

Creation of the 9-11 Living Memorial

By the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee

24 Pages Total

Synopsis: On September 11, 2001, nineteen terrorists attacked the United States. They hijacked four airplanes in mid-flight. The terrorists flew two of the planes into two skyscrapers at the World Trade Center in New York City. The impact caused the buildings to catch fire and collapse. Another plane destroyed part of the Pentagon (the U.S. military headquarters) in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth plane crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Officials believe that the terrorists on that plane intended to destroy either the White House or the U.S. Capitol. Passengers on the plane fought the terrorists and prevented them from reaching their goal. In all, nearly 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks. All of the terrorist men were from nations in the Middle East. They belonged to a terrorist group called Al Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden.

Reference <http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3756477>

Concept: Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey brought up the concept of creating a 9-11 Living Memorial in 2001 at their Environmental Meeting whereby all members agreed that the project was an excellent concept. Joan Koos volunteered to work in unison with the Chair. The pair went to L. B. Forcellati & Sons, a nursery on Rt. 35 in Wall, and asked for a donation of two trees. Mr. Forcellati donated two Red Maple trees, which depict the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York. In addition he volunteered to install the entire memorial. He graciously donated a black metal memorial bench, put a platform of pavers underneath and around the bench to minimize maintenance, and planted purple cabbage plants around each tree. At the dedication, an American flag was placed at each tree by Jack Miller of Public Works (now retired). Each of the two trees was tied with a yellow ribbon. At the request of the Environmental Committee, Jack placed American flags at both trees every year.

Mr. Luigi Forcellati received a proclamation from the 2001 Township Committee for his generosity and for his good work on the installation of the Living Memorial. The Environmental Committee was pleased that he received this well-deserved award.

Design and Location: Both Wilma and Joan truly felt that simplicity and dignity should be the key essential elements in the design of the memorial. Rather than a cemetery look, the concept was that the memorial would blend in with the Wall Township Municipal Complex luscious grounds. The bench was designed to be in a reflective, quiet location for anyone to contemplate their deep thoughts. The prior Business Administrator, Joe Verruni, approved the municipal location as the WTEAC wanted the memorial to face Town Hall where the Township Committee, volunteers, staff, boards and committees make important decisions. In addition, the library is an educational facility that fosters learning and reflection.

In *The Times* article at the Jersey Shore dated November 29, 2001, Mrs. Niedemeyer, surviving spouse, said "I'd like to thank you for the memorial" as her voice welled with emotion, "I think it's beautiful."

Plaque: Since the Environmental Committee orders their ribbons from Keifers Awards Company for school competitions, Wilma asked Mark Souza if he could donate an outdoor plaque. **He donated a plaque in color, which was laid in the ground inscribed with the words, "September 11, 2001, National Day of Mourning, Let Freedom Ring! – Dedicated by the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee."** It also had the emblem of the American Flag etched therein. These sentiments were originated by the Chairwoman and Joan after much thought and deliberation.

Significance: The Environmental Committee has done many projects over the years, but this project was deemed perhaps the most memorable and rewarding. It bears significant importance, far outweighing other projects the Committee has spearheaded and completed. Countless hours were spent paying attention to every last detail. It was a project that was gut wrenching, heartfelt, emotional, and draining for the Chair and Joan. It was definitely worth the effort "to do what we could" for the families that lost loved ones especially since it was the WTEAC that had originated the 9-11 Living Memorial.

Dedication: The dedication by the Environmental Committee to the families who lost loved ones on 9-11 was held on Thanksgiving weekend, Sunday, November 25, 2001 at 1 p.m. **As a memento for each invited guest, the Environmental Committee provided recipients with a “God Bless America – It’s Me and You” poem and a patriotic verse “I am an American. Each document was rolled up and tied with a red, white, and blue ribbon.**

This living memorial is dedicated in remembrance to those we honor, the victims who died in terrorist attacks; the police, our finest; the fireman, our bravest; other first aid responders who have fallen; the loved ones left behind; and to all of us whose life has been changed in ways we have yet to realize.

