



The Weekly
Sentinel's

special commemorative feature

10 Years

9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward

September 11, 2011

9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward



Reflecting Absence

A 23-year-old's pilgrimage to Ground Zero

By Molly McCoy
Staff Columnist

As I sat on the train, speeding my way to Penn Station, I began researching the 9/11 anniversary and the sites I should plan to visit in New York City. My most important discovery was the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, whose thoughtfully designed website alone brought quiet tears to my eyes. The permanent Memorial, known as "Reflecting Absence," will be opened and dedicated with a special group of 9/11 families (and a worldwide television audience) on September 11, 2011 at the original site of the twin towers. The Museum will follow in 2012.

In the meantime, the Preview Site has been opened on nearby Vesey Street, where visitors can learn about the Memorial and Museum, preview some of the Museum's video interviews of survivors and witnesses, and even contribute their own stories in a recording booth. In planning my following 24 hours, it was clear where I needed to start.

I awoke bright and early the next morning to one of the most beautiful New York City mornings

I had ever seen. After a shoulder-to-shoulder ride to the West 4th Street subway stop, I stepped off the 7 train and onto the platform to wait for the E, whose last stop was still called "World Trade Center."

The platform was deserted except for a man with a backpack and a puzzled look on his face. He wore a veteran's baseball cap with a number of small badges that I didn't have enough military knowledge to recognize. With happy eyes he asked, "Excuse me, how do I get to the World Trade Center?" I told him of the approaching E train. "If you don't mind my asking," I said, "are you going to the Trade Center site, or just the subway stop?" "Just the stop," he said. "I am working down there today."

After explaining my reporting task, the man became unexpectedly forthcoming with information. Without solicitation I learned that his name was Chris and he had served seven years in the Army, ending his service approximately two months prior to 9/11. Seeing his fellow servicemen deployed for something "so important," he took advantage of an offer by the Air Force and re-upped to serve an additional five years in response to the



One World Trade Center, seen here under construction, will soar above the city at 1,776 feet, America's tallest building. Designed by David M. Childs of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the 2.6-million-square-foot building will include office space, an observation deck, world-class restaurants, and broadcast and antennae facilities. (Photo by Molly McCoy)

tragedy. Now retired from the military—having served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan—Chris works as an electrical engineer for Fortune 500 companies. He said that he had been to the World Trade Center site many times to pay tribute, but still needed directions for the work that occasionally brings him down to "that neck of the woods."

"Being down there for other reasons makes it easy to forget what's going on. Everyone is just working. This is their everyday," he said. His comment reminded me of some of the quotes I had heard early on after the attacks. "This started like just a normal day," witnesses stated on newsreels and in articles.

All too soon, we reached our stop. As I shook Chris' hand and thanked him for his time, he smiled and divulged a final detail that reminded me that the truth is often much more surprising than fiction.

"Oh, and my birthday is September 11," he said.

We parted ways, still awestruck from this fact and dodging businesspeople and tourists as I rushed to scribble down every detail from our conversation. I found my way up the tight stairwell to the fresh air and early morning sunlight, the relief of which was immediately stunted by the gated construction site of the World Trade Center. Cranes, bulldozers and other tall

See *ABSENCE* page 27...

The Famous Freeport Flag Ladies

PORTLAND/FREEPORT—

Elaine, Carmen and JoAnn, the famous Freeport Flag Ladies, are pictured here at the closing ceremonies of this year's Run for the Fallen Maine. In response to the tragedy of 9/11, these women stand on Main Street in Freeport every single Tuesday morning, wearing patriotic colors and waving the American flag. They appear no matter the weather, and additionally visit Bangor International Airport and Pease International to greet troop flights whenever possible. They have been nationally recognized, honored with a Proclamation by the State of Maine, and have been made lifetime honorary members of Waves International and the Maine Military Historical Society. Their undying patriotism is manifest in more ways than can be mentioned, culminating this year with a special Tribute Weekend in Freeport. For more information on the Flag Ladies and their event, visit www.freeportflagladies.com. (Photo by Molly McCoy)





9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward

ABSENCE from page 27...

equipment loomed behind the giant facades, all of them dwarfed by the two major buildings for which they were being employed. Men in orange hard hats scuttled throughout the site, as large iron beams were lifted by what seemed like mere string to the top floors of the new steel and glass monoliths that will become the new World Trade Center towers in 2012.

