

Love Survives Ashes

We are humans, it is in our nature to love and comfort those closest to us in our greatest times of need. It is in the darkness, when the world falls to pieces at our feet that we are suddenly not only human but a community whose resilience will allow us to overcome any tragedy. On April 19, 1995, the lives of Oklahoma City natives and Americans across the country would never be the same. At 9:02 a.m. deafening sounds rang out across the city, followed by ashes and cries that sadly meant 168 souls were taken from this earth, 19 of which were children. A Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City was bombed. Although these lives were taken before their time, their souls shall never be forgotten. The lessons we learned from their death continue to live on in every single one of us. This tragedy showed how people rallied to the aid of their neighbor in need and banded together to overcome the sudden darkness and pain caused by this horrific event.

The Citizens of Oklahoma City and people across the United States of America all felt the overwhelming pain of this tragedy. It was a pain that struck deep, as a fellow brother turned on his country and fellow citizens. Tragedies like these have an amazing ability to turn two strangers into brothers and sisters in grief. Instead of being defeated and letting evil win, the Oklahoma community banded together. In the moments after this life-altering event people were quick to soothe their fellow neighbors, feed the hungry, help the injured, and support the first responders, all of which is evident in the prompt video. In moments of disaster, it is easy to believe that the bad has overpowered the good, but this disaster proved that this is not true. At its center, the human race is good and that good can overcome anything.

Despite the darkness, pain, and hate that this bombing caused, surprisingly something beautiful came out of it, which was the unification of the community. As stated by Victor Chaves in the prompt video, "You and I may not know each other, but in the time of need we would help each other. That is what Oklahoma is like, we are a loving Community". The one constant that could not be destroyed was love. Past grudges and enemies were soon to become obsolete as the overarching need for love and comfort broke through all of the hate.

Throughout history from before the Oklahoma City Bombing till now, humans have this amazing ability to find love and hope in every situation we are put in. From 9/11 to the Pandemic, we have witnessed humans banding together and supporting one another in many ways: shelter, supplies, clothes, food, and even a shoulder to cry on. There is a light that lives inside most of us, if not every single one of us, it is the hope that we shall overcome every atrocity. In these dark moments, we are reminded of how to love and care for one another. It is a common fact that light overcomes darkness, but it is so important to be reminded of this by witnessing community amid these dark and painful moments.

Today we are reminded of how the community banded together and found inner strength as well as strength in one another. These values are ingrained into the next generation and will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of everyone who witnessed and lived through the Oklahoma Bombing. Although this act of terrorism was something that should have never happened, it taught us how to love and support one another. It was that dark day that gave us the strength and knowledge to overcome the painful moments since then and the ones that are yet to come.