



Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office

71 Main Street
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900
(908) 788-1166 Fax (908) 806-4624
www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/sheriff.htm

Frederick W Brown
Sheriff

Frank J. Della Serra
Undersheriff

Frank J. Cordero
Undersheriff

Robert W Smith
Undersheriff

Edward W Davis
Chief Warrant Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sheriff Frederick W. Brown

fbrown@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Gathers To Remember 9/11 And To Remember All Those Who Answered The Call

"It is good news that we continue to be in good hands with our Military and First Responders."

Hunterdon County September 11th Remembrance Ceremony guest speaker Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns III, recounted for those assembled at the Remembrance event, his personal experience on September 11, 2001 as Deputy Attorney General working in Newark, with a front row seat to the events as they unfolded that tragic morning.

Led by Hunterdon County Sheriff Fred W. Brown, Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III, Hunterdon County officials, Police Officers, First Responders, and Veterans honored the memory of those who perished in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, during a Remembrance Ceremony.

Sheriff Brown stated, "We gather here today to remember that nearly 3000 individuals were killed by the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, a day, like December 7th, 1941, that should always live in infamy, and in our memory.

We particularly wish to honor the memory of the 16 residents of Hunterdon County who perished that day."

Sheriff Brown explained that special guest speaker Gary Breuer who responded to the World Trade Center site on September 11, 2001, with New Jersey Task Force 1, and who was also supposed to speak during our ceremony today, was again activated with Task Force 1, late last night.

Sheriff Brown said, "Responding to the call in North Carolina with the impending hurricane, Gary continues to serve this country, protect its citizens and provide disaster response services. We are grateful to Prosecutor Kearns who accepted our last minute request to speak in Gary's absence this morning."

Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III said, “I remember driving down Route 78 going west away from the scene toward safety, while many people were going east and into danger. Those people heading into the city were our First Responders. They moved closer into danger, they did it voluntarily, willingly, to save lives that day.

We also need to remember what Reverend Erickson mentioned about our community coming together that night seventeen years ago, on Main Street, just as we are now. The streets were lined that evening with people and a sense of patriotism. Each year we take pause to remember what happened and to come together so that we don’t forget and to honor all those that perished.”

Nearly 3,000 souls were lost on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on Flight 93 outside Shanksville, Pa., including 16 residents of Hunterdon County, and nearly 400 First Responders.

Chiefs and officers from the Hunterdon County Law Enforcement community, Rescue Squads, and Volunteer Fire Companies joined the Remembrance ceremony. Dan Torrone, the noted Master of Ceremonies for the County’s 4-H Fair, volunteered to serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Sheriff Brown said, “I want to give special acknowledgment to all the law enforcement personnel and First Responders who have joined us today. As a long time law enforcement officer, and a former Police Chief, I know that we never know when duty may call us into a situation where our lives may be on the line. Gary’s call to action last night speaks for itself. Thank you for your dedication and willingness to serve and protect your fellow citizens.”

The Sheriff, a U.S. Navy Veteran, added, “And a very special thanks to all the Veterans who have turned out this morning to help us come together to remember.”

County Officials in attendance included, County Clerk Mary Melfi, Surrogate Susan Hoffman, and Freeholders Matt Holt and Suzanne Lagay. Reverend David Erickson of Old Rocks Church provided the invocation and benediction at the event. The New Jersey State Police presented Colors followed by Sheriff’s Officer Maria Dulmer who performed an acapella version of the National Anthem to lead off the ceremonies.

The pinnacle of the Remembrance event was the tolling of the bell in the Historic Courthouse 16 times for the 16 Hunterdon County residents who were lost in the September 11th attacks, followed by a bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace, by James Curry of the Somerset County Pipes and Drums.

Sheriff Brown, in concluding the ceremonies, told the assemblage, “Last year I said it was my sincere hope that this ceremony becomes an annual Remembrance event in our County, and we shall do so, because too much was sacrificed that day to ever forget.”