The Preview Site would not open for another hour, so I circled the construction site and started taking pictures. After snapping numerous photos, I turned my attention to the bystanders. Most were construction workers on their breaks, along with an arsenal of NYPD officers, on site for all the reasons you would imagine. A CBS reporter was interviewing a man in a hard hat, who seemed slightly confused by his instant celebrity, brought on by working on this particular site. He spoke frankly, but briefly, about the progress of the buildings from his vantage point on the inside of those veiling gates, and quickly returned to his work.

I noticed a number of tourists – easily identified by their “walking shoes,” foreign clothing brands, and maps. They stopped at various street corners to take smiling photos in front of the site, almost like a postcard, many of them stepping into oncoming traffic and being herded away by the aggressive crossing guards. I was suddenly hyperaware of the giant camera around my neck, and tried to make my reporting notepad visible to somehow legitimize my presence in comparison to these irreverent visitors. This is

not an amusement park, I thought to myself. This is not an attraction. Is it? I wondered if there were a right answer.

I made my way back to the Preview Site just as the doors opened. Entering the space, it reminded me very much of an art gallery one could find on any street in Chelsea: objects under glass, track lighting, and white, asymmetrical dividing walls with words painted directly on them. Along the top of the right wall was a photo timeline and to-the-minute chronology of that day, starting with:

Between 7:59 and 8:42 a.m.

Four commercial planes depart from three east coast airports for flights across the U.S.

This seemingly basic statement was again an instant reminder that the morning of September 11, 2001, started out so simply and like any other. That fact quickly changes with the successive moments, also recorded to the minute, along with the headline quote: “The events that day marked the single largest loss of life from a foreign attack on American soil.”

I walked through the surprisingly small space, taking in the slideshow of 9/11 memorials around the world, images of the NYC memorials that immediately followed the attacks, a 3-D model of what the new WTC site will look like, steel recovered from the site, and more. I watched and listened to a short video sequence – heart-wrenching interviews of witnesses, survivors and loved ones – and all of a sudden I felt a presence at my side.

I turned and regarded this older man with hesitation, but he smiled and asked with a surprisingly British accent, “What publication are you with?” I explained that I was from a weekly newspaper in Maine.

“Oh, I’m with a weekly in England,” he responded. “I was here when it all happened in 2001, so I’m back to cover this ten-year event.”

He barely gave me enough time to flip to a clean page in my notebook as he launched into his experience in 2001.

He is a sports writer and had been in NYC covering the U.S. Open that week. The night before the attacks, he had traveled with his photographer to St. Louis to cover a huge golf tournament. When they woke up on the 11th, “the world had changed,” and he secured a rental car and drove nonstop for sixteen hours to get back to the city.

“We walked up and down Lexington Avenue, where people had created a sort of missing persons center,” he said. “People were hanging onto hope where there was none.”

He recounted that on the West Side Highway, people would be waiting for the firefighters and rescue workers to come off of the site. They would give them food and drinks and applaud. “There was such an extraordinary depth of human spirit,” he said. “It was just heartbreaking.”

Suddenly, tears were coming down his face, and it was clear that he was finished. After reporting on this event twice now, he had finally told his own story. The only question I asked him in the entire conversation was his name.

