



Irvana K. Wilks, Mayor
Village of Mount Prospect
50 South Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Ten Years
By Irvana K. Wilks

Ten years of mourning the dead.
Ten years remembering the living.
Ten years yearning to understand.
Ten years of scars upon our land.

Ten years sifting bones from ash.
Ten years of reading names at the towers.
At the Pentagon. In a Pennsylvania field.
Ten years of scars upon our hearts.

Ten years defining our enemies.
Ten years of camouflage and desert boots.
Ten years of sons and daughters fighting
an amorphous, but necessary war.

Ten years returning heroes.
Ten years of caskets.
Ten years of winning.
Ten years of weeping.

Ten years of rabbis and ministers prayers.
Ten years of veterans who bring the flag.
Ten years of airline attendants and pilots
grieving the loss of their innocence.

Ten years of white-gloved firemen
ringing a bell for the brave who fell.
Ten years of policemen standing
as a bagpiper gives us Grace.

Ten years of Presidential proclamations.
Ten years of two mayor's meager words.
Ten years as writers and photographers
record our progress of healing.

Ten years of rebuilding the towers.
Ten years to sift through ashes of fear.
We seek that fragment of courage,
forged in fire and left by God for us to find.

*Written on the occasion of
September 11, 2011*