

Teresa N., Anita F. (2016) Statue or Statement? Racial Tensions in A 9/11 Memorial. In Chen, Y.-W., & Gonzalez, A. (Eds.), *Our Voices: Essay in Culture, Ethnicity and Communication* (6th ed.) (pp. 112-115). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

*Surviving, Coming Together and Coming Apart*, an enormous joist destroyed across the window of Susan's and David's art piece in the World Trade Center. "The married couple, confused and paralyzed with fear, said their goodbyes, crouched in a corner holding hands and accepted their fate. But on September 11, 2001, fate was kind to Susan and David, who were profoundly grateful simply to have survived. They, like the city itself, were worse for the wear but fundamentally intact (p. 112)." According to *Intercultural Communication in Context*, Martin and Nakayama (2018) described motivation. Motivation is "an individual component of intercultural communication competence, the desire to make a commitment in a relationship, to learn about the self and others to remain flexible. Sometimes people do not address delicate intercultural issues out of fear-fear of being isolated from friends and family members who may be prejudiced and not motivated themselves (Harris, Miller, & Trego, 2004). Individually, when we are not motivated to reach out across cultural divides, we suffer from distorted perception (we don't really know how individuals from other cultures may view us or a particular situation) and a lack of personal growth. On the societal level, when we are not motivated to embrace other cultures and other ways of thinking and behavior, our organizations suffer from a loss of productivity and human potential (not everyone gets the opportunity to contribute ideas; Kivel, 2011), (pp. 480-481)." Continuously with the article of *Statue or Statement? Racial Tensions in A 9/11 Memorial*: "On September 11, Americans were unified around one clear, simple task-survival. Heroism, patriotism and goodwill could be found every street, perhaps best encapsulated by the firefighters...during the first hours only survival was real... the initiating event impossible to fully comprehend. (p. 112)" *Background to the Issues* is a concept to develop

a statue in Brooklyn at the New York City Fire Department. “In working out the details of the statue, fire department officials... decided to employ artistic license and create a commemorative statue depicting three generic firefighters: one with characteristically white facial features, one with characteristically black features and one with characteristically Hispanic features (p.113).”

*Lesson Learned* described the impact of the statue: “this statue controversy represents the struggle of America today and in years to come-to determine priorities and a unified view of our national identity. (p.114)” However, the statue showed the heroics from different backgrounds who died with all the sacrifices to defend our country. According to *Intercultural Communication to Contexts*, Martin and Nakayama (2018) explained about *Becoming Interpersonal Allies*. “Intercultural alliances are bonds between individuals or groups across cultures characterized by a shared recognition of power and the impact of history and by an orientation of affirmation. (p.494)”

On September 11, 2001, it became a huge tragic moment for America. Many people lost their lives and a couple months later, they made an idea to develop an statue to represents firefighters who helped many people to save lives, therefore, they did not make it. They decided to make a statue as a symbol to represent their legacy.

References

Martin, J. N., & Nakayama, T. K. (2018). *Intercultural Communication in Contexts* (7th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.

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