I spent a little more time in the Preview Site, finally stepping out onto the sidewalk to look around. As the door shut behind me, the memory of those tragic events seemed like they could be contained in that small room. Across the street, the noises of the construction site and the passing businessmen in suits on their cell phones brought me back to September 3, 2011, with a jolt. Just like Chris had said when I met him on the subway earlier that day, it seemed like business as usual down here. Even for the construction workers, this was ultimately their job. But as I shook off the



“Lady Liberty,” a replica Statue of Liberty, was covered in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks with tributes such as uniform patches, miniature American flags, money, mass cards, rosary beads, condolence notes, and postcards, among others. In 2006, the nearly eight-foot tall statue was donated to the permanent collection of the National 9/11 Museum. “Lady Liberty” is a gift in memory of the courageous firefighters from Engine 54/Ladder 4/Battalion 9 killed at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. (Photo by Molly McCoy)

emotions that had hung around me in that room, I couldn’t help but notice that there was something happening there. This was not just building, I thought. This was rebuilding.

I looked up at the ironworkers, like little ants on the top of these new structures. An American flag blew in the breeze on one of the unfinished top floors. Everyone has some sort of connection to this tragic day, I thought, and yet everyone’s connection is so uniquely different. The question of “Where were you when you heard or saw or knew...?” is my generation’s version of “Where were you when JFK was shot?”

This tragedy was my generation’s introduction to the world around us, occurring right at the dawn of our cognizance of politics, government, war, and ultimately a life outside our homes and schools. Regarded as the future change-makers of this world, I can’t help but wonder what kind of leaders we would be if this had never happened. Those

See REFLECTION page 28...



FDNY Class A Uniform worn by Assistant Chief Gerard Barbara on September 11, 2001. After appearing on the scene, Barbara changed into response gear and was last seen in the lobby of the South Tower facilitating evacuation. These items were found in the trunk of his FDNY vehicle nearby. The laces of his shoes were still tied. (Photo by Molly McCoy)

9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward



A Local Firefighter Remembers

By Larry Favinger
Staff Columnist

YORK—

This week, one of York's well-known firefighters recalled his feelings about the 2001 attack in New York City. Mark Gay was listening to his television, along with many other Americans, when a hijacked airliner struck the World Trade Center in New York at 8:46 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001.



Mark Gay, a York firefighter, recently discussed his personal 9/11 experience as the anniversary approaches. (Photo by Larry Favinger)

Gay, a veteran firefighter, had just gotten home from his shift at the York Beach Fire Department and he had the "Today" show on television while checking his e-mail.

He heard someone on television say a building had been hit in New York City.

"I got up and went in to look," he said during an interview this week at the York Beach station. "My first reaction, and probably a lot of people thought the same thing, was that it was an accident."

"But then when the second one happened, I don't know how long it was, it wasn't very long, I knew it wasn't an accident. We'd been attacked."

Gay, a veteran firefighter with nearly 40 years experience, then watched and heard of the efforts of fellow firefighters and police officers who went into the doomed buildings in an attempt to save as many people as possible.

There is a kinship between firefighters everywhere and watching, he felt it.

"It's what we do," he said of the rescue efforts.

"There's a big brotherhood between firefighters," Gay said. "It's huge. Whatever happened down there, we [firefighters] feel it all over the country."

In all 2,977 people died in the largest terrorist attack ever on United States soil. In all 343 firefighters, 23 New York Police Department officers and 37 officers of the Port Authority Police Department gave their lives in the disaster that remains with the nation today.

The attack not only resulted in a burst of patriotism among Americans, it enhanced the respect and admiration for firefighters.

"It was a big change," Gay said. "We've seen it over the whole country. I think there was always respect, but I think there's a lot more now."

Gay took his family to New York in June 2002, less than a year after the attack.

"I wanted to go and see ground zero," he said.

"The whole site was unbelievable," he said. "I don't know how to explain it other than just 'wow.' It was a great big massive hole in the ground."

While in the city, he stopped at some fire stations for brief visits with other firefighters.

The attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the

abortive attempt that ended in the crash of a fourth plane in Shanksville, Pa., has resulted in some changes for firefighters, particularly in their training. "Just in the way you do things."

New York City firefighters sent a cross, made of some of the metal from the World Trade Center buildings, to Shanksville to be part of a memorial on the site where passengers forced the crash of their plane into a field. That plane was destined to attempt to crash into the White House.

Gay became a firefighter in September of 1972, noting being one "is something I always wanted to do. He was a volunteer for 11 years and for the last 28 years has been fulltime, reaching the rank of captain.

Prior to becoming a firefighter he was an automobile mechanic with Chase's Garage in York Beach. "I kind of got tired of turning wrenches," he said.

In 2007, Gay was named Firefighter of the Year by the Maine State Federation of Firefighters.

REFLECTION from page 27...

are only musings, though, because this happened. I look at the construction site and the small museum behind me – faces solemn and eyes tearing inside – and I know that there is no going back, only forging forward.

I'm sure that this tenth anniversary will have the potential to bring our country together as the original events once did, but it is what we are doing now, with every beam and every windowpane set carefully in place, that seems to transcend the tragedies; seems to prove that, "Hey! We're still here! We will not forget, but we must move forward."

Despite the honking horns and tourist groups, an undying American spirit radiated from this place, and you could feel it if you paused just long enough to breathe it in. I took one last gulp of it and said a quiet thank you for having the chance to be there. This was not a reflection on absence; this was a reflection on what is here now, and will continue to be. What is here is us.

With my notepad and camera full of new memories of a ten-year-old sadness, I boarded the uptown E train and began my journey back to Maine.

To follow Molly's journey in photos, visit www.theweeklysentinel.com.



A commemorative plaque at the home of FDNY Engine Co. 10, Ladder Co. 10, known as the "Ten House." Directly across the street from what would become Ground Zero, the firehouse was destroyed in the 9/11 attacks and rebuilt with a dedication ceremony in 2003. Five members from the Ten House made the supreme sacrifice on that day in 2001, and are remembered here: Lieutenant Gregg Atlas, Firefighter Jeffrey Olsen, Firefighter Paul Pansini were from Engine 10, and Lieutenant Stephen Harrell and Firefighter Sean Tallon were from Ladder 10. FMI: www.fdynytenhouse.com. (Photo by Molly McCoy)



9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward

10th Anniversary Events

MAJOR MEMORIALS

This year, two major 9/11 memorials are opening for the first time: The National 9/11 Memorial in New York City and the Flight 93 Memorial near Shanksville, PA. You can also visit the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, VA. For more information about each of these memorials, please visit the following websites, respectively: www.911memorial.org, www.honorflight93.org, and www.whs.mil/memorial.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Friday, September 9 –
Sunday, September 12

Always Remember,

Never Forget 9/11 Tribute Rally

To commemorate and honor those who lost lives and loved ones on this tragic date in history, Motor Maids, Inc., has been invited by the International Associations of Firefighters Motorcycle Group (IAFF-MG) in conjunction with Orange County Choppers, Hilton Garden Inn and Katancha Corporation to participate in the "Always Remember, Never Forget" 9/11 Tribute Rally Sept. 9-11, 2011. As part of the rally, Motor Maids will parade in the "Ride to Remember." This tribute ride is police escorted from Newburgh, NY to the Ground Zero site in New York City on the morning of 9/11. The ride is open to the public, however pre-registration is required. FMI: www.911tributerally.com or the IAFF www.iaffmg.org.

Sunday, September 11

Flight 93 National Memorial:

10th Anniversary Commemorative Service

The 10th Anniversary Memorial Service will start at approximately 9:30 a.m. This start time was chosen to commemorate the time period during which the passengers and crew took action on the plane to thwart the terrorists. Musical tributes, wreath laying, and additional activities will continue through the afternoon. Events will be open to the public. No tickets required. FMI: www.nps.gov/flni/planyourvisit/september-11-2011-weekend.htm.

