

Local Memories of 09/11/01

Sitting in class in 8th grade. Coach Finley walked in & told us what happened then immediately wheeled in a tv. We sat & watched the news for the rest of the day. Everyone was crying & just heartbroken. That is a day I will never forget!!
- Sonja Murphy

unfolding in NYC. My mom picked me & my little sister up not too long after that & we all went home & watched the news & prayed for all the people involved. I'll never forget that day.
- Ashlee Brown Wolfe

I was in Mrs. Tanners choir class when the first plane hit. They just let us stay in there and watch the news.
- Nicole Houle

We where in Ft. Hood Texas. Watching the news getting ready for work when

the first plane hit the first tower. Thinking how could a plane hit this big building. When the second plane hit the second tower we all knew that we are under attack. It took 2 hours to get to work. We listened all day to the radio and praying.
- Petra Hess Wilson

I was at work at the time at the Arkla Gas nerve center in Little Rock and at the time had many friends in the military. So I was not only worried about friends and family. I was worried about

what would happen next.
- Carlton Robbins

I was home when the first plane hit and I didn't know what was going on. I got to work and then found out what was happening. We all had radios and TVs on. I had a panic feeling come over me and went and got my kids from school and went home. I was so scared to let them out of my sight for awhile. We watched and prayed.
- Robin Jackson

Survivor Stories

Special to the MDR

The following are brief firsthand accounts of the Ground Zero scene according to first responders and rescue workers who witnessed the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and who continue to live with the fallout of that fateful day.

Kevin Kelly: FDNY 9/11 Responder
A last-minute shift change put Kevin Kelly on duty with Engine 289/Tower Ladder 138 in Corona, Queens, on Sept. 11.

His team's first assignment was retrieving additional air cylinders for firefighters battling the fire and smoke. Kevin found a way to fit an additional 30 cylinders onto the rig before joining recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

He later spent months working amid the rubble, helping identify and document recovered remains. The experience eventually took Kevin to a dark place marked by anger, anxiety, depression and reliance on alcohol as he struggled with symptoms of PTSD.

After a counselor suggested a service dog, Kevin's wife brought home a Labrador puppy that his daughters named Tiller, after a type of fire truck. Tiller later graduated from Paws of War's service dog training program and learned to support Kevin physically and emotionally.

Kevin credits Tiller, along with the friendships and community he found through Paws of War, with helping him regain independence and change his outlook on life. Today, Kevin speaks at schools about his experience and the role Tiller has played in his recovery.

~ Shirley Rimmer Osburn
September 2004

that she cannot bring herself to open.

But when Jennifer reflects on that period, she also talks about what happened on 9/12.

She remembers the extraordinary outpouring of support from people around the world. Strangers arrived with food and clean clothes. Cruise boats provided places for exhausted responders to rest, and massage therapists aboard the ships offered help. The entire month remains a blur to her, but the kindness of strangers gave Jennifer hope that they would somehow make it through.

Her story offers a compelling perspective: remembering not only the horror of 9/11, but also the extraordinary humanity America witnessed on 9/12.

Mike Kaiser: FDNY EMS, Recovery and Morgue Detail

Mike was off duty on Sept. 11 but immediately reported to his station in Queens after learning that the World Trade Center had been attacked. He was initially kept in Queens to respond to regular 911 calls.

Beginning Sept. 13 and continuing through March 2002, Mike worked recovery and morgue detail. When human remains were discovered, he helped transport them from the recovery area to the morgue.

Even on his days off, Mike volunteered his time at Ground Zero. He continues to live with health diagnoses related to his time working there.

Jim Leach: New York Air National Guard and Ground Zero Security

Jim served as a combat engineer in the New York Air National Guard, completing four years of active duty followed by more than two decades with the Westhampton Air National Guard base.

Following the attacks, Jim contacted his commander and was called into service. Operating out of Fort Hamilton and working 12-hour shifts, he patrolled the Ground Zero area while assisting the NYPD.

His responsibilities included searching for potential explosives and additional

threats, inspecting suspicious vehicles, identifying anything unusual and helping secure an area where responders did not yet know whether another attack might follow.

