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The Day That Sparked Change

In 1995, a great tragedy struck the state of Oklahoma. The largest terror attack in America that is only overshadowed by 9/11 happened right in our quaint state. On the fateful day of April 19, 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was bombed, killing countless innocent people. This event shook both Oklahoma and America to their cores, changing the foundation of security and Oklahoma as a whole. Gary Norman, a police chief in Oklahoma City, was one of these people affected by this occurrence.

Gary Norman is a true optimist, never looking down upon change and welcoming new ideas to the community. Even from the catastrophe of the Murrah Bombing, Gary Norman sees the positive aspects of the tragedy, effortlessly listing off the benefits that came from the incident. One example of this optimism is the change in response time for first responders and law enforcement. Through this tragedy, officers and other rescue workers have learned to work faster when responding to large crimes or destructive situations like tornados. Though the Murrah Bombing is a horrible event that should not have happened in the first place, the situation lit a spark for law enforcement and other agencies to change the way they respond to manmade or natural disasters. Furthermore, Gary Norman has told me that the agencies and various other law offices after the bombing opened up communication with each other, destroying the lack of information between cities. As Gary Norman was talking to me, I realized that one building full of people caused a cataclysm of action that brought the entire state of Oklahoma closer together.
This tragedy killed many people from different parts of Oklahoma. However, because these people were from different cities and towns, the individuals who lost their loved ones found solace in others’ mourning as they related to each other’s pain. The Oklahomans who have lost their loved ones in this bombing are in turn brought closer together through tragedy. This bond sprouting from the Murrah Bombing sealed the rifts between the various cities and towns in Oklahoma, bringing the state together as a community.

Gary Norman does not believe in looking back into the past to create change. He stands by looking forward and making decisions that benefit the modern aspect of Oklahoma. With the years that have gone by, new state representatives are being added to the government, each with their own individual ideas. These new ideas will bring forth changes that differ from the representatives’ predecessors. Gary Norman believes any change made to improve Oklahoma is positive changes in itself.

I believe that changes are necessary to move the advancement of values and ideas of a state along. Sometimes a large event such as the Murrah Bombing can create awareness of the weakness and problems of some aspects of our state. As I am a firm believer in optimism and positivity, I strive to see the advantages of bad situations. Through trial and error, calamity and comfort, advancements can be made and mistakes can be fixed. It is only through the contribution of people in the state of Oklahoma that we can genuinely begin to change Oklahoma for the better.

Just as Gary Norman believes there is no point in looking backward when you need answers for the future, I believe that both older and younger people need to work together to refine any aspects of Oklahoma. With the cooperation of all people, Oklahoma can become a
state that is influenced by all ages. Different viewpoints can revamp the standards that affect Oklahoma, especially when different age groups come together to change the principles that were set there.

Catastrophe can strike in a few seconds, and loved ones can be taken away in those moments. We must realize that the everyday people who we interact with could have been affected by the Murrah Bombing. With this in mind, awareness needs to be spread about the tragedies that have taken place in Oklahoma. We need to be conscious about the history of our state and never forget about the events that caused Oklahoma’s policies and values to become altered. From the ashes of devastation, the people of Oklahoma will continue to band together to rise and become a truly whole community.