

## September 11, 2001

### Press Conference on East Front

Personal memories of the press conference at the Capitol on the evening of September 11th.

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*Interview recorded June 17, 2011*

The Members were on the steps, and so there was a news conference right on the steps of the Capitol. Denny Hastert and Tom Daschle spoke, and it, it wasn't a news conference because I don't remember anybody asking questions. It was them making statements. It's kind of interesting, now that I think about it, I don't remember us asking any questions, but Hastert spoke, Denny Hastert spoke, Speaker of the House, Tom Daschle, who was then Senate Majority Leader, spoke, and I remember Hastert specifically mentioning that, you know, we're all in this together, and I remember Daschle making the comment, and I think it's the first time we heard this, that the House and Senate would be in session tomorrow, meaning Wednesday, and that was big news because there was quite a bit of discussion going on as to what the official congressional reaction should be. Should they close down? But they decided to stay in session, as a signal to the American people that, you know, life goes on, and we're not going to rest, because the business, basically were resolutions condemning the, the acts of terrorism. So, we learned that. And so you, you started getting the sense, from that news conference, with these hundred Members, or so, that we were going to get through this. We had no idea if Wednesday was going to be a, bring a new round of attacks, or not, but you, you sort of got the sense that through all the chaos, and police sirens of the day, and the running around, and run for your life, that there was some sense of order, and there's the congressional leadership, and the Members of Congress, and we're going to live to fight another day.