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## Trump Marks One Year Since Assassination Attempt at Pennsylvania Rally

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One year after narrowly surviving an assassination attempt during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, President Donald Trump is marking the anniversary with a renewed sense of purpose and a quiet nod to resilience, choosing to attend the FIFA Club World Cup final in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, a close ally, told reporters that Trump has not forgotten the attack. “He’s still a fighter, rough and ready,” Graham said. “But he’s more appreciative of life, more attentive to his friends. It’s clear that moment stayed with him.”

The incident, which shook the nation and altered the course of the 2024 presidential election, occurred when a gunman opened fire from a rooftop near the rally site. A bullet grazed Trump's ear, while a 50-year-old volunteer firefighter was fatally shot in the crowd. The shooter, identified by the FBI as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, was quickly killed by Secret Service snipers.

Since that day in Butler, Trump's inner circle says he carries a more profound sense of mission. In a recent interview with his daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, on *Fox News*, the president recalled the chaotic moments after the shot rang out. "I didn't even know what was happening. I got hit, no question," Trump said. He credited a Secret Service sniper named David for stopping the threat in under five seconds. "He did a fantastic job. We got a little lucky, but he made it happen."

Despite extensive investigation, no motive or manifesto has been discovered, leaving many questions unanswered.

In the days following the attack, Trump appeared at the Republican National Convention with a bandaged ear and an unshaken stance, famously raising his fist and shouting, "Fight, fight, fight!" The moment was instantly iconic and now lives on through paintings and a bronze statue displayed in the White House and at his private golf resorts. According to insiders, Trump sees that day as a personal and political turning point.

## Lasting Impact

The wound still bothers him occasionally. "I get a throbbing in the ear every now and then," he said during a White House briefing. "But I knew the risks when I signed up for this. What I do is dangerous."

Susie Wiles, now Trump's White House chief of staff, was campaign manager at the time and stood beside him during the attack. Speaking on the Pod Force One podcast, she said, "He truly believes he was saved for a reason. There's more meaning now behind his words. When he says 'God bless America,' it comes from a deeper place."

Veteran strategist Roger Stone added that Trump has become more determined since the attempt. "He told me directly he believes he was spared by God to restore America's greatness," Stone said. Ralph Reed, chairman of the Faith and Freedom Coalition, echoed

that view. “How could it not change a person? He knows how close he came. People around him believe he was protected for something bigger.”

The FBI, which had to use DNA analysis to identify Crooks due to the lack of ID on his body, remains tight-lipped about any further developments. Crooks was a registered Republican, and 2024 would have marked his first opportunity to vote in a presidential election.

As the nation continues to debate security, division, and political violence, Trump’s survival story has taken on symbolic weight among his supporters. To them, that moment in Butler was not just about survival. It was about destiny.