



ONE AMERICA

*As the soot and dirt and ash rained down,
We became one color.
As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning building
We became one class.*

*As we lit candles of waiting and hope
We became one generation.
As the firefighters and police officers fought their way into the inferno
We became one gender.*

*As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength,
We became one faith.
As we whispered or shouted words of encouragement,
We spoke one language.*

*As we gave our blood in lines a mile long,
We became one body.
As we mourned together the great loss
We became one family.*

*As we cried tears of grief and loss
We became one soul.
As we retell with pride of the sacrifice of heroes
We become one people.*

*We are
One color
One class
One generation
One gender
One faith
One language
One body
One family
One soul
One people.*

*God bless you!
Max Cleland*

***We are The Power of One.
We are United.
We are America.***

I am happy to share with you this patriotic poem that a Georgia constituent forwarded to me via the internet. In the wake of the tragedies on September 11, 2001 it has come to mean a great deal to me during these trying times as a source of both inspiration and hope. While I do not know the identity of the author, these words capture the spirit of our nation. I hope it touches you as it has me. Additional copies can be printed from my website: <http://cleland.senate.gov>.

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