



Resiliency is the ability to overcome challenges of all kinds—trauma, tragedy, personal crises, plain ‘ole’ life problems—and bounce back stronger, wiser, and more personally powerful.

- Nan Henderson, M.S.W., PhD

Meet Today’s Covid-19 Challenges with Lessons from 9/11 Heroes

Resiliency helps us not simply endure but prevail. The “Reclaiming the Sky” Resiliency Essay Competition conducted by the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham (starting early 2021) gives today’s airport and airline employees, as well as aviation college and high school students (some of whom were not yet born on 9/11), a chance to tell how they can apply lessons of courage from the heroism of the 9/11 generation to help them prevail against Covid-19 and move forward with their lives.

“*Reclaiming the Sky*,” by Tom Murphy, tells the story of a group of aviation employees in Boston, NY and Washington, DC and EWR/Newark, NJ, who came to work on the morning of September 11, 2001 expecting a normal day. Instead, they found themselves in the middle of an attack on America, one in which the aviation industry was used as the means. Despite great personal losses, including losing family and friends, they responded with courage that day and in the weeks and months that followed.

THE ESSAY QUESTION

(500-700 words)

How have lessons you learned from reading about the acts of courage and resiliency shown by aviation employees profiled in “*Reclaiming the Sky*” helped you meet challenges in your life you have experienced as a result of today’s Covid-19 crisis?

Covid-19 is a different kind of tragedy, but one with a devastating impact. The courage shown by the 9/11 generation can be an inspiration to help today’s generation rebound from Covid-19 and find the strength to rise up in the face of personal and professional challenges - to move forward after the covid virus crisis.

See Full Details at www.ReclaimingTheSky.com

"RECLAIMING THE SKY" RESILIENCY ESSAY COMPETITION

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11



ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

- 1 Airport Employees
- 2 Airline Flight Attendants and Pilots
- 3 Aviation College Students
- 4 Aviation High School Students
- 5 General High School Students

AWARDS/PRIZES

The Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association has been a sponsor of our Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham programs for many years. We are working with the association to enlist a group of Miami hotels to provide "guest stays" for essay winners.

We'll work also with our airline partners to provide transportation to Miami.

In addition, we'll provide \$250 spending money awards to the winners.

Full details on the prizes will be announced at the program kick off in early 2021.

Winners will be announced in September, 2021, as part of the 20th Anniversary Commemoration of 9/11.

OUR JUDGES

We are excited that a distinguished group of aviation employees, including several who were profiled in "Reclaiming the Sky" and others who are central to the story, have agreed to serve as judges for the Resiliency Essay Competition.



The panel will be led by **Virginia Buckingham**, who as Executive Director of Massport on 9/11 was head of Logan Airport in Boston that day.

Read more about the judges at www.ReclaimingTheSky.com.

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“RECLAIMING THE SKY”
RESILIENCY
ESSAY COMPETITION
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

BOOK TESTIMONIALS

Soon after I started reading “*Reclaiming the Sky*,” I realized this was a story about the power of community and the power of the group. It was the mixture of emotions and discovery that absorbed me until I finished the last page. It was each one of the airport workers, and all of them at the same time, who contributed their stories to the book. The author, Tom Murphy, was the conduit through which we hear them. At the beginning, he didn’t know what he was seeking. He began a personal journey to try to make sense of what happened. Along the way, he encountered wonderful people - beautiful human beings - who harnessed their courage and called up their drive to move forward. He learned so much and found that those he spoke with had much to teach us.

Milagros Teran

Northern Virginia Family Services - The Book Review Corner

“I covered the awful World Trade Center attacks on 9/11 and haven’t been on a plane since. But after reading Tom Murphy’s beautifully written, and powerfully told tale of the daily courage of those who keep America airborne, I want to run for the boarding gate. “*Reclaiming the Sky*” is a compelling, economical, and important book about those unsung men and women who have the right stuff in a dark time.”

Denis Hamill

Columnist, NY Daily News. Author of “Fork in the Road”

I am a Sergeant First Class in the Army. My job is a Flight Engineer on the Chinook Helicopter and I am a college student at Embry-Riddle. I read this book as part of a college course in Aviation Management. I have experienced multiple tragedies with fellow aviators and have a not so easy time dealing with the loses of my colleagues, friends, and brothers. The message in this book is one of valor, courage, and patriotism. I found motivation and education on how to continue on and never forget the sacrifices of my brothers. I am happy this book was mandatory reading for my class because I would not have been turned on to it otherwise. I will recommend this book to my co-workers and family so they can share in its stories of those who never allowed us to falter in the face of cowards. Evil does exist in the world but we never allow them to win.

John C.

Former Army Sgt. and at the time of his writing this, an aviation student.

See Full Details at www.ReclaimingTheSky.com