

Anton Gunn, remembering his brother

Anton Gunn remembers the day his brother, Cherone Lewis Gunn, was killed aboard the Cole.
My name is Anton Gunn. My brother Cherone Gunn was killed aboard the USS Cole.

It was a Thursday morning. I can recount all of it. I got a call from my mother who said there was an explosion aboard the USS Cole. That was my brother's ship so I decided to go to the bank because I wasn't getting enough information via the Internet or via the telephone. I went to my local bank that had CNN playing on the television. I learned from the television that 13 people were missing and four were confirmed dead.

It was about an hour later, I was [still] standing in the bank. My phone rang and it was my dad. I answered him and said "Hello." I heard nothing but his screams and cries into the phone. He said, "They killed my son!" I collapsed right there in the lobby of the bank.

What was going through my mind is, "Why?" I mean we were at peace. This was before 9/11. This was before anybody in America knew who Osama Bin Laden or al-Qaeda was. Why would somebody kill my brother?

I was angry. I was hurt. I was in extreme pain because my brother and I were very close. I couldn't imagine that he was gone. I have so many fond memories of him. I wish I could hold him now. I wish I could touch him now. I wish I could be with him somehow. I know he is in a better place. I know he is smiling down on us and I love him.