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Bush Honors Nations' Casualties in Attacks

BUSH from A5

working together, cooperation."

Earlier, at a Veterans Day breakfast at the Seventh Regiment Armory on the Upper East Side, Bush received a warm reception from both those at the podium and the audience. "I want you to know that this city, that didn't vote for you, is in love with you," Giuliani said in his remarks, turning to address the president seated behind him.

Bush returned the favor, saying that in the small town of Crawford, Texas, where his ranch is located, "there's a new household word down there — Rudy!" Bloomberg also lionized the outgoing mayor, saying he would be "a very tough act to follow."

The president drew a standing ovation when he told the audience of veterans, police officers and fire fighters that the al-Qaida terrorists and the Afghan Taliban regime "have made a serious mistake . . . and they will pay a serious price." He drew more applause when he introduced Arlene Howard of Hicksville, who on an earlier presidential visit to the city gave Bush the shield of her son, George Howard, a Port Authority police officer who died at the World Trade Center disaster.

"I didn't vote for him, but I think he is doing a great job," said one member of the audience, Jessica Cherry, 34, of Jamaica, Queens, a college basketball coach whose father is a Korean War Marine veteran. "He has held us together as a nation. It sounds corny to say it, but from sea to shining sea he's doing a great job."

Paul Siegert, 58, a Vietnam-era Navy veteran, also praised Bush and compared him favorably with his predecessor in the White House. "It's refreshing to listen to him speaking and know that one hundred percent of what he says is from the heart and truthful — as opposed to somebody else we know," he said.

Siegert, a lawyer from Staten Island, had his year-old son perched on his shoulder. The boy is named Tyler Cole Siegert – in tribute, the father said, to the Navy destroyer that was the target last year in Yemen of a bombing blamed by U.S. authorities on Osama bin Laden.

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