



HONOR THEM ALL  
MIDNIGHT HOUR



I was asked how I came up with the idea for this song. Actually, it was not planned and was very spontaneous. I was sitting in rush hour traffic on my way to work one morning several months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The news report came on the radio and the reporter was talking about the debates and arguments going on over what kind of memorial should be built and how the names should be listed. Some people thought Firefighters should be listed separately or have a special marking next to their names. But then what about the Police Officers, EMS / EMT personnel, Port Authority Police, Court Officers, and other Law Enforcement or Civil Service Workers. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. How do you differentiate the loss of one life against another based on profession? It just seemed so absurd to me. If you are going to honor any one of them, you have to "honor them all" equally.

There was also the question of the size, shape, and location of the memorial. This started me thinking about why we build memorials in the first place. It seems to me that people think that by erecting a memorial, they have fulfilled their responsibility in coping with a specific event. Those lost will not be forgotten because their names are on the monument. I don't think so. "Their legacy is more than just names on a wall". Though names on a memorial may last for thousands of years, with the passage of time we tend to forget that every one of those names was a person. A person with a life, responsibilities, a family, a purpose. For many lost that tragic day, it was just the performance of their routine daily duties that put them in that particular place at that particular point in time.

I understand there were many heroes that day. From the Firefighters and other Civil Service personnel who were rushing into burning buildings while everyone else was trying to get out, to the civilians aboard Flight 93 who resisted the terrorists. And, of course all the rescue workers who had to deal with the aftermath.

Then it occurred to me that we have always had heroes. We call them Veterans. This country was founded by heroes willing to take a stand for the cause of freedom. Many were just regular people like the Minutemen who worked their farms with their muskets close at hand. Ready and willing to leave their homes to answer the call. They were our first Veterans. Speaking of Veterans, where would we be if not for our Veterans. Throughout our history, we have been fortunate enough to have people willing to step up and serve our country. "Whenever freedom was challenged, we rose to meet the call". Veterans! And where do we get Veterans? Well, Before they became Veterans, they were just ordinary citizens with one very special quality. They were willing to "bear the burden" and "pay the price" They knew that freedom and liberty must be protected at any cost. To this day, we still have people who are willing to take on the enormous challenge of protecting, preserving, and promoting freedom around the world. Our future Veterans. We should acknowledge that as long as we have people willing to make these sacrifices, there will always be an America. We should also know that the only way there can be a safe world is if we have a world that lives in freedom. And for all those in the past, present, and future who commit themselves to the glorious cause of freedom, we must always remember to "honor them all".

*Nicky Castoro*  
2005



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MIDNIGHT HOUR

Words and music by: Nicky Castoro

Produced by: Midnight Hour and Henry Falco

MIDNIGHT HOUR is:

Nicky Castoro: Drums / lead vocal

John Conti: Rhythm guitars / vocal harmonies

Al Russo: Keyboards, bass / vocal harmonies

Rick Wexler: Lead guitar

Additional background vocals: Henry Falco

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