

# LIBERTY TORCH

Serving the soldiers of the 77th Regional Support Command, Fort Totten, N.Y. 11359  
December 2002, Vol. 16 No. 2



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001  
ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY,  
THE 77th REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND SOLDIERS OF  
LINE OF DUTY WHO WERE KILLED IN THE  
LIVES

LTC William Pohlmann  
CPT Michael Mullan  
CPT Mark Whitford

WO1 Ronald Bucca  
SSG Frederick III  
SGT Shawn Powell

**Memories  
in Granite**



# LIBERTY TORCH

## About the cover...

A soldier stands silently "on guard" at this monument dedicated to perished soldiers of 9/11.



**Commanding General**  
Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Gary R. DiLallo

**Chief, Public Affairs**  
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**Community Relations Officer**  
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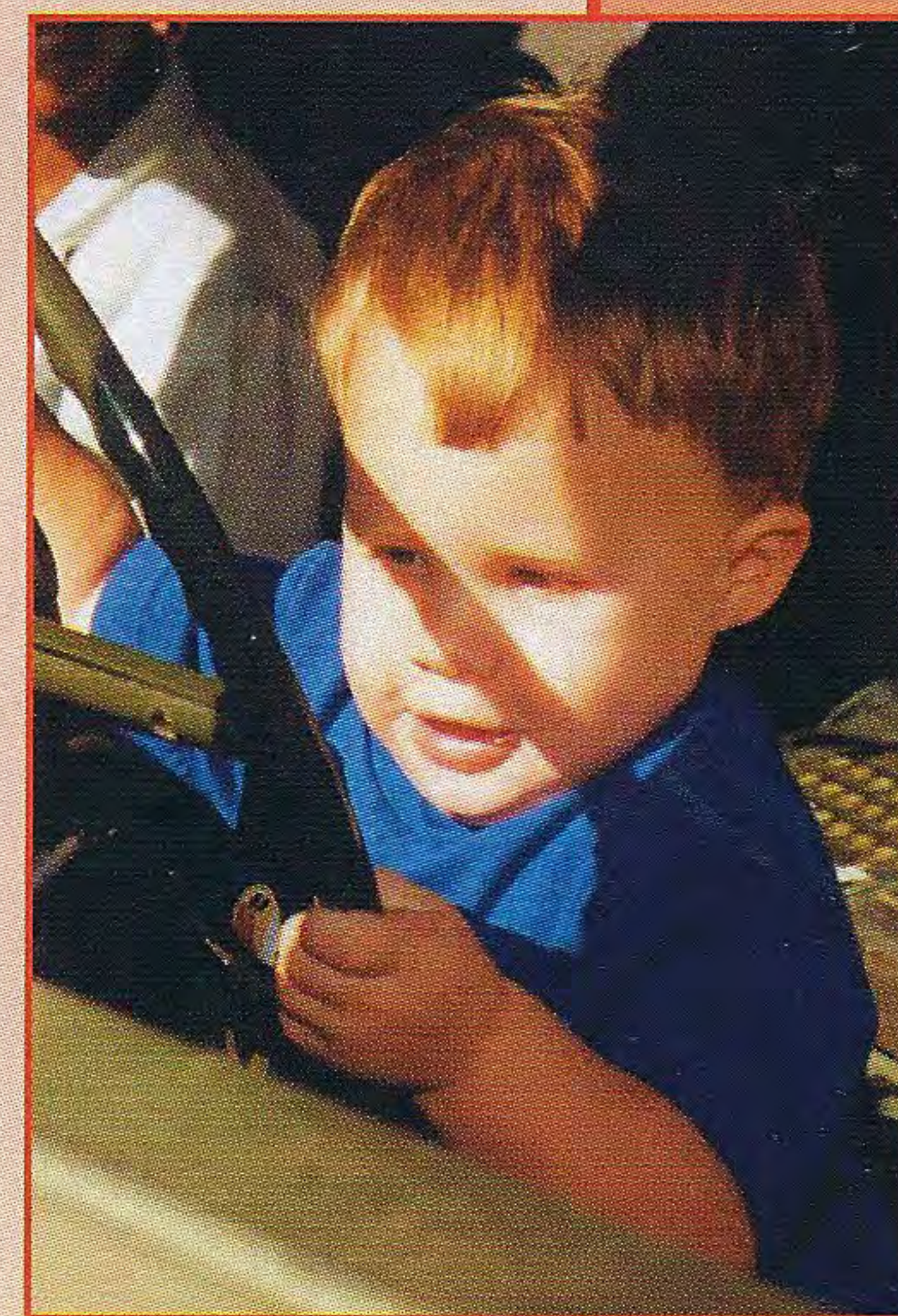
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Remembering  
the fallen  
**WTC victims**  
honored



