

Honorable Mention

9th-10th Grade

23rd Annual Student Essay Contest | Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

Coming Together

In tragedy it is important to come together, and remember those who have gone on. During the Murrah Building Bombing, the people of Oklahoma City exemplified the Oklahoma spirit. They put aside all that would separate and stood together to give aid to those afflicted by the tragedy that was this sad day. Their actions can be portrayed in words by the quote "Every possible need was being filled by folks in the area just pitching in. Even though we all have our differences, at least we can come together as one...".

The explosion occurred around the time of 9:02 A.M. on the date of April 1995. One hundred and sixty eight people were lost that day including nineteen children. A truck containing a mixture of diesel fuel and plant fertilizer, exploded in front of the Murrah Building. Timothy McVeigh was tried and convicted of bombing a federal building; his sentence was that of death. Even though many will remember the sadness of that day will be remembered forever, with all hope the goodness of the people that stood up that day will shine through.

The Oklahoma people after the attack came together and provided aid throughout the city. They provided food for the responders that were responding to the scene and joined in the efforts to rescue those still under the rubble. Others gave blood to help bolster the reserves of the hospitals in the area. These people showed that you do not necessarily have to be a professional to help people.

Those today should take inspiration from those who stepped up and took initiative in the case of the tragedy that was the Murrah Building Bombing. The actions of those who volunteered that day should influence our decisions even today. By using the ideology of self sacrifice, which the people of Oklahoma City showed, for the good of those in need; then the world would be a much kinder place. These events such as: terrorist attacks, wildfires, and other mass tragedies are sure to happen again, meaning that we the people of the state of Oklahoma need to be ready to stand up and provide aid to those in need. With the fires in the panhandle and school shootings on the rise, we need to band together and bolster those being affected by these such calamities to ensure the future of this great state.

I lost my mother when I was thirteen, this was a trying time for me and my family. Our community rallied together to support us; they dropped everything to come and comfort us in this sensitive time. They showed that the unification of the people of a community was, and is one of the most important values of human nature. Both my community, and those involved in the tragedy that was the Murrah Building Bombing.

Those who died that day will always be remembered. Those who survived will remember the bravery and sacrifice of their peers, who showed true Oklahoma spirit in their actions their day, for all of the days that they will live. We the people of today should look back to the actions of the Oklahoma City residents and adopt the selflessness that they exhibited in their actions.