National 9/11 Museum & Memorial: Memorial Dedication

The National September 11 Memorial will be dedicated on September 11, 2011 for the 10th anniversary commemoration ceremony for family members of the victims of the 9-11 and February 26, 1993 attacks. This event on September 11 is not open to the public. The memorial will open up to the public on September 12, 2011, and will welcome visitors who have reserved advance passes. FMI: www.911memorial.org.

Pentagon Memorial:

10-Year Commemoration

The Pentagon plans to have an invite-only ceremony for families of 9-11 victims. More details will be provided to these families in the months ahead. The Pentagon Memorial will re-open to the general public following the ceremony. FMI: pentagonmemorial.org.

MAINE

Remembrance Vigil

at Berwick United Methodist Church

Saturday, September 10 at 7 p.m. through Sunday, September 11 at 10 a.m. The church sanctuary will be open to the public beginning Saturday, September 10 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and again on September 11 at 6:45 a.m. to 10 a.m. Prayers, meditative readings and music will

be offered in the church sanctuary. A tribute to the victims of 9/11 will be in the church's fellowship hall.

9/11 Remembrance at York-Ogunquit Church

The York-Ogunquit United Methodist Church will hold a service of remembrance and healing on Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. This worship will be an opportunity to remember and move forward in God's love. If there is a person in your life you would like to have remembered during the service, you can submit his or her name and other information, if you wish, to the church at youmc.org or 207-363-2749.

Appreciation Sunday 9/11 Remembrance Day

At 10 a.m., The Church on the Cape invites the community to join them in a service of worship both in remembrance of 9/11 and in special recognition of the town's rescue workers: the police, KEMS, and the fire department. For the past eight years, this time has afforded the congregation the opportunity to say 'Thank you' to our public safety team for their extremely diligent and selfless service. Rev. Ruth Merriam will lead the worship. Lieutenant Colonel Liz Beard McLaughlin, daughter of Dan and Sarah Beard will deliver the message; members of the safety team will offer prayers, and the Senior Choir will sing special music for the occasion. After the service, the congregation will move outside for the flag-raising ceremony, which will conclude with taps.

North Berwick Service of Remembrance

Churches of North Berwick are sponsoring a community Service of Remembrance and Day of Service on Sunday, September 11. The Service of Remembrance will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the town Mill Field, and will feature the singing of the National Anthem and God Bless America, as well as remembering those who died in the terrorist attacks and all who have given their lives in the war on terror. The gathering will also honor and pray for all our servicemen and women, and "First Responders." Members and friends of the North Berwick Fire Dept., North Berwick Rescue, North Berwick Police Dept., American Legion Quint-Cheney Post # 87, and Boy Scout Troop # 312 have been invited to participate in the service. The service will end at approximately 9:10 a.m. Following their regular morning worship services, members and friends of Bethel Christian Church, First Baptist Church, First Congregational Church, and New Covenant Baptist Church will again join together for an afternoon of service projects throughout the community.

Freeport Tribute Weekend

The famous Freeport Flag Ladies have helped to orchestrate an entire weekend of 9/11 Anniversary Commemorations, beginning Friday night in Memorial Park, Freeport, with a Candlelight Vigil honors the soldiers from Maine who have been lost since 9/11, followed by guest speakers, patriotic music, and photo documentary put together by a first responder to the Twin Towers site. Saturday's events feature a concert by the Maine Army National Guard Band, displays of pictures of Maine's Fallen Soldiers, an exhibit of the Heart of America Quilt, and a patriotic laser light show – to name just a few of the day's events. On Sunday, Sept. 11, visitors may join the Freeport Flag Ladies' 10th Anniversary 9-11 Tribute, held "On The Hill." There will be a parade later that day, followed by the unveiling of the 9-11 monument constructed from steel obtained from the Twin Towers. The evening ends with a Tribute Concert at the Freeport Performing Arts Center. Over 500 people across the country have responded to help fund this weekend of events by contributing



