

My Monday Memo

September 12, 2022

Adventures in the PNW

Issue 120

Today is... September 12th

National Video Games Day

On this day in 1992...

NASA astronaut [Mae Jemison](#) becomes the first black woman in space, aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavor*. Jemison logged 190 hours, 30 minutes, 23 seconds in space and orbited the earth 127 times.

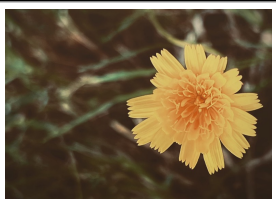
Quote of the Week

"It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult."

- Queen Elizabeth II

RIP, Queen Elizabeth II
04/21/1926 - 09/08/2022

MIRA'S PHOTO OF THE WEEK



ONE GOOD FACT

One Good Fact is a fun section on [Britannica.com](#). Enjoy these few facts.

- 1- The smell associated with rainfall is called *petrichor*; the moisture causes bacteria in dry earth to release a molecule that human noses are very sensitive to.
- 2- Centuries ago, people in Southeast Asia developed a fermented fish sauce called *ketchup*. British traders brought the sauce to England, where variations were made using ingredients like mushrooms and walnuts, until tomato prevailed in the 19th century.
- 3- CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, has its own Starbucks. For security reasons, baristas do not take customer names.

Did you find it?

Merriam-Webster's Word of the Day
September 11, 2022

Substantive

Substantive means "important, real, or meaningful." It can also be used to describe something, such as an argument, that is supported by facts or logic.

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

By Rachel Brandes

On Sunday, September 11th, 2022, which marks the 21st anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, a remembrance ceremony was held in Rachel's neighborhood in University Place (UP), Washington. The West Pierce Fire & Rescue station is located just across the street from Rachel's apartment building. Rachel passes by the fire station and their 9/11 Reflection Park on her daily walks. During her initial weeks of recovery from surgery, she spent a good amount of time visiting the Reflection Park. Prior to this she had seen the statue but would pass by quickly and had never really taken the time to see what the Reflection Park encompassed. Once she took the time to really look, the display was *substantive*.

The most noticeable of all displays is the statue of the fireman kneeling in front of what is meant to be the World Trade Center towers. In the center of the towers is a steel beam from the New York City twin towers on display. The placement of the steel beam is said to signify the strength and perseverance of the United States following the attacks. Below that is a design in the shape of the Pentagon surrounded by the firefighter symbol. There are benches that face the statue and list the names of all the fire fighters that lost their lives during the attacks. Each year on the anniversary, residents place flowers at the base of the statue to pay their respects to the lives lost on September 11, 2001.



Also at the 9/11 Reflection Park is a reflection wall that has water always running into a pool of red, white, and blue chips. There are 403 grooves on this wall; each groove represents a first responder who lost their life during the 9/11 attacks. There is a ladder wall with plaques on the interior of the design that list the names and ranks of the Police Officers who lost their lives that day. There is a Flag of Honor that hangs within the ladder wall area that lists the names of all who lost their lives during not only the September 11, 2001 attacks, but also the February 26, 1993 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center.

During Sunday's ceremony there were short and sweet speeches by the West Pierce Fire Chief, a high-ranking member of the Air Force, and the University

Place mayor. The ceremony lasted less than 30 minutes, which was ideal and allowed time for attendees to visit with each other and the first responders in attendance.

Rachel was happy to run into an old friend when she initially arrived at the event, Jackie. Jackie and Rachel met at the YMCA in 2019 in a Zumba dance class. Due to the pandemic, Rachel hadn't seen Jackie since August of 2021 when they last got together for coffee, so she was excited to see her there. Jackie's son, Norm, is an Assistant Fire Chief at the UP station. Rachel had the opportunity to meet Norm after the ceremony.

While she was taking photographs after the event, Rachel asked a group of firemen to pose for a photo, which they did with enthusiasm. Two of the firemen, Dave and Matt, chatted with Rachel and even invited her to join the crew for breakfast later once the event had concluded. While this was a generous offer and having breakfast with a bunch of firemen would be a treat, she had to decline due to a New England Patriots football game that would begin at 10:00 A.M. Maybe she will get that offer again another time.

The ceremony was a good reminder of how very lucky we are for our freedom and the life afforded to us in the United States. It was also a good reminder of that tragic day in 2001 that changed more lives than can be counted. Until next time, remember the past but live in the present, and be well.

