



***FINGER LAKES* TIMES ONLINE**

Geneva, New York

Geneva's ceremony one of several

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By CRAIG FOX

Finger Lakes Times

GENEVA - Wolcott resident Joanne Galvin wishes that more people had attended yesterday's ceremony at the city's lakefront to honor the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks five years ago.

Most of the 30 people near the city's Long Pier were Geneva firefighters, police officers, city and county officials, and City Hall workers. Only a handful were residents, she noticed.

"I think it's sad," she said later, noting how much unity there was a year after the attacks.

Galvin was invited to the ceremony by state Sen. Michael Nozzolio because a Sept. 11 flag that she and her husband, Stephen, designed was hoisted on a new flag pole at the lakefront park.

She and her husband, who died of lung cancer last June, were like many Americans who felt compelled to do something to help the nation cope with the attacks, so they designed the flag.

Four stars displayed on the blue, black, white and red flag represent each of the attack sites - the twin towers, the Pentagon and Flight 93, the plane that crashed in a western Pennsylvania field after its passengers stormed the hijackers.

Galvin hopes that the flag will be designated the nation's official Sept. 11 flag, which would take an act of Congress.

Other ceremonies and commemorations were held across the area yesterday, including ones in Canandaigua, at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Support Center in Newark, at the Waterloo Middle School, and in Ovid, where there was a parade.

So far, the Galvins' flag has been hoisted in 37 states, including at the New York State Fairgrounds, in front of the Canandaigua City Courthouse, and at the temporary memorial in Shanksville, Pa., where Flight 93 came down.

In Geneva, it joins the U.S. and the state flag on poles donated by local developer Nick Massa.

A simple memorial with Sept. 11, 2001, etched in dark gray stone was also unveiled Monday. It was paid for with funding arranged by Nozzolio, R-54 of Fayette, and it was designed by Drennen Memorial of Geneva, Mayor Don Cass said.

"Today, all over the country, groups are gathering in places like this, pausing from the daily business of life to honor the memories of the men and women who gave their lives on Sept. 11, 2001," Cass said. "It is fitting to honor the victims and heroes of 9/11 and to reflect on the quiet heroism of our first responders who protect us each and every day."

Nozzolio said we all should be proud of the firefighters, police officers and emergency responders who risked their lives and of those "who gave their lives in trying to save lives on that horrific day."

Nozzolio said the memorial was being held on the same day that thousands of police officers were in Saratoga Springs to attend the funeral of state trooper Joseph Longobardo, 32, who was fatally shot Aug. 31. His alleged assailant, Ralph "Bucky" Phillips, surrendered Friday after five months on the run.

J.R. Miller, who represented Finger Lakes Ambulance, pointed out that 343 firefighters and 23 police officers from New York City, 37 Port Authority police officers and six people from private ambulance services died in the World Trade Center attacks.

"The sacrificed must be remembered, they must not be forgotten," Miller said.

City Fire Chief Bruce Moore and City Police Chief Frank Pane also spoke during the 30-minute ceremony.

Dressed in period uniforms, the Doughboys from the local American Legion Post 396 stood at attention as they presented the color guard and one of its members played "Taps."

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cfox@fltimes.com

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