Visitors to the 2007 September 11th Commemorative Ceremony at the crash site in Pennsylvania gather around the "Flight 93 Flag" and share their experience of September 11. (Photo by Chuck Wagner)

\$1 or more. All donations benefit the weekend of events. FMI: www.freeportflagladies.com.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Memorials & Prayers for Peace at Strawbery Banke

Sunday, September 11 at 6 p.m. at Strawbery Banke in Portsmouth, NH. The Seacoast community is invited to participate in an Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Hope. Ten years ago on 10/11/01, some of this same group gathered at Strawbery Banke to reach across boundaries, to honor those lost and to comfort those in attendance. This year, representatives of many of the faith traditions; including Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Baha'i, Buddhist from the Portsmouth area will offer brief prayers, readings and reflections. Chaplains from Portsmouth Fire, Police and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will be included in this service honoring the memory of those that died and encouraging all to continue to hope for peace. One hundred members of Voices from the Heart, directed by Joanne Connolly and members of Sandpipers Seacoast Children's Chorus, directed by Tamara Rozek will offer music. The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra, directed by John Page, will play gathering music from 5:45-6:00. Bagpiper, David Foster, will play as the Colors are presented. In case of inclement weather the service will be held at North Church in Market Square.

Remembrance Concert

To mark the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, Seacoast Choral Society invites you to gather in community for a read-through of the Fauré "Requiem." Share by singing or listening. Music available or bring your own. Sunday, September 11 at Durham Community Church, Main Street, Durham, at 4pm.

Labyrinth Walk

A Labyrinth Walk will be held Sunday, Sept. 11 at 8 a.m. at the Hampton Beach State Park, near the bridge. People are asked to meet under the pavilion and then proceed to the beach where artist Linda Gebhart will draw a labyrinth in the sand for participants to walk as a silent remembrance of 9-11. A bell will ring at 8:45 to mark when the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center tower. Labyrinths are an ancient art form used for contemplation and healing, simply by placing one foot in front of the other. FMI: Linda at 929-3850.

Additional Events

In addition to the events listed above, visit www.9-11healingandremembrance.org to view events in cities and states throughout the country and the world.

See EVENTS page 30...

9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward



"The Young, The Old and The Patriotic." This image hangs in the Heroes' Walk. Beloved greetings are expressed by young Maggie Mae Cove Hamel, Anna Labrie and the Pease Greeters. (Courtesy photo)

EVENTS from page 29...

TELEVISED EVENTS

The following programs will be aired on September 11, 2011.

"9/11: 10 Years Later" CBS
Rerun of insider's account at World Trade Center, freshened with new interviews with people involved. Robert De Niro returns as host.

"America Remembers: 9/11" PBS
Evening recap with "NewsHour" team examining the impact of Sept. 11 in different communities.

"New York Philharmonic 10th Anniversary Concert for 9/11" PBS
Remembrance Concert

"Remembrance and Renewal: Ten Years After the 9/11 Attacks" ABC
Evening special looking back on the anniversary and aftermath of attacks. "The Making of the 9/11 Memorial," History. Behind-the-scenes view of the memorial from idea to construction.

"102 Minutes That Changed America" History
Rerun of documentary, starting at precise anniversary of when the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

"The Space Between" USA
Film with actress Melissa Leo portraying a stewardess on a plane ground on 9/11 who travels across the country with a 10-year-old boy whose father worked at the World Trade Center.

"Twin Towers" USA
Academy Award-winning documentary about brothers, a New York City police officer and firefighter, killed on Sept. 11.

A Tradition is Born at Pease International Airport

By Larry Favinger
Staff Columnist

PEASE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—

The World Trade Center Towers in New York were struck by hijacked airliners 10 years ago this Sunday, which brought forth in Americans a new birth of patriotism.

