

Will Jimeno

Port Authority of NY & NJ Police Detective, Retired

Will Jimeno was a police officer with the Port Authority of NY & NJ who survived the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001. He was buried under the rubble for 13 hours, but survived, along with fellow Port Authority officer Sergeant John McLoughlin.

Jimeno, a rookie cop assigned to the Port Authority Bus Terminal, saw the shadow of the airplane that seconds later hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. He rode to the WTC site with 20 other Port Authority police officers in a commandeered bus.

Jimeno and three other Port Authority officers, led by McLoughlin, were trapped under the concourse between the twin towers by the collapse of the South Tower.

Only Jimeno and McLoughlin survived; in total 37 PAPD officers were lost that day in the worst single-incident loss of police officers in US law enforcement history.

The two men were ultimately located and rescued after hours of exhaustive and dangerous efforts by NYPD Emergency Service crews. Both were severely injured and required months of hospitalization. Jimeno's entombment and rescue were portrayed in the 2006 Oliver Stone film World Trade Center by Michael Peña.

Since his ordeal and subsequent recovery, Will has become an inspiration to millions, sharing not only the horror of the day, but also the miraculous story of how "Faith, Hope and Love" carried him through the ordeal and through the many long days of recovery from massive injuries. His story of 13 hours of being buried alive and the sheer will to survive is a gripping and inspiring testimony.

Jimeno always wants people to remember these words by Edmund Burke, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

As Jimeno sees it, evil will never triumph.

