

Gary Sinise Reveals How 9/11 Changed His Life Forever

Today marks the 24th anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks, a day that changed the course of American history. Nearly 3,000 lives were taken in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania, and countless families were left scarred by the violence and destruction. Each year, the nation pauses to remember the victims, honor the heroes, and reflect on the unity that carried America through its darkest hours.

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Great American Media and the Gary Sinise Foundation have joined forces this year to reflect on the anniversary and highlight the ongoing work being done to honor first responders, veterans, and their families. Their collaboration underscores how the stories told since that day remind the country of the very best America has to offer.

“Every year, as the anniversary of September 11th approaches, I am deeply moved by the selfless courage of the first responders who ran toward danger, many sacrificing their lives in a heroic effort to save others,” said the president and CEO of Great American Media, Bill Abbot. “Their bravery, along with the determination of thousands of men and women who stood up in the days, months, and years that followed, reminds us of the very best of America, a nation united in the face of tragedy, committed to defending our values, our freedoms and one another.”

Gary Sinise, whose decades-long work serving veterans and

first responders has become a hallmark of his life's mission, shared how his journey began before 9/11 but was transformed by it. "Back in the '80s, I was very involved with supporting various Vietnam veterans' organizations in Chicago. And, you know – and then, after playing the disabled veteran in Forrest Gump, that kind of turned a little bit of a corner toward trying to help our wounded, but it really all just kind of catapulted after the attacks of September 11," Sinise explained.

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Through his foundation, Sinise has continued to serve America's heroes for more than 25 years, providing homes for wounded veterans, offering resources for families, and ensuring that those who gave so much are never forgotten.

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His commitment serves as a reminder that while the pain of 9/11 endures, the resolve to care for those who sacrifice remains strong.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a background in journalism from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary and a contributor to Charisma magazine.