

## **A Mother's Humble Pride in the Wake of Disaster**

*September 11, 2001* will be eternally embedded in our mind as the memories of that “*day of infamy*” pierce our hearts and tear the very fabric of our lives into fragments of despair and hopelessness. What we once so flippantly took for granted - our very freedom - would never be what it once was, and lives would be forever changed.

Our souls cry out in fear - threadbare with disbelief, anger, indignation and retaliation - as we retreat in silence to desperately find our God - each in a manner of our own choosing, but with similar questions and no answers. Our country, *AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL*, has been attacked and violated and would now be forever different. Paraphrased, but as Dan Rather, CBS News, overcome with emotion, said, “*we will never hear the song ‘our alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears - America, America, God Shed His Grace on Thee’ without feeling a tremendous sense of loss.*” All I can feel is the urgent need to reach out and touch the hand of God for comfort, peace and understanding.

The aftermath of this senseless disaster bears pain and suffering for so many. This is an account of my memory of a Sigma Chi chapter at Roanoke College in the 1980's. It is from the perspective of a mother, who, 15 to 20 years ago, was filled with extreme doubt and justifiable fear for the youth who embraced, seized only the day so to speak, every moment with no apparent regard for what lay ahead. Their names are too colorful to withhold - *Jet, Bergs, Scotty, Chapey, Townie, Rocco, Jadam, Two-Tone, Wilber, Slinky, Big Man, Bull, Lenny, Jimbo...*

And did they ever enjoy the fruits of the resplendent, beautiful garden of college life. In those days, “*alcohol awareness*” had not yet arrived to become a way of life, so to speak. Hard to believe, but alcohol was allowed on the college campus “back then.” Of course, parents and academia were very much concerned, but seemed to sense a helplessness in doing much about it. I can vividly remember praying to the Lord for guidance and protection of our youth. The