

Remarks by Consul General Mary Ellen Countryman

“First, I would like to thank the Mayor of Pompei, Pietro Amitrano, and the organizers of this ceremony. It is a pleasure to greet the other civilian, military, and religious authorities here today, and all the citizens of Pompei. I am moved by the solidarity you have expressed. It is an honor for me to be here in Pompei to commemorate with you the anniversary of the tragic attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. Initiatives like today maintain the memory of all the victims of attacks that many countries and many peoples have suffered in recent years.

The dramatic attacks sixteen years ago were against not only the United States or Americans, but all humanity. Today our common commitment to the struggle against intolerance and violence must continue, so that the legacy of September 11 won't be the fear of terrorism but the strength of hope, which will make peace a concrete project, together with the courage of all of us. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that”. Thank you Pompei, City of Peace (and Love), for this moment of collective reflection.”