

*If I should die and leave you here awhile,  
Be not like others, sore undone, who keep  
Long vigils by silent dust, and weep.  
For my sake, turn again to life and smile,  
Nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do  
Something to comfort weaker hearts than thine.  
Complete these dear unfinished tasks of mine  
And I perchance may therein comfort you!*

A. PRICE HUGHES

It has been very difficult for me to put together the right words to comfort all of you here today. In all my days I never imagined that I could be tested by such hideous events as those witnessed on September 11th. The shock and anguish of such a cowardly act has left us feeling wronged and angry. We have been deprived of our colleagues our friends and our family members. We cling to the idea of going to a better place and keeping people alive in our hearts. These people meant the world to us.

Through this most extraordinary trial, I have seen the tough reduced to seemingly endless tears and the mild-mannered incited to perform selfless heroic tasks. I have had sympathy from strangers and estrangement from people I know well for the want of knowing what to say. We are all confronting this tremendous loss in our own way the only way we can. Some of us are confused some are angry and some are unsure. Yet at the same time I have seen a remarkable coming together to join forces and carry on for this is what our colleagues would have wanted and what they would have done for us.

I am certain that this attitude is the key to the beginning of the healing process. We must draw strength from each other from our shared understanding of what we have lost and from our combined memories of these loved ones and their hopes and ambitions. We must lean on this tragic bond and build the kind of better future they would have wanted together.

The people of the Cantor Fitzgerald companies are a family. We loved each other. I implore all of us here today to never take love for granted and to embrace each other through this most difficult time. May they rest in peace.