The city of New York has many different figures, events and movements that have left a huge impact on its name. One event in particular is September 11th, 2001. This is by far one of the most significant events in New York City history being remembered as one of the most tragic to this day. As you may know, September 11th, 2001 or as many say 9/11, was one of the worst days in the city’s history that left a devastating effect on it. The World Trade Center, which was composed of the twin towers, was attacked by Islamic terrorists. Many lives were taken on that day and the city was left in a state of complete shock.

 Before September 11th, 2001 New York City was like any other city of its kind. Many people filled the streets, fear of something happening to the city was not even a thought and everyone was just living their lives. All of the basic city lifestyle changed in a matter of a few hours on a Tuesday morning in September 2001. Two commercial airline flights were hijacked and later crashed into each of the twin tower buildings. (62) On a side note, two other planes were hijacked as well, in which one hit the Pentagon and the other was taken down into an empty field. New York City was hit the hardest out of these hijackings and within minutes, total chaos erupted in the city. When you are just starting your usual Tuesday morning and all of sudden you hear an explosion and look up to debris falling and the twin towers on fire, the basic instinct is to panic. People were running for their lives because no one has ever seen something like this before. It was such a traumatic moment that the only thing to really do was run to safety. As many were running to safety and to seek shelter from the debris, New York Cities finest and bravest were doing the opposite. They were heading to the twin towers to do what they do best, help others. As read in the book *Running Toward Danger: Stories behind the breaking news of 9/11*, one reporter tells how sad it really was being a part of the media during this horrible time. Marty Glembotzky states, “I had to go to St. Vincent’s and hang out with the people who were waiting for their loved ones with pictures. You know their loved ones are dead but they are acting like they are going to come back. I was trying to portray the images properly, yet I was suffering emotionally. It was a brutal story to report.”(246) This shows the hardships already occurring on the first day the attacks happened and how rough it is for not only those who were directly affected, but those of the media sharing their stories. Marty says at one point he would pretend he was shooting because he started to shut down and couldn’t take the emotional hardship of this event. By reading that I got the chills because it is a first hand story that really goes into detail how brutal this attack was to the city of New York and the people residing within it.

Almost 3,000 people were killed that morning in New York City. It was also the worst attack in history on American soil. On September 11th, 2001 so many lives were taken and many left hurt and injured but the pain still persists to this day twelve years down the road. Not a day goes by that people do not remember what happened that morning and many even remember what they were doing when it occurred. I personally was in 4th grade and the teachers turned on the radio and had no idea what was going on. The one thing I remember most is seeing a friends dad (a NYC firefighter) come up to the school to tell his kids that he needed to go help others and will not be home for a few days. It shows that New York City and its surrounding towns were affected as well. According to the New York Times, 9/11 affected the city economically as well as emotionally. Over 100,000 jobs were lost and billions of dollars as well. Billions of dollars was also spent in the aide to find survivors and help the injured. Every year more and more money is spent in the repairing of this event but it shows the strength of New York City after it was hit hard with a tragedy.

 To this day, the fear of another attack happening haunts everyone in New York City. Just thinking that fifteen years ago not a thought of an attack was in our minds and everyone lived their lives. You could go on a plane, go work on the highest floor of your building and not have anything to worry about. That all changed for New York City because of one event that touched so many lives. New York City alone will always be remembered for this horrible tragedy but it also left an effect on the nation as a whole. The fact that planes were hijacked leaves many people nervous to fly now. As I stated earlier, not a thought of this happening was in the minds of people many years ago but ever since 9/11 it is the only thing one can think about when it comes to planes and buildings. It was a very sad day for the City of New York but this event brought everyone together. People were helping others and risking their own lives to save other lives. The police and firefighters as well as first responders and the average citizen pushed away their safety to help others in need. Many brave people were killed that morning by saving others lives but losing theirs. Every year, we take a few minutes out of our day to honor those who passed in that tragic event. As I am a volunteer firefighter, I personally attend a memorial service where we salute pieces of the twin towers and all of those who passed on this tragedy. That is the least we can do to show our support and to show companionship and respect to all of those affected by September 11th. New York City today is basically back to normal. Ground zero, which was the name given to the attack site, has new towers known as the Freedom Towers almost fully built. All damage has been fixed and the restoration process is near complete. There is still one problem that is now affecting the lives of many New Yorkers which is health concerns. The debris and harmful substances breathed in by those risking their lives is now causing major health problems. Post-traumatic stress disorder is another health issue that seems to be taking a toll on many people. Even though this event happened so many years ago, it is still with us to this day making it such a horrible event in the history of New York City.

 In all, there may be many people or movements and events that have an effect the life of New York City but the attacks on September 11th, 2001 seems to have the biggest impact. So many people were affected from this event and still to this day are haunted by it. We will never forget this awful time that came about in New York City and we will always honor those who passed and those who made the ultimate sacrifice on that horrible morning.

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