Ron Pepper: EMT, Emergency Response and Ground Zero

Ron spent 31 years with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, serving as an EMT, working with hazardous materials and later becoming a chief's aide.

On Sept. 11, Ron was crossing the Brooklyn Bridge when he witnessed the first tower collapse. When the second tower came down, he and those around him were engulfed in the dust cloud.

Despite the chaos, Ron continued working and became heavily involved with communications at the command post. He also helped search for an ambulance crew feared lost in the destruction, who were later found safe.

For weeks afterward, Ron worked communications during the day and often continued searching and digging through the night. One of his most powerful experiences came months later when a recovered victim turned out to be someone he had known from school and Ron was asked to assist with the identification.

Jose Colon: The Military Response and the Wars That Followed

Jose began his Army career in 2000 and witnessed the Sept. 11 attacks early in his military service.

His immediate reaction was an intense desire to defend the country and put his military training into action. Jose later deployed to Iraq in 2003 and went on to serve in both Iraq and Afghanistan during an approximately 20-year Army career.

His story connects Sept. 11 to another important part of its legacy: the generation of service members whose lives were shaped by the wars that followed.

Rich Vasquez: Undercover Officer and Staten Island Landfill Recovery

Rich was among more than 1,000 undercover officers initially assigned to work at Ground Zero. Because of concerns that extensive



Column 1001B from the inner core of the South Tower (WTC2)
Photo By Kyle McCracken

media coverage could expose their identities, many were moved to the Staten Island landfill, where Rich spent approximately eight months working largely outside the public eye.

There was also a deeply personal side to Sept. 11 for Rich. His wife was working near Ground Zero when the attacks occurred and was unreachable for approximately 12 hours because communications were down.

When she finally arrived home, her once-blue uniform and her hair were completely covered in white dust. She later developed cancer following her Ground Zero exposure.

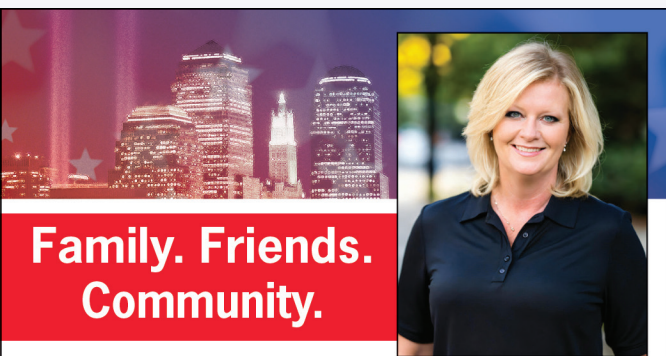


1303 Stanley St.
Malvern, AR
Monday-Friday: 8-5
501-229-1319



8 to 5 • Monday thru Friday
1273 Boyett Loop • Malvern, AR
501-384-5383 • NIGHT 501-384-2769

Let us never forget! 9/11
Regency
Funeral Home
501-332-8688
1839 Pine Bluff St • Malvern, Arkansas
Owner, David Sanders



Monica Yarbrough, Agent
234 Harris St.
Bus: 501-337-5256
monica@mymalvernagent.com

We're all in this together.
State Farm® has a long tradition of being there. That's one reason why I'm proud to support my community.
Here to help life go right.®



9/11
Patriot Day
GREGORY CRAIN
Attorney at Law
Office: 501/332-4300 • Fax: 501/332-4332
E-Mail: gcrain@swbell.net
309 West 3rd Street, Malvern, AR 72104

PATRIOT DAY
NEVER FORGET

Baptist Health
MEDICAL CENTER
Hot Spring County

ON THIS 25th Anniversary
of 9/11 Bailey's Towing & Recovery pay tribute to the victims & heroic first responders who lost their lives on that fateful day! **NEVER FORGET!**

Bailey's Towing
1507 Smith St., Malvern, AR • 501-332-3400

Patriot Day
★ NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ★
WE WILL NEVER FORGET

LEOPARDS Malvern School District

PATRIOT DAY & NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE & REMEMBRANCE
September 11

H.G. Toler & Son Lumber Co., Inc
Leola, AR 72084
870-765-2211