg on Lake Champlain, a newly built U.S. fleet under Master Commandant Thomas Macdonough destroyed a British squadron thus forcing the British to abandon their siege of the U.S. fort at Plattsburg and retreat to Canada on foot.

The American victory saved New York from possible invasion and helped lead to the conclusion of peace negotiations between Britain and the United States in Ghent, Belgium.

The nation was torn by racial turmoil in the early 19th Century and laws were passed to punish those who aided run away slaves. Many violent events marked these turbulent times. One such event occurred on September 11, 1851. In Christiana, Pennsylvania, a group of African Americans and white abolitionists skirmished with a Maryland posse intent on capturing four fugitive slaves hidden in the town. The violence came one year after the second fugitive slave law was passed by Congress, requiring the return of all escaped slaves to their owners in the South. One member of the posse, landowner Edward Gossuch was killed and two others wounded during the fight. In the aftermath of the so-called Christiana Riot, 37 African Americans and 1 white man were arrested and charged with treason under the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Law. Most were acquitted.

The Crimean War was fought for political, commercial, strategic, and dynastic rivalries among the involved nations. They claimed it was fought over control of the Holy Places in Jerusalem. The allies of Great Britain, France, Turkey, and Sardinia were aligned against the Russian Empire. On September 11, 1855, the eleven month siege of Sevastopol was lifted. Sevastopol was and is the main naval base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. The allies were victorious in capturing Sevastopol on 9/11.

The 20th Century is what we remember and are most familiar. It was an Era of new achievements in all our lives.

On September 11, 1904, in New York a new era of battleship construction was achieved with the Battleship "Connecticut". Battleships would become a valuable force in the upcoming wars.

Ships played a key role in initiating World War I with the British passenger ship Lusitania. The Lusitania arrived September 11, 1907, in New York from Ireland setting a new transatlantic record of 5 days and 54 minutes. This same ship was torpedoed by a German submarine and a total of 1,198 died including 128 Americans. Many consider this sinking an act of barbarism. The German government claimed the Lusitania was a legal target because it carried war materials. America supported England and entered the War in 1917 with the slogan "Remember the Lusitania."

In the world of sports—the more things change the more they remain the same. On September 11, 1918 the Red Sox won the World Series over the Chicago Cubs 2 to 1 in the sixth game.

September 11, 1921, was a remarkable day in Atlanta when the Ku Klux Klan gained control of Lanier University, their goal to teach Americanism. The KKK became a powerful political force throughout the South with over 2 million members. The organization died out during World War II and continues to diminish today.

The historical significance of September 11, 1922 is politically explosive today due to the British mandating Palestine. Constant battles rage on in this area today.

The popular American performer Al Jolson brought joy to the world when he returned to Broadway after a ten year absence on September 11, 1940. Jolson's warm singing voice thrilled many people—his famous songs were; "April Showers", "Avalon", "My Mammy", and "Toot Toot Tootsie". His real name was Asa Yoelson. He appeared in minstrel shows and debuted on Broadway in 1911.

Also on this day September 11, 1940 in London the Germans were bombing London with a direct hit on Buckingham Palace. Thankfully, the royal family was not hurt.

The Pentagon building which was attacked 2001 began construction on September 11, 1941. The purpose was to provide a temporary solution to the War Departments critical shortage of space. The ground breaking occurred on 9/11.

As World War II winds down September 11, 1944 Americans entered Luxenborg. Also on this day President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King met in Quebec, Canada. They met to discuss plans for the Post War world.

The Middle East was in a period of transition economically, politically, and spiritually. September 11, 1948 Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the first head of Pakistan died in Karachi. He was called "The Great Leader" and the "Father of the Nation" he worked to build the nation of Pakistan. He was a strong advocate for Muslim and Hindu unity. Ironically, on this day in

Indian troops invaded Hyberbad, an independent nation of both Hindus and Muslims that did not wish to join Pakistan or India.

