



Town of Amherst

Hon. Shawn A. Lavin

Supervisor

TOWN OF AMHERST TO COMMEMORATE THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 WITH CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE AT AMHERST MEMORIAL HILL GROVE

The Town of Amherst will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks with its annual 9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at Amherst Memorial Hill Grove. To mark this historic anniversary, a military flyover has been requested to provide a powerful tribute to the victims, first responders and all those whose lives were forever changed by the events of September 11, 2001.

Amherst Memorial Hill Grove is located along the Ellicott Creek Trailway, approximately seven-tenths of a mile from the North Forest Road entrance, between West Klein Road and Maple Road.



The ceremony will include reflections by Erie County Fire Chaplain Pastor Steve Biegner, City of Buffalo Fire Chaplain Rev. Paul Seil, and Anthony Macadlo, nephew of Leonard Castriano, who perished in the September 11 attacks.

The program will also feature the presentation of colors by the Town of Amherst Police Department Honor Guard and Amherst Fire Companies and the singing of the National Anthem by Mary Kate O'Connell. The names of local victims will be read, accompanied by the solemn tolling of the bell by the Getzville Fire Company.

The Williamsville East High School Chorale, bagpiper Danne Farrell, and bugler Alexander Francisco will also participate in the remembrance ceremony.

Former Amherst Supervisor Susan Grelick, who served as Town Supervisor at the time of the September 11 attacks and currently chairs the Amherst 9/11 Commemoration Committee, reflected on the significance of the 25th anniversary: "Amherst Memorial Hill Grove, created on October 20, 2001, was one of the first 9/11 memorials established in the country. It is difficult to believe that 25 years have passed since that horrific day. We must never forget those who lost their lives and must continue to honor their memory. As the years pass, future generations will know the story of September 11 through the history we preserve, the monuments we maintain and the traditions of remembrance we continue."

"We must never forget the civilians, firefighters, police officers, flight crews, and countless others who lost their lives on that tragic day. Our ceremony will pay special tribute to those with ties to Amherst and Western New York, honoring their lives, preserving their stories, and ensuring that their memory endures for generations to come," said Amherst Town Clerk Fran Spoth, Town Board Liaison to the Amherst 9/11 Commemoration Committee.

"Twenty-five years later, September 11th remains a day that brings our nation together in remembrance. As our community gathers at Amherst Memorial Hill Grove, this year's ceremony gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and honor the lives and legacy of all those affected by that day. 9/11 had a profound and direct impact on so many Amherst families, and all are invited to join together in a showing of strength and support," said Amherst Supervisor Shawn Lavin.

For those who need assistance reaching the ceremony site, the Town of Amherst will provide limited transportation to the grove from the Ellicott Creek Trailway parking lot on North Forest Road. Some seating will be available at the site; however, attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs if desired.

The ceremony is free and open to the public, will last approximately one hour and will be held rain or shine.

For additional information, please email toainfo@amherst.ny.us.