

# QNotes

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## Getting past, getting through, but never forgetting

by Leah D. Sepsenwol

Words and images have spewed forth on pages and airwaves ... at a pace as furious and as heartbreaking as all we have witnessed. The smouldering nightmare sears its way into dream and daylight — unsettling pulverized pieces of privilege, power and promise.

For one cataclysmic moment we were fused and fashioned in the image of oneness. Creed, color, preference, higher power — hands clasped, we gasped and rose above our every difference.

And just as we were given the rainbow after catastrophic flood, so are we now given heroes to help us hold on and for us to hold up in these terrible days and for all time.

Peace unto all of them who spared us even more tragedy and comforted us in their own last moments.

Father Mychal Judge, 68, Catholic Chaplain, New York Fire Department died at the scene of World Trade Center terrorist attacks. "Father Mike," a Franciscan priest, was well-known for his compassionate, ecumenical care for families of the TWA 800 air crash victims in 1996.

Judge's parish had no walls. He ministered to firefighters, police, crime victims, street youths and all manner of people who found themselves in crisis.

In an e-mail to Rex Wockner, journalist Andy Humm said, "He was a decent wonderful human being. I saw him at many demonstrations for gay and AIDS causes — showing up in his Franciscan monk's cassock."

When asked what prepared him to help those whose lives are suddenly torn apart Father Mike said, "In seminary, you get all the theology and Scripture in the world. In my first parish, I discovered the other gifts God had given me — personality, patience and a great love of people."

According to its web site, Rev. Mychal Judge was a "longtime member" of Dignity/USA, an organization of Catholic gays, lesbians, transgenders, their families and friends.

Mark Bingham, 31, a public relations executive and avid rugby player, lived in San Francisco. He was returning from his firm's NY office.

Hijackers took over United Flight 93 bound for the west coast. We have since learned that Bingham, Thomas Burnett and Jeremy Glick and the pilot stormed the cockpit, forcing the plane to crash in rural southwestern Pennsylvania.

Even before it was confirmed, his family was certain that Mark had a hand in stopping the flight. "It gives me a great deal of comfort to know my son may have been able to avert the killing of many, many innocent people," said his mother, Alice Boglan.

According to OutSports.com, Mark recently sent an e-mail to his "Fog" rugby team hailing their acceptance into the straight California Rugby League.

"We have the chance to be role models for other gay folks who wanted to play sports, but never felt good enough or strong enough. More importantly, we have the chance to show the other teams in the league that we are as good as they are. Good rugby players. Good sports. Good men. This is a great opportunity to change a lot of people's minds, and to reach a group that might never have had to know or hear about gay people. Let's go make some new friends ..."

Pamela J. Boyce, 43, assistant vice president, Carr Futures, is one of only several dozen World Trade Center workers who have officially been confirmed dead, while thousands more remain missing.

Boyce worked on the 92nd floor of One World Trade Center.

Catherine Anello, Boyce's partner, told the *New York Times* that Boyce was a no-nonsense person who was passionate and pragmatic.

"She once told me, 'I'm not afraid to die because I know where I'm going is beautiful.'"

David Charlebois, 41, American Airlines First Officer, was an openly gay pilot onboard as co-pilot of the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, out of Dulles International Airport which crashed it into the Pentagon.

"He was one of the most well-liked pilots," said Robert Todd, a flight attendant who flew frequently with Charlebois.

Charlebois and his partner of 14 years, Tom Hay, shared a home in DC's DuPont Circle neighborhood. Hay said Charlebois' loyalty to his friends, family, and community was rivaled only by his love for flying.

Charlebois was an active member of the National Gay Pilots Association. Last year, Hay

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Breast Cancer Awareness month

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### Take the latest Q-Poll:

You're proud! — but how "out" are you?

Please select all that apply:

Parents / Guardians

Siblings

Spouse

Children

Extended Family

Friends

Pastor / Rabbi

Co-parishioners

Boss

Co-workers

Doctor/ Dentist

Not out at all

The Q-Poll is online at:  
www.q-notes.com

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Q-Poll sponsored by:

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Sisters and Brothers — Heroes 09.11.01

## Pride on a daily basis

by Teri Layzell, MSW, LCSW

Gay Pride is often scheduled as a special event. With parades, marches, songs and festivals we gather together at designated times throughout the year. It is a wonderful and important time for us to honor and celebrate ourselves with a sense of community that these events offer. Yet, to fully embrace the concept of pride, it is valuable for us to live with pride on a daily basis.

Ask yourself these questions: Are you compassionate towards yourself and others? What are you offering back to your community? Are you living with integrity, upholding the values that you hold dear? Are you without judgment? Are you proud of who you are and what you present to this world?

The answers to these questions open the door to acceptance. Gay Pride becomes stronger with each gay and lesbian who lives with integrity. Will hatred and prejudice go away? Probably not. But it certainly makes it more difficult for individuals to pass judgment when we present ourselves as good role models, living with humanitarian values. With combined forces, we can become an even more impressive group.

So, go out with pride, celebrate and enjoy yourself. But, remember to live with pride each and every day, between the events. It sends a very powerful message. ▼

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