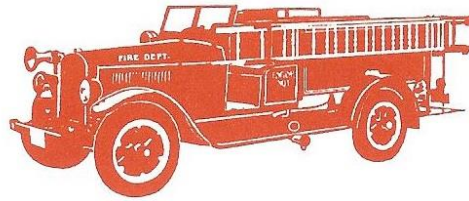


PLEASANT PLAINS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

Established 1926



40 Clayton Avenue
Toms River, New Jersey 08755

732-349-0808

February 28, 2017

9/11 Memorial Project

Pleasant Plains Volunteer Fire Department has received one of the last pieces of steel from the remains of the World Trade Center attack on 9/11. Nearly five years ago our Department Chaplain Lou Lotto began petitioning the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which controls the artifacts from the fallen Twin Towers, requesting and explaining why our Department wanted to display a piece of history. During the application process we had to cut through a lot of red tape and go through a lot of hoops but it was absolutely worth it. Several months ago our department members picked up the steel beam draped with an American flag from a Port Authority storage facility at JFK Airport and was escorted back to Toms River by Fire Chief Ryan Parente, Department members, units from the New Jersey State Police and Toms River Police Department.

It's been over 15 years since the tragic attacks on September 11th and we want to make sure that no matter how much time passes, people will still remember. The nearly 18 foot long steel beam, weighing more than 1500 pounds, will become part of a memorial at our station on Clayton Ave, honoring not only the first responders but all those who lost their lives that tragic day. This memorial will not only provide a solemn place to remember and reflect but as a place to teach children the significance of September 11th. It's a very humbling experience knowing that we have a piece of history. It's a reminder of what happened on that day and how many lives that it affected.

Each year on Memorial Day our department holds a memorial service to honor those members we have lost in the last year, the 9/11 Memorial will be the perfect addition to this service. Our station is a public building that is frequented by our members and our community when we hold fundraising events and the pieces of the World Trade Center would be prominently displayed. We are looking to have a memorial bench surround the steel beams and a series of walkways/spaces around our memorial plaza. Several areas will be dedicated for "**engraved donation pavers**" to help raise money for the project. If you are interested in purchasing an engraved paver please complete the Pleasant Plains Fire Department 9/11 Memorial Pavers Order form and submit it with your payment. Due to the limited amount of engraved pavers they are being offered on a first come first serve basis.

Sincerely,

Brian Doyle
President