It also resulted in more members of the United States military being sent into harm's way.

Then, in early May of 2005, a Department of Defense charter flight of 135 troops headed for Iraq was scheduled to land at the Pease International Airport.

When informed of the arrival, Airport Manager Bill Hopper and Director of Maintenance Al Weston gathered employees working at the airport to greet these outgoing troops. A small group did so and a tradition was begun.

Since that time, the Pease Greeters have said hello and goodbye to an estimated 185,000 men and women of the armed services, welcoming more than 425 flights in and out of the country.

"The thing just grew bigger than our wildest dreams," Charles E. Cove, chairman of the greeters and one of the greeters of that first flight, said during an interview in York recently.

Grow it did, with more than 4,100 people on the organization's web site at present and between 80 to 300 people welcoming planes, no matter what time of day or night they arrive.

Cove, and most Americans,

"9/11: In Our Own Words" MSNBC

NBC News anchors and correspondents recall what they were doing on Sept. 11.

"Rebirth" Showtime

Documentary tracks the lives of five people whose lives were changed by Sept. 11, along with using time-lapse photography to show how ground zero has changed.

"Slammin' Iron" HDNet

Documentary on Mohawk Indian ironworkers helping to rebuild the World Trade Center.

"Dan Rather Remembers" HDNet
Former CBS anchor reports on how the world has changed in 10 years.

Please check your local listings for scheduled times and programming.

can recall where they were at 8:45 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001, when that first plane struck the towers in New York City, the precursor to the involvement of the United States military to hunt down those responsible.

"I can recall I was sitting at home in my office here in York when the first plane hit," Cove said. "My wife said a plane hit the towers and my hairs stood up on my head."

He, like millions of others, first thought it an accident but that bubble burst when the second tower was struck minutes later.

After the second strike, Cove said, "like most of America I felt sick and heartbroken."

"Yet at the same time I think most of us felt pride with the response of the men and women who so unselfishly lost their lives trying to save their fellow Americans," he continued.

The reaction of returning troops is one of "disbelief" according to Cove when they enter the terminal and are welcomed by people lining both sides of the hall cheering them on. "These guys (and gals) are just overwhelmed."

He noted that the Pease Greeters, honored by President George W. Bush in 2008, take up five pages in a book written by a lieutenant colonel about his experiences in Iraq. Cove also noted that one group of troops coming home asked to land at Pease on their way home.

"Pease International Airport is small and perfect for what we do," he said, noting the Hall of Flags and the Hero's Walk that have been established.

Former President George H. W. and Barbara Bush were included in one of the welcoming ceremonies in October of last year.

Cove said only two other airports welcome troops back in a similar manner and those are Bangor, Maine, and Dallas, Texas.

Several groups of students from several schools take part in the greetings from time to time.

The youngest greeter to date was Cove's granddaughter, Maggie Mae, who was at the time nine months old. She continues to greet today.

Asked how long the greeters intend to keep doing their job, Cove replied: "Until everybody comes home. We look forward to the day we don't have to be there. I hope once this is over we can find a way to support our veterans."



9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward

'Let's Roll'

How 9/11 Changed the Landscape of American Pop Culture

By Chip Schrader
Staff Columnist

Howard Stern was still on terrestrial radio on the fateful day when he exclaimed: "An airplane crashed into a building." As he described what he was seeing, he continually swore he was not joking to his audience this time. Nobody believed him until the live feed canvassing nearly every network depicted the hallucinatory images of dust, smoke, and steel cascading through Manhattan. It looked like the end of the world, or at least the beginning of the end.

For the first time in history, every channel on cable television was either airing that live feed from ground zero, or the channel was blacked out with a message of condolences to the victims of the fallen towers. From this point forward, music, books and movies would be written from a different angle and a different light, and some of these works that were already created would be altered out of respect to this tragedy.