Speakers: Former Committeewoman Mary Burne led the Pledge of Allegiance flag salute and gave an excellent Invocation. Former Mayor, Frank Addonizio, spoke of unflaggingly support for the military operation under way in and around Afghanistan. He also spoke about the shortcomings of simple pacifism at a time when the American way of life is under attack. He also expressed grief for the families of those who died on September 11. His presentation was superb. The observance was formal with the Wall Police in uniform.

Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey spoke about the dedication of the memorial service, the design and concept of the memorial, the inscription on the plaque, patriotism, and **Mayor Giuliani’s response to a letter written to him from the Environmental Committee as a neighboring state. She read his acknowledgement written to the WTEAC.** Nancy Niedemeyer, whose husband was among the victims who died, spoke elegantly and courageously in her remarks while another widow quietly sobbed during the ceremony. There were many other speakers, and they all rose to the occasion. Friends and family were present to honor local area residents who died in the attack at the World Trade Center that included the fallen: James L. Cooper, John E. Connolly, Jr., Robert W. O’Shea, Christopher E. Lunder, and Alfonse Niedermeyer III.

Image of the Week: Dawn Connolly of Wall, who lost her husband John in the World Trade Center attack, is seen hugging her son, Patrick during the dedication memorial. This photo appeared in the *Asbury Park Press* all week. **Readers of the *Asbury Park Press* opened their hearts after viewing the photo and generously sent monetary funds to the *Asbury Park Press* for Mrs. Connolly.** Had it not been for this special day of dedication held by the WTEAC, the photo would never have been taken.

The Flag of the United States of America: A flag was flown over the United States Capitol on November 4, 2002, at the request of the Honorable Christopher H. Smith, Member of Congress. This flag was flown in commemoration of September 11, 2002; the one year anniversary: Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee, Let freedom ring! This document 2003-006277-001 is filed under Alan M. Hantman, FAIA, Architect of the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Disappointment to the WTEAC: In 2011, the former Business Administrator, Joe Verruni, and the new Township Committee (Mayor Conte, Deputy Mayor Foster, and Committeemen Newberry, Hoffman, and Luttmann) decided that **after ten years of environmental control, they would transfer the 9-11 Living Memorial from the Environmental Committee and gift it to Rob Coman and the Fire Explorers.**

Why this project has been so important and meaningful to the Environmental Committee – Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey and member Joan Koos of the Environmental Committee helped to lessen the loss for those families that lost loved ones by creating the “Living Memorial” and providing the Dedication Ceremony. This is the best project that the Environmental Committee has ever undertaken. To paraphrase, Mrs. Connolly said that she and her family felt that they were not alone, and she appreciated the support from people she did not know because she knew their support was genuinely sincere.

Reference *Asbury Park Press*, November 26, 2001

Recommendation: Even though the 9-11 Living Memorial is no longer in the hands of the WTEAC the Committee did make one final recommendation. They suggested an “interpretative sign” be built with brick, stone, or wood that would describe the terrorist attack - with before and after photos - and include a summary of the 9-11 events. The interpretative sign would have an inscription of the names of our local heroes’ whose untimely death occurred at the World Trade Center. This would provide comfort to the families of those who lost their love ones. It would give the families a chance to visit the site at any time, and it will make the memorial a permanent one. It also would provide young people with the opportunity to understand the magnitude of this horrific and tragic event. So far, this has not come to fruition even though the WTEAC provided the Township Committee with a template of what can and should be done with an “interpretive sign.”



Overall: The WTEAC is so pleased that this Living Memorial site is used by the Township each year for a public gathering that honors the victims of the Twin Towers and the families of their loved ones. It’s also revered by the community. This is indeed the official site for mourning our local heroes - as it should be.

In closing: The Environmental Committee honors and remembers our own in perpetuity.