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The call of  
duty continues  
**306th MP Bn.**  
preps for  
**Noble Eagle**



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Culinary skills  
put to the test  
**Cooks whip**  
up a taste  
for victory







# Soldiers, heroes honored with monument

*Maj. Gen. Richard Colt, 77th RSC commanding general, left, Col. Louis Sudholz (Ret.), president, 77th Inf. Div. Reserve Officers' Assn., center, and Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes, former Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, unveil the monument dedicated to the 77th RSC soldiers killed in the 9/11 attacks.*



*Former Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes, delivers solemn remarks to family members, friends, guests and soldiers at the 9/11 dedication ceremony.*

*Story and photos by  
Bruce Hill*

The wind paced Old Glory's somber rhythm while drifting leaves kissed the ground under a clear, blue sky as the six 77th Regional Support Command soldiers, who perished in the 9/11 attacks were honored last month at Fort Totten, N.Y.

In a ceremony held near the Fort Totten pond, Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes (Ret.), former Chief, Army Reserve, and Maj. Gen. Richard Colt, 77th RSC commanding general, unveiled a monument that will forever memorialize the victims.

"This is as much hallowed ground to us as Gettysburg or Antietam or any other battlefield around the world," said Colt.

Guests, friends and dignitaries from around the country came by the dozens to remember the soldiers who gave their lives in the line of duty. Five of the soldiers were members of the New York City Fire Department and were posthumously awarded the Soldier's Medal. The other was a lawyer and a volunteer firefighter who was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit.

The honored soldiers were Lt. Col.



