

Reflections on the Thirteenth Anniversary of the September 11 Attacks
Statement by Jill Long Thompson, Board Chair
Farm Credit Administration Board Meeting
September 11, 2014

Thirteen years ago today our nation changed forever. The attacks on September 11 took 2,977 lives.

While these brutal attacks appalled and frightened, they also strengthened our resolve to stand up to those who threaten us. And they strengthened our appreciation for the kind of country we live in and the democratic and capitalist ideals upon which our nation is built.

We at the Farm Credit Administration have the privilege of regulating a government-sponsored enterprise that reflects these ideals and adds value to our capitalist economy. As cooperatives, the banks and lending associations of the Farm Credit System are democratic organizations, owned and controlled by their borrowers. Just as our democratic nation champions the ideal of equal opportunity for all, the System's banks and associations are open to all who are creditworthy and meet the eligibility requirements to borrow from the System.

As we go forward in time, further and further from that tragic day, I hope we will never forget the lives lost and the lessons learned. I hope we will never lose our appreciation for the great fortune we enjoy as Americans. And I hope that we, as citizens of this great democracy, will never cease to work toward the ideals for which our country stands.