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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL For 9/11

The Villages of Croton-on-Hudson and Buchanan with the Town of Cortlandt have joined in a very important shared project to honor the memory of the individuals who lost their lives in the World Trade Center on that tragic day – September 11, 2001. They are William Abrahamson, James Oakley, Thomas Sinton and Joseph Zuccala. Also, there were others who perished who had family members residing in our community. We are in the process of reaching out to those families, as well.

Mayor Leo Wiegman, Mayor Sean Murray and Supervisor Linda Puglisi have met several times this summer to begin the plans for this remembrance memorial. Janet Mainiero, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, has volunteered to be our project director and she will work with various staff members from Croton, Buchanan and Cortlandt. Janet and the committee will also be sending out via press releases and websites asking for volunteers who have expertise in architecture and design, landscaping, fundraising etc. disciplines to assist with our efforts as we approach the 10th Anniversary of 9/11/01 in 2011.

Anyone who has these skills can contact Supervisor Puglisi or the two Mayors at their respective offices to work with them and our project director.

Our goal is to create a very special place and memorial to honor the memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11/01, to pay tribute to all of the victims of that very sad day in our history, to thank our first responders from our community who immediately went down to Ground Zero to help and as always to pay tribute to and remember those men

and women who have valiantly defended our country in memory of those who perished on 9/11/01 in the subsequent wars and battles that followed.

The first and next steps:

- 1) To contact the families of the four gentlemen who were husbands and fathers in our community to tell them about our remembrance memorial. This was done in August.
- 2) To have our three boards support this endeavor and to pass IMA's by resolutions to officially start our project. This step has been completed this week in honor of this year's ninth anniversary of 9/11.
- 3) To secure two Steel girders from the fallen World Trade Center on 9/11/01 through the Port Authority. This has been done also in August by Mayor Wiegman's letter and by the efforts of Janet Mainiero.
- 4) To research locations to find the best suitable place for our remembrance memorial. Several sites are being considered. A few are on the banks of the Hudson River.
- 5) To find a secure location for the storage of the steel girders, which may occur very soon and to plan for the proper transportation of same. Both are underway in our planning process.
- 6) To apprise all of our emergency service providers many of whom were first responders to Ground Zero on 9/11/01. We are in the process of completing this in early September.
- 7) Fundraising efforts need to begin as soon as possible. This will be an expensive project but one that is very special and important for our Croton/Buchanan/Cortlandt community.
- 8) Establish web pages on our government websites to provide updates throughout the year, to request donations for the project, to seek volunteers to assist with the design, etc. and to receive comments from our Town and Village's residents.
- 9) To plan for a beautiful ceremony of Remembrance for the ten year anniversary of 9/11/01 next year 2011.

Comments:

Project Director Janet Mainiero

“ When asked why I started this project, I say that the very idea of building a memorial from the remains of the destroyed towers creates, in my mind, a very poignant and lasting impression. I felt compelled to accomplish this and with the assistance of the Town of Cortlandt, the Villages of Buchanan and Croton-on-Hudson, as well as the many, many volunteers, we will do just that.”

Mayor Leo Wiegman of Croton-on-Hudson:

“With the initiative of Ms. Mainiero as a volunteer, Croton was able to set this joint project in motion a year ago by reserving the steel with the Port Authority. We are very happy to join now with Buchanan and Cortlandt in sharing the vision and development of this project. Creating a contemplative memorial for the civilian victims of our combined communities will require a public-private partnership. This joint effort is yet one more visible example of the service-sharing and close collaboration between our three sibling communities.”

Mayor Sean Murray of Buchanan:

“We were all touched in different ways by the events of 9/11 that it is only fitting that we join together as one community to remember the sacrifices of so many.”

Supervisor Linda Puglisi of Cortlandt:

“I thank my colleagues, Mayor Wiegman, Mayor Murray, the members of their boards, the Cortlandt Town Board members, our project director Janet Mainiero, our staff members from the three municipalities for being supportive and dedicated to this very important 9/11 Remembrance Memorial Project. I also, as always, send my sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives on 9/11/01 and promise them that collectively we will create a very special memorial for their husbands and fathers.”