

Chester's Honors 9/11 Victims With Remembrance Memorial

The Kiwanis Club of **CHESTER**, Hudson River West Division – On September 11, 2001, the Chester Community lost five individuals, two FDNY members and three civilians, as a result of the horrific terrorist acts at the Twin Towers in New York City. Toward the end of the 2002 – 2003 Kiwanis Year, Chester President Leon Kakargo introduced the idea of creating a memorial in memory of these five individuals.

The Chester Kiwanis 9/11 Remembrance Memorial Committee has worked to see that a lasting and fitting memorial would be constructed in our community.

The fact that the committee had begun to work, at the outset, without the Chester Kiwanis Club being involved, resulted in some major benefits. When the club did “take ownership” they were fortunate to be able to work closely with other community members and with the families of two of the victims of the Twin Towers. The Chester club was enriched as they worked closely with individuals who had lost so much, and Chester Kiwanians were more determined to see that this project would be successfully completed.

The Memorial, dedicated on September 18, 2004, contains two 12 foot “twin aluminum towers” with plaques inscribing names of the individuals who perished in each tower. There is a large stone Pennsylvania shaped to represent Shanksville/Flight 93, and a message, which says “Remember 9/11/01”. The entire site is surrounded with a low wall in the shape of the “pentagon”. They were able to secure a seedling from the “Survivor Tree” from the Oklahoma City National Memorial site.



Richard Williams, a survivor from the Federal Building came to Chester to present the seedling, the living aspect of our memorial.

They were able to reach out to the entire community as this project was developing. Three high school students were able to generate a computer adaptation which clearly depicted the scope of our project. This rendering helped to bring the project to the forefront. Youngsters were able to have their names placed in a time capsule, as a result of the fact that they joined the Backfire effort. In addition to helping to generate

funds for the memorial, this effort is designed to help build positive character in the lives of those who make the Backfire pledge. Adults and businesses purchased “bricks” with inspirational messages, which were placed within the “pentagon wall” at the site.

The five families included: Thomas F. Down, Thomas P. Holohan Jr., Lynne I. Morris, Paul G. Ruback and Donald J. Tuzio will find a place of quiet reflection at this site. They have greatly benefited because of the Chester Kiwanis Club's vision.



District Historian

Tony Kaiser

KI's 90th Anniversary

Next January 21st will again be the birthday of Kiwanis International. But on that date, we will be 90 years young, a major birthday indeed, deserving a major celebration, especially in this the home district of George F. Hixson, the organization's first International President.

Our New York District, one of several organized in 1918 after the International Convention in Providence, R.I. authorized the formation of district some three years after the 1915 “birth” of the first Kiwanis club in Detroit, is participating in the year-long worldwide observance under the slogan “90 Years of Kiwanis! Celebrate!” Our goal is to celebrate this significant milestone through the district and at every Kiwanis level.

Clearly, to be worth any efforts expended, the celebration should be significant, beneficial to Kiwanis and ideally long lasting. Wouldn't it be great if every club, during the third week of January 2005, had a birthday party – a special meeting including guests, a program on a Kiwanis theme (a speaker on International's or the club's history or honoring all past club presidents for example), a birthday cake (with candles!) and follow-up publicity with photos in the local paper? It would be great fun, easy to do and very much in order – so, club presidents and program chairmen, let's plan to do that! But that's not nearly enough!

Our celebrations objective is much more ambitious, namely, a year-long special focus by every club on the two things we all know, we need to ensure club success and growth – more meaningful service projects, well publicized; and improved club meetings including good fellowship and better programs deserving recognition as the best show in town. These two basic things are of course what it takes to create, maintain and deserve the positive image in your community or which your club's success, i.e. member retention, attendance and recruitment ultimately depends. While a positive image cannot be created over night, the resolution to do those things can be made in minutes, and that resolution, if kept, will soon create the image. And that image will inevitably stimulate pride of membership, which in turn will promote member retention, attendance and enthusiasm and make recruitment easy or even unnecessary. (Believe it or not, some clubs have a waiting list; everyone wants to be with a winner).

What better time and reason to undertake this determined effort in every club (except those few which have no room for improvement). What better birthday gift can a Club President give to his or her Club and community than to make this the turnaround year so many clubs need? The Club President is Key, but the president obviously

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Lefferts Liberty Holds Dedication Ceremony to Honor 9/11 Victims



Kiwanis Club of **LEFFERTS-LIBERTY**, Queens West Division – On Sept. 12th, held a dedication ceremony to honor the victims of September 11, 2001. In attendance were

club members, the clergy, neighborhood fire department and assembled parishioners. The ceremony began with a prayer, blessing of the stone and placing flowers at the stone.

East Meadow Kiwanis Helps Community



The East Meadow Kiwanis Club and Borelli's made a \$5,000 donation to the Kirsten Stauder Foundation. L-R: Frank Borelli Jr, Kevin Savino, Linda Stauder, Tim Stauder, and East Meadow President Mitchell Skoller.



East Meadow Kiwanis donated \$3500 to the Long Island Coma Recovery Unit. L-R: Rosemary Santill and East Meadow President Mitchell Skoller.