

September 11th is on the minds of all Americans these days. We see replays of the disasters, interviews with survivors, rescue personnel, and pictures of victims and their families in happier times. Again there is a national expression of grief and sympathy. There are memorials erected and candle light ceremonies to honor those whose lives were sacrificed and to remind the public of the threat to our lives that exists. And there is a beginning of healing of the nation and of those loved ones who suffered losses that change their lives forever. Loved ones speak of the comfort they feel because of the public recognition of their loss.

This time is especially painful for another group of Americans whose loved ones' lives have been sacrificed in the interest of protecting the public. But for these there has been no public recognition, no public presentation of pictures of them and their families in happier times, no memorials erected, no candle light ceremonies, no public acknowledgement of the grief suffered by their families and friends. Those whose lives were sacrificed were the innocent victims of police chases, chases that were initiated in police duty to protect the public.

I do not write questioning the rightness or wrongness of police chases, or how the police duty to protect the public can be carried out without endangering the very public they are dedicated to protect. I write on behalf of the innocent victims and their families. After a few days of sensational stories and pictures of the horrendously mutilated cars in which innocent victims died, these victims are forgotten until the scenario is played again. There are no public presentations of the victims and their families in happier times, no public memorials though such memorials would not only honor the victims but also remind the public of a real threat to innocent lives. Loved ones and friends suffer their grief alone, and their grief is intensified because there is no recognition of their sacrifice for the public good.