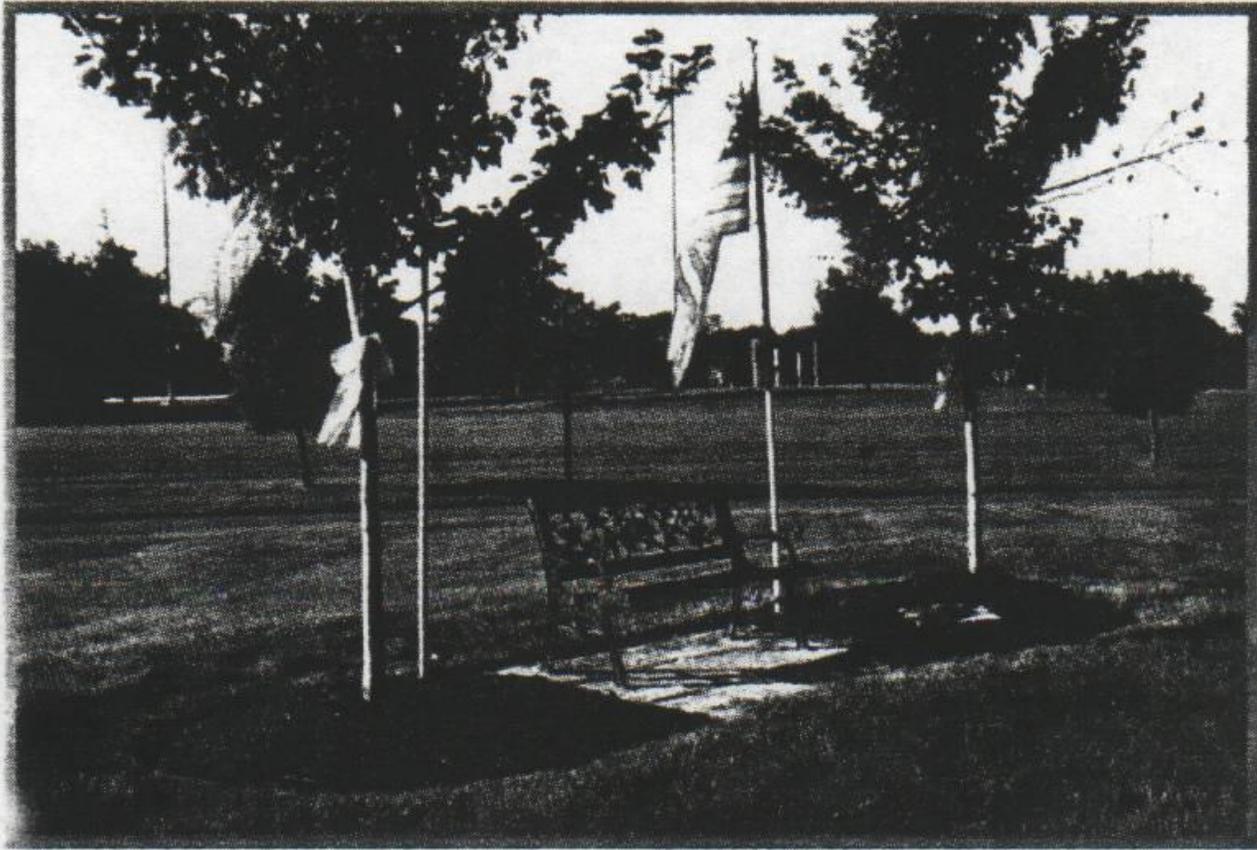
Mr. James L. Cooper
Mr. John E. Connolly, Jr.
Mr. Robert W. O’Shea,
Mr. Christopher E. Lunder
Mr. Alfonse Niedermeyer, III

May family members left behind find hope, comfort, and peace in the years ahead. We will never forget and can only wish their family members our absolute best.

The Environmental Committee would also like to pay tribute to former Mayor Frank Addonizio, Mark Souza of Keifers Awards Company, and WTEAC member Joan Koos, all deceased. We thank them in remembrance for their many contributions to this memorial site. May God Bless America!

wjm
WTEAC Chair





Wall Township Honors 9/11 Victims with Living Memorial

The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee (WTEAC) commemorated September 11 with its annual tradition of placing two flags at its "September 11 Living Memorial" at the Wall Township Municipal Complex.

The inscription on the plaque at this memorial reads: September 11, 2001, National Day of Morning, Let Freedom Ring!, Dedicated by the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee.

The WTEAC placed a flag on both sides at the commemoration bench, which is flanked by two trees depicting the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center. The flags, which symbolize hope, courage, and continuing freedom for all, will remain up for a period of seven to ten days. The flags memorialize the event that took place on September 11, 2001, in honor of all those who sacrificed so much.

