

A Decade Later ... SW Residents Remember Sept. 11

Written by Karen V. Contino



Orange County Fire Rescue Department. The Orange County Fire Rescue Department hosts a Sept. 11 tribute at the Orange County Convention Center from noon-1 p.m. on Sept. 10.

This is a memory that his writer will never forget. A 21-year-old journalism student

At my friend's dorm, we watched the TV in horror as the twin towers collapsed. I tried in vain to call my father.
"I was interviewing someone, and I saw people through my office window rushing by

with looks of shock on their face," said Dr. Phillips resident John Hoffman, who was in New York City's Financial District

"Outside our window, I could see hundreds of people covered in soot in what looked like a somber march

"I will never forget the days that followed," said Beth Elkholi of MetroWest, who lived in Queens, N.Y., in the days following

But in spite of the sadness and anger felt by many, this writer has never seen our country come together like this

"After 9/11, we had a common enemy, and everyone united in patriotic displays that I haven't seen before

As the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11 approaches, Southwest Orlando residents are preparing a number of events

On Sept. 11, West Orlando Baptist Church in Ocoee will host The Response, an early service at 8:30 a.m.

A Decade Later ... SW Residents Remember Sept. 11

Written by Karen V. Contino

"I'm hoping it will be a day to show unity for those in attendance," Barnett said.

For Barnett, a service to recognize the community's first responders and those serving in the military is essential.

"It is so important for the first responders to know the community knows the sacrifices they make as individuals," he said.

Local children also will take part in the services, as Barnett feels it is essential to teach them an appreciation for the service.

"It is important to have our children as a part of this," he said. "It's so important for them to see us honor our heroes."

The town of Windermere will hold a memorial service Sept. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Windermere Never Forget Memorial.

"Windermere will never forget," said Bruhn, who has invited all the local families of victims. "As long as I live, we will remember."

Bruhn also has chosen to make this a charitable event, and nonperishable food items will be collected for the Windermere Food Bank.

Also in attendance will be Windermere resident Jeff Cox, 17, an Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop No. 100.

"My brother is a firefighter," Cox said. "It could very well have been my brother running up those stairs if not for the steel."

It took Cox nine months of paperwork and phone calls to finally receive the steel, which had to be cleared from the site.

"I was overjoyed with the reaction I got from people," he said. "What this means to them is just incredible."

"I appreciate Eagle Scout Jeff Cox, the town of Windermere, and all the businesses and other donors who have supported this event."

The city of Winter Garden will host the 9/11 Week of Remembrance and Tribute from Sept. 5 through Sept. 11.

In 1998, Rein retired after 38 years as a Long Island police officer on Suffolk County Police Department's 100th Precinct.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Rein volunteered for three weeks with a federal Disaster Mortuary

Operational Response Team, helping to recover and identify victims' remains found in the wreckage.

"There were over 30 morgue trailers streaming the streets, and every one of them was stocked front to back with bodies," he said.

"In my whole life I have not seen such patriotism than I have in those times," he added. "As we rode in on the 9/11 Memorial Ride."

The Winter Garden City Hall entrance and commission chambers will display exhibits consisting of pictures and videos.

"The city commission chambers is a massive room," Rein said. "We will utilize the screens with a collection of photos and videos."

Rein also is planning a street-art mural that resembles the thousands of posters that were hung by families in the weeks following 9/11.

"One of the most memorable images is walking around New York in the week that followed 9/11, pushing a shopping cart full of supplies."

A Decade Later ... SW Residents Remember Sept. 11

Written by Karen V. Contino

The Winter Garden exhibit will be open Labor Day from 10 a.m.-2p.m., after which it will be open Tuesday

“The whole city will be a part of this tribute,” Rein said.

On Sept. 10, the Orange County Fire Rescue Department will host a tribute on the main stage of the Orange

“What happened on Sept. 11, 2001, was a personal wake-up call for me to do something that made a difference

Public Affairs Officer Courtney E. Franchio said the Orlando VA Medical Center plans to hold a short memorial

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4287 will fly its flag at half-staff and hold a ceremony at 11 a.m. on Sept. 11.

“Every time we have a function, we always remember our troops,” Pattelena said. “They are our defenders

The Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe will open its 2011-12 concert series September

First Presbyterian Church of Orlando will host a free service of music and prayer Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. During the

Some residents will choose to recognize the anniversary in a personal way, such as Lakes of Windermere

“I usually light my 9/11 candle and display my three friends’ Mass cards with my World Trade Center photo