The first "Spider Man" movie starring Tobey Maguire boasted a trailer where a bank heist getaway by helicopter is foiled by Spider Man's web that was woven between the twin towers. Since the attack occurred just before the original release date, the producers pulled the film and re-cut it without this scene to avoid any distasteful reference this scene might make. "Zoolander," "Serendipity" and "People I Know" had shots of the World Trade Center completely cut in the editing room. The landscape of New York had changed, and the memory proved too painful for many.

Cynical documentaries followed, depicting conspiracy theories, like "Loose



The cover of Marvel Comics' "The Amazing Spider-Man" vol. 2, issue 36 was uncharacteristically solid black with only the title in a white line written at the top. This issue had Spider-Man on the scene of the 9/11 attacks in NYC, wondering what had happened. The issue honors the people who risk their lives protecting and rescuing others without the aid of super powers or super heroes. (Courtesy image)

Change," in which they suggest video footage proved there was no airplane in the side of the pentagon, suggesting it was an inside job. Politically polarizing documentaries followed, "Fahrenheit 9/11" and "Godless: The Church of Liberalism," to name one from each side. But, there were also rays of

inspiration that arose from the chaos.

Neil Young's "Let's Roll" praises the bravery of the passengers in the Pennsylvania crash that was intended to hit the White House. "Let's Roll" is what the heroes said as they proceeded to interfere with the terrorists' plan, the plane crashed into the middle of a field isolating the casualties only to those on board the flight. At the end of the song, ringing cell phones can be heard in tribute to the passengers who called their families just before taking the villains down.

Marvel Comics issued a special comic depicting Spider Man and other superheroes working beside police and fireman trying to save the city. Just this summer, one of our classic superheroes, Captain America, who embodies American patriotism, was reborn in a billion dollar film. Patriotism came back into vogue from Hollywood to New York over the last ten years, a silver lining from a truly ominous cloud.

Our literature of today is often referred to as "Post 9/11." "The Zero" by Jess Walter depicts a police officer's confused and traumatic navigation through the tragedy, and his physical survival. Psychologically, he fell with his comrades that day. But, there is no way we can gauge how deeply this incident affected our national literature or culture. Indeed, post 9/11 politics has dug deep wounds, the acid that is often exchanged through the written and spoken word is obvious. But, nobody denies their love for this country, and perhaps harder fought political standoffs are a result in this newfound passion that we all share. Whether political or apolitical, nobody takes being an American for granted. Not anymore.

Television News Archive

The 9/11 Television News Archive is a library of news coverage of the events of 9/11/2001 and their aftermath as presented by U.S. and international broadcasters. A resource for scholars, journalists, and the public, it presents one week of news broadcasts for study, research and analysis. To view "Understanding 9/11," visit www.archive.org/details/911. Please note that this media is graphic, historical, live coverage from that week, and may be disturbing to some viewers.

Educational Resources

For a list of valuable 9/11 educational resources and materials from contributors worldwide, visit the Pentagon Memorial Fund at <http://pentagonmemorial.org/learn/education-materials>.



During the recovery operations in NYC, ironworkers cut out symbolic artifacts – often religious symbols like Crosses or Stars of David, or hearts – to present to family members and other special visitors to ground zero. Ironworker Rafe Greco, who spent months at the site cutting and burning through metal debris, used this salvaged WTC steel beam to restore the Twin Towers to the New York City skyline. (Photo by Molly McCoy)

9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward



Above: A model of the future World Trade Center site in New York City, here on display in the National September 11 Museum Preview Site. (Photo by Molly McCoy)



Above right: The Pentagon Memorial was dedicated on September 11, 2008 in a ceremony attended by thousands at the Pentagon. A flag is draped over the Pentagon as a backdrop for that day. (Photo courtesy www.pentagonmemorial.org)



Right: A bunker coat from the Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department left at the temporary memorial. The Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department was the first unit on the scene in the minutes after the crash of Flight 93. (Photo by Kathie E. Shaffer)