Standing tall in tribute



Maple trees planted in Wall as memorial to local WTC victims

By **SAMUEL P. NITZE**
STAFF WRITER

The two red maple trees dedicated yesterday as a memorial to victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have a lifeless, wintry look, rising up gray and bare-limbed from their plots at the Wall municipal complex.

That is part of the point.

"The leaves are gone, resembling the destruction at ground zero," said Wilma Morrissey, chairwoman of the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee, the group that organized the dedication. "However, in the spring, these trees will be back in full bloom, each representing growth, freedom and life — an indication that life indeed does go on."

Morrissey, addressing a gathering of more than two dozen residents and elected officials, suggested that the memorial's placement near the municipal complex, a meeting place for volunteer groups and home to local government and the public library, was in part a tribute to community.

She described organizing the memorial — two trees set among purple cabbage plants at each end of an iron bench — as "one of the most heart-felt, heart-wrenching projects we have done."

Among those present at the dedication yesterday were family and friends of five area residents who died in the attack on the World Trade Center: James L. Cooper, John E. Connolly Jr., Robert W. O'Shea, Christopher E. Lunder and Alfonse Niedermeyer III.

Nancy Niedermeyer, whose husband was a Port Authority police officer for 16 years, compared herself to the maples, saying that during the long weeks since her husband's death, she has often felt as if her own roots had grown frail and undernourished.

But she said she has begun to shift toward a stronger attitude, driven in part by the hopeful promise of her pregnancy, a gift of life discovered only after her husband was gone. She said Sept. 11 should serve as a wake-up call for everyone to renew commitments to community, family and faith.

"There will be new leaves in the spring," she said, gesturing to the trees. "There will be new life. There will be new hope."

Mayor Frank Addonizio urged the crowd to offer unflagging support for the military op-

eration under way in and around Afghanistan.

"Disgruntled pacifists" would in time try to undermine that support, he said, but people needed to stay strong for a struggle that was not likely to end soon.

After the ceremony, Dawn Connolly, whose husband worked for EuroBrokers on the 84th floor in one of the twin towers, said the passage of time since the attacks had in some ways made her loss harder to bear, her struggle more intense.

"The reality is starting to settle in," she said, one arm draped over her son Patrick's shoulder. "You really know he's not coming home."

But, she said, yesterday's dedication was a stirring reminder that she and her family are not alone.

"That's what gets you through: the support of so many people, people you didn't even know," she said. "You look in their eyes and can see they mean it."

Samuel P. Nitze: (732) 643-4230
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MONMOUTH
ASBURY PARK PRESS | MONDAY, NOV. 26, 2001



Photos by TANYA BREEN/Staff Photographer

Dawn Connolly (above), Wall, who lost her husband, John, in the World Trade Center attacks, hugs her son, Patrick, during a dedication of a memorial, including two red maple trees (top right), at the Wall municipal complex yesterday. Alfonse Joseph Niedermeyer (top from left), 2, Wall, who lost his father, Port Authority Police Officer Alfonse Niedermeyer III in the attacks, joins friends Julia, 2, and Deanna Przybylski, 3, both of Howell.

Toast to the Town

Wall memorial dedicated to Sept. 11 victims

BY BRANDY ROOM

Correspondent

Friends and family of five Wall residents who fell victim to the Sept. 11 attacks gathered Nov. 25 around a wrought-iron bench flanked by two tall, bare, red maple trees planted on the grounds of the Wall Township Municipal Complex to help dedicate the memorial to the people they loved so much.

James L. Cooper, John E. Connolly, Jr., Robert O'Shea, Christopher E. Lunder and Alfonso Niedermeyer III were lost in the tragic event that happened almost three months ago, but the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee has made sure they will not be forgotten.

"These were not combatants," Mayor Frank Addonizio said of all of the people who lost their lives in the tragedy. "These were men and women who went to work for their families. These trees are living memorials. As long as we live, they will never die."

During his address, Addonizio had strong words for pacifists, calling them "disgruntled."

"(Pacifists) destroy us from within," the mayor said after the ceremony. "If we do not destroy the terrorists, they will destroy us. It's as easy as that. War is terrible, but the facts are that they started it. If people don't come to that realization, they're going to suffer again."

