

STORY OF 9-11 MEMORIAL

We will always remember September 11, 2001, and this hilltop will forever have special meaning for the thousands who made their way to Essex County Eagle Rock Reservation to watch the shocking events unfolding at the World Trade Center.

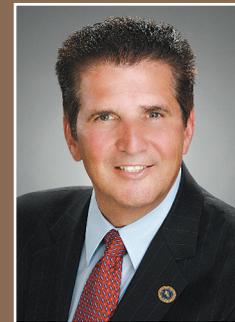
They came to watch, and to pay silent respect to those who were lost. As word spread that this was a place where people gathered to grieve, to reflect and to pay tribute, a spontaneous memorial of cards and candles, flags and flowers, photographs, prayers and poems filled the wall overlooking New York City.

Among the frequent visitors to Eagle Rock Reservation was Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., then serving as President of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. He recognized that this site, to which so many were innately drawn, was the natural location for a permanent memorial. Through his efforts, a not-for-profit foundation, the Eagle Rock World Trade Center Monument Fund, Inc., was formed. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in corporate and individual contributions were raised, and generous grants from the State of New Jersey Green Acres program and the USDA Forest Service Living Memorial Fund were obtained.

On Sunday, October 20, 2002, the hard work of so many volunteers, contractors, union members, corporate leaders and family members came to fruition when the Essex County Eagle Rock September 11th Memorial was dedicated during a moving unveiling ceremony. The memorial was expanded in 2009 to include the Flight Crew Memorial, a tribute to heroic pilots and flight attendants aboard the four airplanes that crashed that day. In 2011, on the 10th anniversary of the attacks, a 7,400-pound steel and concrete piece of the World Trade Center foundation was installed along with a bronze plaque recognizing the bravery of Emergency Medical Technicians who responded at Ground Zero and across the Hudson River.



A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE



The location on top of Orange Mountain, the unparalleled view of the New York City skyline and the powerful message of peace and hope has made our Essex County Eagle Rock September 11th Memorial a special place for people to find comfort and solace. The Memorial honors those who lost their lives and the emergency personnel who responded to this tragedy. We welcome you to this special place to pay your respects so that we will never forget this national tragedy.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., *Essex County Executive*
And the Board of Chosen Freeholders

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PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST



ESSEX COUNTY
EAGLE ROCK

SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL

DEDICATED OCTOBER 20, 2002



MEMORIAL ELEMENTS

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

The names of the 3,000 people who lost their lives in the September 11th attacks on the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and the four airline flights are engraved in the 120-foot granite wall.



POLICE OFFICER CAP

Placed on a short granite pedestal to the right of Gabriella is a replica NYPD cap with "911" engraved on the bill. The engraving below the cap reads: "With deepest gratitude from the people of Essex County, New Jersey, in memory of the 37 New York City Police Officers, 37 Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Officers, and Emergency Services Personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty on September 11, 2001."



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The monumental 4-foot by 7-foot bronze book is opened to a page that lists the names of the 58 people from Essex County who lost their lives.

FREEDOM

The 8-foot, bronze, life-size eagle has its wings spread in full flight and stands with a view toward Manhattan and the former site of the Twin Towers.

GABRIELLA

A life-size bronze sculpture of a young girl holding a teddy bear represents the more than 1,000 children who lost a parent, brother, sister, grandparent, or other family member in these tragedies. She reminds us that if these senseless acts had any meaning, it is to help rebuild the lives of these children and do all we can to fulfill the hopes and dreams of those who were lost.

FIREFIGHTER HELMET

Placed on a short granite pedestal to the left of Gabriella is a replica FDNY helmet with "FDNY 343" engraved on its front. The engraving below the helmet reads: "With deepest gratitude from the people of Essex County, New Jersey, in memory of the 343 New York City Firefighters who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty on September 11, 2001."

FLIGHT CREW MEMORIAL

The simple granite pedestal with a bronze pilot's cap engraved with pilot's wings and "911" lists the names and is dedicated to the 33 flight crew members aboard the four airplanes that crashed on September 11, 2001. It was dedicated on September 11, 2009.



REMEMBRANCE AND REBIRTH

This bronze figure faces the former site of the Twin Towers. His determined, thoughtful expression and illuminated lantern evoke feelings of remembrance, vigilance and the desire to rebuild and renew our faith in ourselves and in our American way of life.

MEMORIAL GROVE

Each of the seven trees represent one aspect of the tragedy: the World Trade Center North Tower, the World Trade Center South Tower, the Pentagon, American Airlines Flight 11 that crashed into the World Trade Center North Tower, United Airlines Flight 175 that crashed into the World Trade Center South Tower, American Airlines Flight 77 that crashed into the Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania. At the base of each tree is a bronze plaque that is engraved with a reminder about each site or airplane and concludes with "May the world always reflect on their bravery and never forget their sacrifice for our freedom. May those of us left behind find comfort from our sorrow."

EMS TRIBUTE

A bronze plaque bearing a tribute to the Emergency Medical Services personnel who responded to Ground Zero and aided survivors who crossed the Hudson River is located near the front of the memorial. It was dedicated on September 11, 2011.

PRESBY HONORS SEPTEMBER 11TH

The volunteer Citizens Committee of the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens hybridized (or genetically bred) three varieties of remontant (reblooming) irises to pay tribute to those who lost their lives. The irises are planted at the base of the flagpole and bloom twice a year – in the spring and fall.

WORLD TRADE CENTER ARTIFACT

A 7,400-pound steel and concrete piece from the World Trade Center foundation was installed at the site on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 on September 11, 2011.

