

## TIME FOR NEW YEARS' RESOLUTIONS

In the spirit of childhood training (1930's, that is), I have spent most of these last days of 2001 in reflection of the events of the year and am now equipped to make constructive Resolutions for the New Year.

In the first 8-1/3 months of 2001, Americans were immersed in snivelling over rising gas prices and hanging on the presidential zip, wallowing in the daily Condit gossip, laughing at the syntax-challenged new President and basking in our complacent lives.

September 11th changed all that.....discarded was the Clinton dribble, Condit got put on the back burner, gas prices dropped to a buck un-noticed and Americans learned exotic names such as, al-Qaida, Taliban, Tora Bora and Osama bin Laden. They also leaned the capitol of Afghanistan...Kabul. Todd Beamer gave new meaning to the words, "Let's Roll".

Beamer, a 32-yr old businessman, Sunday school teacher and passenger aboard United Flite 93 was one of four passengers busy on cell phones. He was reporting the hijacking in process and proclaiming that they were going to try to do "something" about it. His last transmitted words were "Let's roll". Shortly afterward, the plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania thus thwarting any more destruction of Federal landmarks.

In the first 8-1/3 months of the year in Trinidad, we spent arguing over Political parties, complaining of the airport rip-off debacle, what house to give Ato Bolden, crying foul over Gypsy running for a political office, judging Customs and Immigration officers, and crying over the ever-rising cost of a Carib. Sept. 11th changed all that, too.

We've all survived a difficult year.....one we'll never forget. A year fraught with economic recession, frustration, tragedy and war. But, the last 3-2/3 months created a mode of change....of patriotic rebirth, of lessons learned and made us think about "what's truly important".

We were reminded about how dear our family and friends are...and how meaningful they make our lives. We learned that we should be thankful for the time we have together and for our many blessings. AND, we learned that UNITED, we are strong.

Let's take the 2001 lessons into the New Year and strive to make it the best year ever. All together, all cultures and languages, we CAN make 2002  
A year of peace and goodwill,  
A year of prosperity and growth,  
A year of healing and hope.

"Let's Roll" Friends

Lady Charli