



Alec Head

Parent

***Interviewed by Amelia Tavarneri
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Alec Head and Marguerite Webb have been married and living in Westport for over 25 years. In 2001, they had one child at Duke University, while their younger son Ben was at Staples. Alec is a recording engineer and works in Fairfield County. On the morning of September 11, 2001, Alec was at home. His wife Marguerite had boarded a plane early that morning.

Where were you on September 11, 2001 and what happened?

On 9/11, I was spending that day at home. I remember turning on the TV and seeing it all unfold. Once I turned on the TV that morning, I did not turn it off; I was constantly watching it. A little while later, I received a call from Marguerite, and she said she was safe on ground. I was relieved when I heard from her, yet I was still concerned about the country. However, I was not concerned about my sons because I knew that the news would be passed around between kids and they would learn and understand what is going on.

What did you know about terrorism before 911 and how did that change?

Before 9/11, I knew about minor instances. One thing was the USS Cole which Al- Qaeda instigated. There was also the Oklahoma bombing, and a few other instances. But before 9/11, the bombing in the underground parking garage of the Twin Towers was probably the worst we had experienced up until 9/11.

What changes did you experience?

For us, we saw mainly a huge difference in security. Landmark locations and airports had security in places I had never seen before. I remember seeing barriers near important buildings to prevent people from getting close enough to attack it. Everyone was extremely nervous and I could see it.

What were some of the thoughts you were thinking during and after the tragedy?

I was in shock. I never thought that anything like this could ever happen. I was so shaken that day and I was for months to come. Before the attacks, I felt secure, and afterwards there was this overwhelming feeling that my family, Staples, and the whole country was vulnerable.

How did you talk to your kids about 911?

Both of our children were old enough to be able to understand what happened. So we did not really have to explain what happened to them. More than anything, it was a blur of watching the news and learning new information.

How did Staples and the Town of Westport respond?

Staples and the town of Westport did a wonderful job. Westport was mainly concerned about dirty bombs, so the Westport-Weston health district gave out injections to make everyone feel safer. These injections were distributed to us to prevent nuclear radiation from going to a person's vital organs and instead go to what is injected.

Did it change your perspective of Staples and the Town of Westport?

No, my perspective did not change. Westport is a great community, and it did an incredible job to make us feel very safe even though we were vulnerable. I think it was not just Staples and Westport that did a great job, it was all over America and really all over the world. However I think Westport and Staples did an exceptionally well job because that is what we knew and experienced.