

## *Argument at the Gate*

Dr. Denis Waitley is one of America's most respected authors, keynote lecturers and consultants on high performance in human achievement. In *The New Dynamics of Winning*, he writes about an incident that occurred in 1979.

"I was booked on a flight from Chicago to Los Angeles. I was on my way to a speaking engagement before going home for the weekend. I had to run for the plane, and became very upset when I saw the gate agent lock the door and then saw the mobile ramp pull away from the plane. I argued and begged and told her I had to be on that nonstop DC 10, Flight 191, to L.A., or I would miss my speech. The plane taxied away from the ramp and out toward the runway despite my protests. I stormed out of the boarding area and back to the ticket counter to register my complaint.

"Standing in line at the counter, about 20 minutes later, I heard the news that the plane had crashed on takeoff with no survivors. I left the ticket line, booked a room at the airport hotel, knelt down beside my bed in prayer, and tried to get some sleep. It's been (a lot of time) since then, but I still have my unvalidated ticket for Flight 191. I never turned it in to my travel agent for a refund. Instead, I tacked it on a bulletin board in my office at home as a silent reminder. About once a year, I get a little annoyed with some injustice in the world that has made me a victim. ... My wife, Susan, gently takes me by the hand to my bulletin board."

The crash of American Airlines Flight 191 on May 25, 1979, with 271 passengers and crew on board – in terms of all individuals killed – was the deadliest airplane incident on U.S. soil until the four deliberate crashes of the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Dr. Waitley's story helps place the importance of living in the right light. Life is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be enjoyed.

--Beecher Hunter