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MeckMIN Statement on the 25th Anniversary of September 11th

Today marks twenty-five years since the morning our nation lost nearly three thousand of its sons and daughters—in the towers of Lower Manhattan, at the Pentagon, and in a field in Pennsylvania where ordinary passengers gave their lives so that others might live. On this solemn anniversary, MeckMIN joins the whole of Mecklenburg County, and indeed the nation, in a quarter-century's grief that time tempers but does not erase. We hold in loving remembrance every life taken that day, every family forever changed, and every first responder who ran toward danger so that strangers might be spared.

Yet the passage of twenty-five years asks something more of us than memory alone. In the years since that morning, we have watched, with sorrow, a rising tide of suspicion and hatred directed at our Muslim neighbors—a wound inflicted not by the hand that struck the towers, but by fear's long shadow afterward, one this community has seen fall again even now, nearest to home. This is a grief within a grief: that an act meant to sow terror should also have sown, in its wake, division among neighbors who bear no responsibility for it. To truly honor what was lost on September 11th is to refuse this inheritance of suspicion, and to insist instead—as every one of our sacred traditions insists—that we are bound to one another in a single human family, and that hatred answered with hatred only compounds the original wound.

We invite the people of Mecklenburg County to join us in prayer and loving remembrance that the lives lost twenty-five years ago may be honored not only in solemn memory, but in a renewed practice of love toward every neighbor—of every faith, and none—who calls this community home.