

▼ In October, Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone dies in a plane crash along with his wife, daughter and five other victims.

▼ Sparked by summer drought, wildfires—including one set accidentally by a forlorn forest ranger—tear across the western United States.

▼ A weakened economy repeatedly drives down interest rates and delivers retailers their worst holiday shopping season in decades.

▼ President Bush signs the Homeland Security Act, officially creating a Department of Homeland Security dedicated to preventing terrorist attacks.

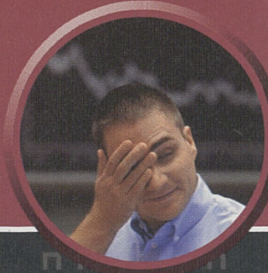
Kevin Lamarque/Reuters/Landov/AFP Photo/Juan Barreto/Corbis



photo by Joey McLeister/Star Tribune



Ed Andriesski/AP/Wide World Photos



AFP Photo/Oliver Berg/Corbis

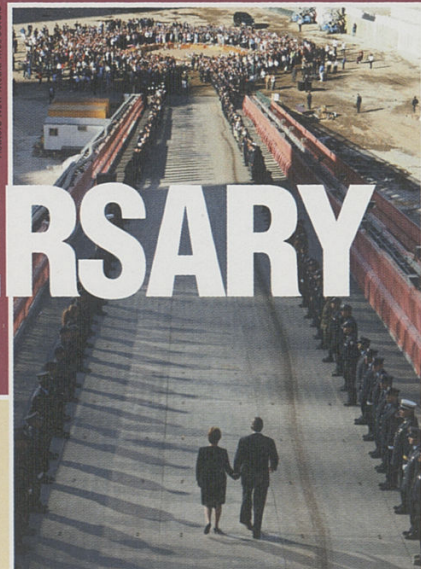


9/11 ANNIVERSARY

Philomena Gorenflo/US Navy Photo/AP/Wide World Photos



Reuters New Media Inc./Corbis



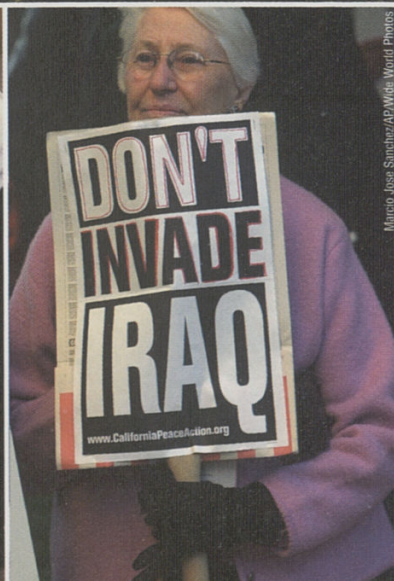
▶ Throughout 2002, Americans search for ways to recover and rebuild from September 11. On the one-year anniversary, survivors, families and friends gather at all three sites to commemorate the lives lost.

Win McNamee/Reuters/Landov

Reed Saxon/AP/Wide World Photos



David J. Phillip/AP/Wide World Photos



Marco Jose Sanchez/AP/Wide World Photos

◀ Federal employees from the Transportation Security Administration begin screening all checked baggage and random passengers at airports.

◀ The possibility of the United States waging war against Iraq meets disapproval both at home and abroad.

▶ The U.S. Senate passes a resolution condemning a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in schools is unconstitutional.