During the Korean War both North and South Korea claimed the entire country and their troops clashed over the border several times. Although the United States removed its last troops from Korea in 1949 and stated Korea was outside the main U.S. defense line in Asia. A major incident occurred on September 11, 1951, a United Nations command admitted a plane attacked Kaesong- a Korean neutral zone in error. The dispute over the territory continues today and a permanent treaty has never been signed.

The Headlines read-"American Negroes Star at the Rome Olympics", September 11, 1960. Black Americans dominated events which were considered most important-track and swimming. Three African Americans swept the field events: Lee Calhoun, Willie May, and Glen Davis. An African American from Clarksville, TN. Wilma Rudolph, "The Black Gazelle" swept 3 Gold medals.

An 18 year black man from Louisville, Ky. was one of three Americans to take Gold Medals in Boxing..Cassius Clay (Mohammed Ali) defeated Ziggy Pietrzkowski an experienced Olympian in 178 pound class.

The two day Decathalon went to Rafer Johnson—an African American from California. "I wanted this one real bad," said Johnson on becoming the World's Greatest Athlete, "but I never want to go through that again—never".

Moving into the 1970's brought more world changes. On September 11, 1971, Nikita Khrushchev died in Moscow, but Russians did not know about

his death until they heard the news on short-wave radio. He died in obscurity—the former head of the Soviet Union Communist Party had been designated a non-person after being purged in 1961. It was stated that the most powerful Soviet party boss would not be given a state funeral. Russians remember Khrushchev as the man who denounced Stalin and tried to “rehabilitate” his enemies. Americans remember him as the man who banged his shoe on the table at the United Nations—saying Russia would bury us from within. He was also remembered for his confrontation with President John F. Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The world witnessed the beginning of terrorism at the Munich Olympic games which concluded September 11, 1972. Eleven Israelis were killed by terrorists. The assault began September 5 by a group called, “Black September Guerrillas”. Four of the seven guerrillas were shot as they emerged on the tarmac in Cairo by German sharpshooters.

September 11, 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende was ousted in a military coup with conflicting reports concerning his death. Police stated he committed suicide but Mrs. Allende was convinced her husband was murdered. She believed America financed and helped the coup. Allende had seized the property of several large U.S. corporations which had profited in Chile. In his last speech, Allende asserted he would not resign, even if it cost his life; he would teach a “lesson in the ignominious history of those with strength but no reason”.

In the world of tennis the U.S. Open seemed to always have the final Championship on September 11-1977, 1978, 1984. Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg, Chris Evert, and Martina Navratilova dominated. On September 11, 1983, Jimmy Connors won his 5th U.S. Open.

In the aftermath of the Viet Nam conflict on September 11, 1984, George Shultz declared the United States would admit thousands of Vietnamese children fathered by G.I.'s. Many of these children had been abandoned by their country.

America had become a nation ravaged by drugs. September 11, 1986, in Washington, the House approved the use of the military to curb drug imports.

As stated, the U.S. Open many times had finals on September 11, but this would be a day Dan Rather would never forget. September 11, 1987, Dan Rather, angry over the news delay due to tennis coverage; walked off the set, leaving seven minutes of dead air. Years later when President George Bush

was interviewed by Rather about mistakes he had made as President, Bush reminded Rather of this event. It is thought by many that Rather has never forgiven this remark.

"It's like Christmas", on September 11, 1989, one East German remarked describing Hungary's decision to allow 60,000 countrymen to cross the border to Austria to freedom. This one event led to the eventual unification of Germany.

Moving ahead to September 11, 1990, President George Bush addressed the Congress concerning the Persian Gulf Crisis. He vowed that "Saddam Hussein will fail" in his takeover of Kuwait. Eleven years later to the day, his son George W. Bush would be President and face an even greater challenge from Saddam Hussein and terrorists.

This September 11 survey began with the Birth of Christ. On September 11, 1999—the Jewish Calendar was 6,000 years old. September 11, 1999 is regarded as the 6,000 Anniversary of Adam's Creation. What else is in store for us on 9/11?