- ✓ In October, Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone dies in a plane crash along with his wife, daughter and five other victims
- Sparked by summer drought, wildfires—including one set accidentally by a forlorn forest ranger—tear across the western United States.
- A weakened economy repeatedly drives down interest rates and delivers retailers their worst holiday shopping season in decades.
- President Bush signs the Homeland Security Act, officially creating a Department of Homeland Security dedicated to preventing terrorist attacks.

Kevin Lamarque/Reuters/Landov/AFP Photo/Juan Barreto/Corbis







Ed Andress Skyly Midd World Photos

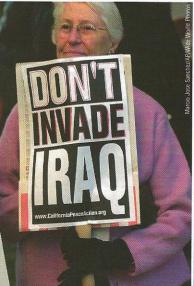




↑ Throughout 2002, Americans search for ways to recover and rebuild from September 11. On the one-year anniversary, survivors, families and friends gather at all three sites to commemorate the lives lost.

Reed Saxon/AP/Wide World Photos





Federal employees from the Transportation Security Administration begin screening all checked baggage and random passengers at airports.

Win McNamee/Reuters/Landov

- The possibility of the United States waging war against Iraq meets disapproval both at home and abroad.
- The U.S. Senate passes a resolution condemning a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in schools is unconstitutional

