



TOWN OF AMHERST TO HOST 24th ANNUAL 9/11 CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

(Amherst, NY) – The Town of Amherst welcomes the community to attend the 9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, September 11, 2025 at the Amherst Memorial Hill Grove. This ceremony will commemorate the 24th anniversary of the attacks at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and in central Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001.

“We will once again come together as a community on the morning of Sept. 11 to provide support to the families and responders who were directly impacted by these attacks. We were all changed 24 years ago but we continue to find healing and strength in honoring the lives of those taken from us,” said Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin. “The Town of Amherst Remembrance is truly a special ceremony and I want to thank the 9/11 Commemorative Committee and all involved for ensuring we that we never forget, and no one has to feel alone on this day.”

Attendees should be aware that Amherst Memorial Hill Grove is located along the Ellicott Creek Trailway, 7/10 of one mile from the entrance at North Forest Road (between West Klein Road and Maple Road). There will be golf carts available for those who need assistance.

“Twenty-four years ago, our nation endured a horrific tragedy. I remember the shock, the fear, and how life in the Town of Amherst came to a standstill. Amherst was not immune—many of our residents lost loved ones, and our firefighters answered the call at Ground Zero, with some making the ultimate sacrifice. This ceremony, and the Amherst Memorial Hill Grove, stand as a lasting tribute to the heroes and victims of that day. It is both a memorial and a lesson for future generations who did not live through 9/11—a reminder of what happened, and of how a community came together in the face of unimaginable tragedy. We owe deep gratitude to the Town of Amherst for its stewardship of the Grove and for continuing to hold this solemn and meaningful ceremony,” said 9/11 Commemoration Committee Chairperson Susan Grelick, who served as Amherst Town Supervisor on September 11, 2001.

This year’s reflection will be delivered this year by Pastor Steve Biegner. Chaplain Biegner served as a Lutheran Disaster Response chaplain and coordinator since 2000. His time spent at Ground Zero launched him into the fire service and he’s worked with Erie County Emergency Services as a chaplain and the critical incident stress debrief team since 2009.

The program will also include the presentation of colors by the Town of Amherst Police Department Honor Guard, the singing of the National Anthem by Mary Kate O’Connell, the reading of the names of the local victims, accompanied by the tolling of the bell by the Getzville Fire Company. As is tradition, the poem, “We Remember Them,” will be recited. Local

musicians will also participate with the playing of “God Bless America,” “Taps” and “Amazing Grace.”

9/11 family members, airline representatives and local firefighters will read the names of local victims:

World Trade Center (North Tower)

Brandon J. Buchanan, 24, Cantor Fitzgerald
Michael Canty, 30, Carr Futures
Leonard M. Castrianno, 30, Cantor Fitzgerald
H. Joseph Heller, 37, Carr Futures
Stephen Hoffman, 36, Cantor Fitzgerald
Christopher E. Lunder, 34, Cantor Fitzgerald
Daniel Robert Nolan, 44, Marsh McLennan
Michael P. O’Brien, 42, Cantor Fitzgerald
Todd Pelino, 34, Cantor Fitzgerald
John Patrick Salamone, 37, Cantor Fitzgerald
Melissa Vincent, 28, Alliance Consulting

World Trade Center (South Tower)

FF Robert Foti, 42, Ladder 7, Engine 16
Lt. Andrew Desperito, 43, Engine 1
Philip T. Hayes 67, Fire Safety Director, World Trade Center,
OCS Security
FF Michael F. Lynch, 30, Engine 40/L35 (on rotation from L32)
Lt. Paul T. Mitchell, 46, Battalion 1, Hook & Ladder 110
Sean Rooney, 50, Aon Corporation
FF Dennis Scauso, 46, HazMat 1
Margaret Walier Seeliger, 34, Aon Corporation
Jeffrey Shaw, 42, Forest Electric Company
Eric Thorpe, 35, Keefe, Bruyette & Woods
Rodney James Wotton, 36, Fiduciary Trust International

Pentagon

David W. Laychak, 40, Civilian Budget Analyst, US Army

United Flight 175 (South Tower)

Amy King, 29, Flight Attendant
Michael Tarrou, 38, Flight Attendant

American Airlines Flight 77 (Pentagon)

Renee May, 39, Flight Attendant

In the weeks after September 11, 2001, volunteers from the Town of Amherst were deployed under the New York State Mutual Aid Plan to Ground Zero. The ceremony also honors those emergency responders for their willingness to serve during that time of fear, grief, and shock.

They answered the call of duty not knowing what they might find.

Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company

Michael Collins

Michael Parker

Ronald J. Smeller, Jr. *(Passed away on March 10, 2020 from illness linked to Ground Zero exposure.)*

East Amherst Fire Department

Kyle Schraufstetter

Michael Secor

Getzville Fire Company

Irving A. Isenberg *(Passed away on Nov. 1, 2019 from cancers linked to Ground Zero exposure.)*

Ryan Labertew

Richard Stuewe

Robert Zacher

Main-Transit Fire Department

Edward Anger

Errin Epstein

Christopher Fuez

Brent Krebs

Swormville Fire Department

Daniel Herberger

Brandon Houck

Williamsville Fire Department

David Kubiak

Some seating is available at the site; however, participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs if they wish. The ceremony is open to the public, will last no more than one hour, and will be held rain or shine.

A living memorial to the victims of the 9/11 attacks, the grove consists of an American flag, a monument, and 120 trees surrounding a memorial bench. The 120 trees are in groups of 9 and 11, surrounded by a bench with pathways in the shape of the memorial ribbon. All the trees and all the monuments were donated by our community. Amherst Memorial Hill Grove was created on October 20, 2001 and was one of the first 9/11 Memorials built in the country. For additional information, please visit the [9/11 Commemorative Committee Website](#).



Town of Amherst

9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance

9:30 AM Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025
Amherst Memorial Hill Grove
Ellicott Creek Trailway



Organized by the Town of Amherst 9/11 Commemoration Committee