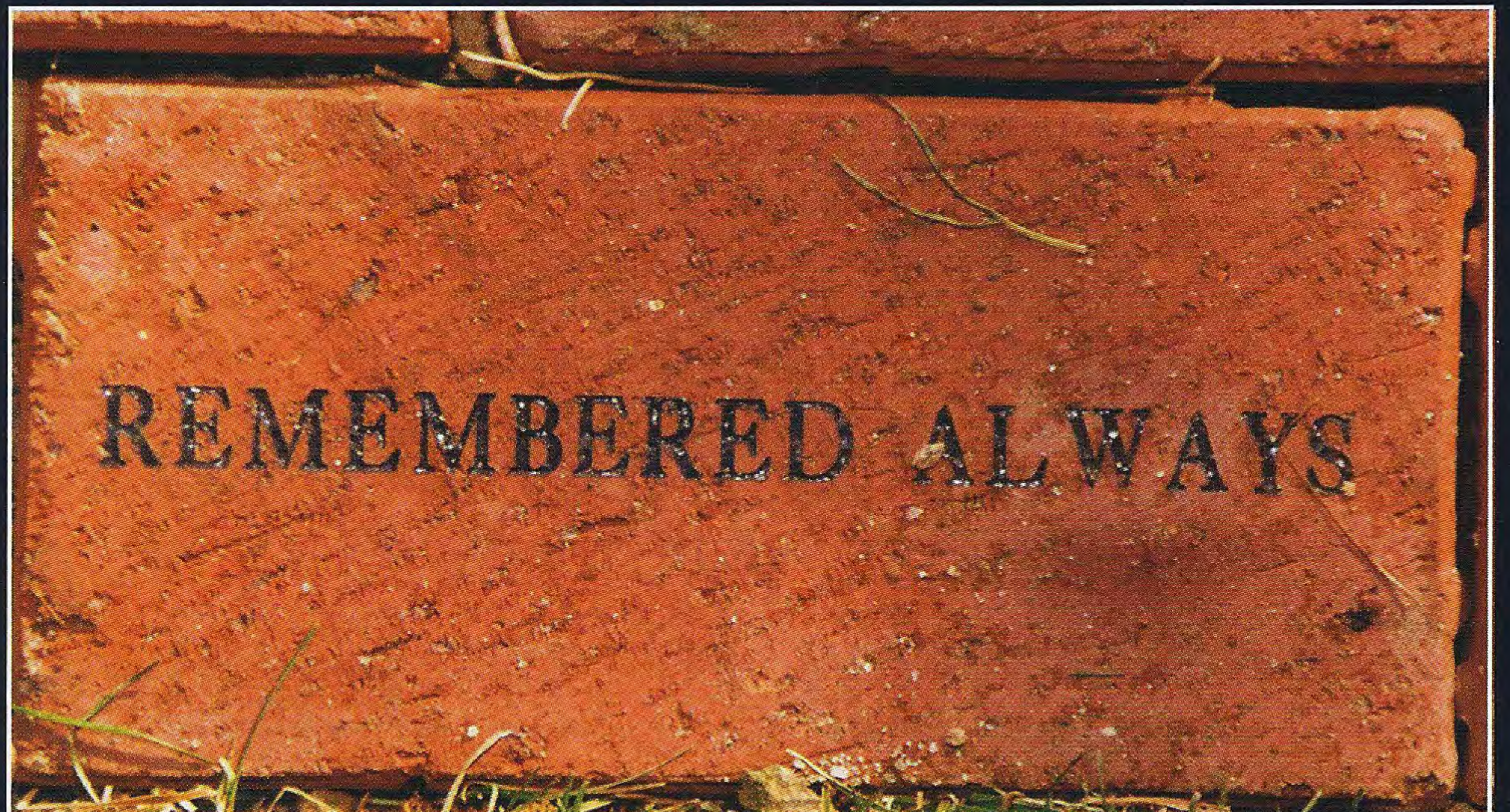


*A member of the 319th "Statue of Liberty" Army Band belts out "Proud To Be An American."*



*A family member holds back her emotions.*

*A donor's brick honors all who perished.*



William Pohlmann, Capt. Michael Mullen, Capt. Mark Whitford, Warrant Officer Ronald Bucca, Staff Sgt. Frederick III and Sgt. Shawn Powell. As each was honored, Colt and Plewes presented the medal to the family members. Joshua Powell, son of Sgt. Shawn Powell, smiled brightly as Colt shook his hand and gently handed him the Soldier's Medal for his father.

"When I think of the six men and their families, I remember again how much one family we all are. Whether we wear Army green or our Army blue, whether we wear fire department blue or whether we wear a business suit to do our civilian jobs, we are all one family," Colt said.

The monument, carved in smoked-gray granite, on a three-tier base, is nestled near the Fort Totten pond. Engraved are the names of the victims surrounding a sketch of the World Trade Center under the words "September 11, 2001. On this date in history, these brave citizen-soldiers who served with the 77th Regional Support Command were killed in the line of duty while serving

their city. Lest we forget." Inscribed bricks, bought and dedicated by soldiers, family and friends encircle the monument.

Ironically, the monument project initially began as an environmental project two years ago when the West Nile virus was running rampant, according to Richard Ramsdell, environment protection supervisor of the Army Reserve Installation Management Office.

"We set out to control the erosion around the pond and built a waterfall to put oxygen in the water," he said. "The oxygen," he said, "would allow the fathead minnow to breathe and breed." He said that the minnow in turn would eat and kill the mosquito larva. (The adult mosquito carries the deadly virus.)

After the attacks, members of the 77th Inf. Div. Reserve Officers Association suggested that something be done to honor the perished soldiers. The West Nile project instantly became a memorial project.

According to Lt. Col. Arthur Patterson, regional engineer of the Army

Reserve Installation Management Office, there is still work to be done. "The project is incomplete," Patterson said. "We still plan to mount lights to illuminate the site and more trees will be planted along the paths to the monument."

Bricks will continue to be available for purchase until there is no more space around the monument. "In 2014 there will still be more bricks to donate," Patterson said.

For more information contact the 77th Inf. Div. Officers Assn. at 516-368-7438, or write to them at 52 Thadford Street, E. Northport, NY 11731.

Like the names engraved on the monument, memories of those brave soldiers will be carved on the hearts and in the minds of all those who loved them.