






# 2001 Interactive Virtual Career Fair



Dallas / Fort Worth



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## Runners Pay Tribute to Sept. 11 Victims

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Updated:Oct 27, 2001 at 10:53PM

**DALLAS** — On Sept. 11, a small band of terrorists stopped a plane from completing its Boston to Los Angeles journey.

On Oct. 11, a larger and more determined group of Americans set out on a trip from Boston to Los Angeles to prove a point.

Those travelers made their way to North Texas Saturday on the Americans United Flag Across America run.

As they passed through Forney in Kaufman County, these breathless joggers could be heard singing "God Bless America," inspired by the American flag which is making the cross-country trek.

That flag accompanies this interchangeable crew of runners on a mission to honor the lives lost on Sept. 11 by completing the interrupted journey of American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to L.A.

"Two American Airlines pilots wanted to do something to basically show that we could get from Boston to LAX on foot, with the flag hopefully showing up on Veterans Day on the 11th," explained volunteer jogger Robert Baker.

As the flag made it past the halfway point in Texas, Kaufman County citizens gathered to show their appreciation and pride.

"I just think it's wonderful," said Susan McCurley. "We're just out here to support them and let them know we care for them and are behind them 100 percent. Go, America!"

The joggers are a collection of volunteers from all walks of life. American Airlines CEO Don Carty running with them. "It feels terrific to be with these people," he said. "They have done a spectacular job in just seven days. They've put together a run across the country, something like 4,000 people involved. It's unbelievable."

There was one scheduled pit stop in Dallas: the Texas Stampede rodeo at the new American Airlines Center.

Joe Luccioni who lost his firefighter son-in-law Michael in the World Trade Center collapse, carried the flag into the arena.

"I know Michael is with me right now," Luccioni said. "I can feel his hand on this flag. It's for him, it's all for him."

Based on the reception when Luccioni entered the arena, it is for anyone who bleeds red, white and blue.

The next person to carry the flag out of the arena and on to Irving was former Dallas Cowboys lineman Chad Hennings, one of the 1,400 volunteers involved in the Americans United Flag Across America project.

Runners hope to have the flag in Los Angeles by Nov. 11. They also hope to raise \$1 million dollars in for victims of the tragic events of Sept. 11.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Americans United Flag Across America](#)
- [Texas schedule](#)

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