"This is one of the most heartfelt, heart-wrenching projects we've done," Wilma Morrissey, chairwoman of WTEAC told the crowd of about 40 people, which included such elected officials as Committee-woman Mary Burn and Committeeman John Devlin.

"The trees depict the twin towers," Morrissey said. "Its leaves are gone, resembling the destruction at ground zero. However, in the spring, these trees will be back in full swing,



each representing growth, freedom and life, an indication that life, indeed, does go on."

This is something widow Nancy Niedermeyer can relate to. One week after her husband's memorial service, she found out she was pregnant. As she addressed the gatherers, she gestured toward the trees and with a little smile, said, "There will be new leaves in the spring. There will be new life. There will be new hope."

The last memories she has of her husband Alfonso Niedermeyer III were but brief telephone calls, but instances that will endure in her memory for a lifetime. A 16-year Port Authority Police Officer, Niedermeyer called his wife when the first plane hit the World Trade Cen-

ter. According to her, he said, "Nancy, turn the TV on."

She said when she saw tower one of the World Trade Center on fire she knew that was where he was going. She last heard from her husband at 9:45 a.m. when he called her from the 14th floor of tower one while he was attempting to save the lives of others.

"I can choose to nurture the bitterness and anger, or I can choose to change it to strength," she told the crowd who held hands and put arms around each other for support.

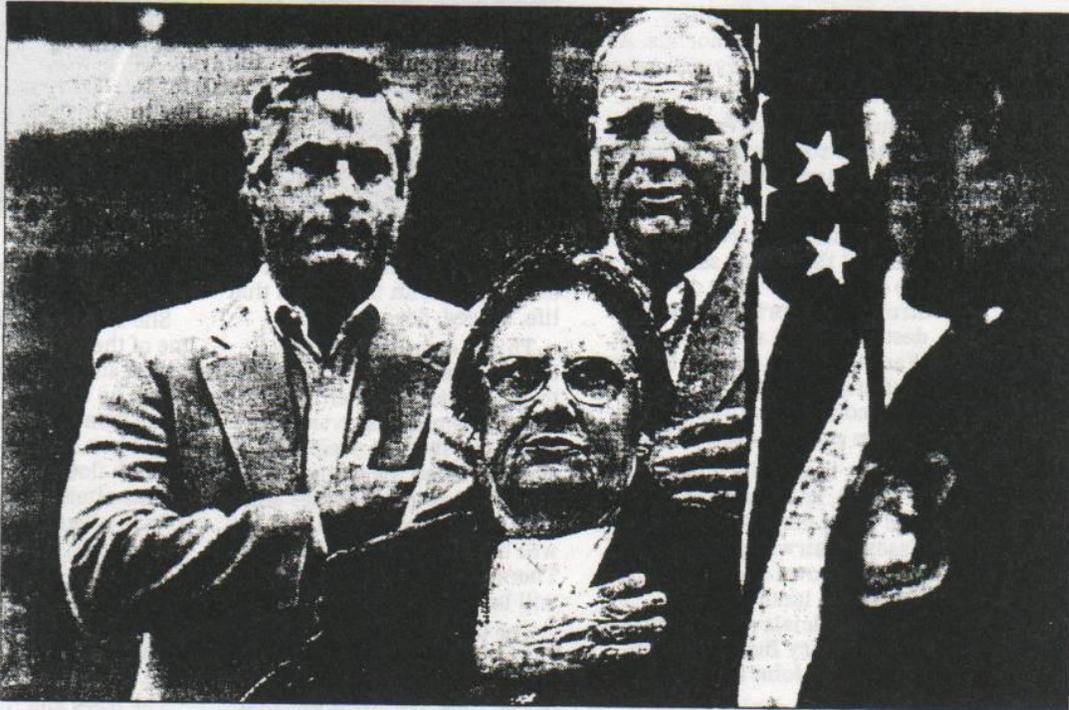
The trees and the bench, donated by L.B. Forcellati and Sons of Belmar, are located on the west side of the Wall Township Public Library at Allaire and Bailey's Corner Road.

THURSDAY, DEC. 6, 2001

WALL REPORTER / ASBURY PARK PRESS

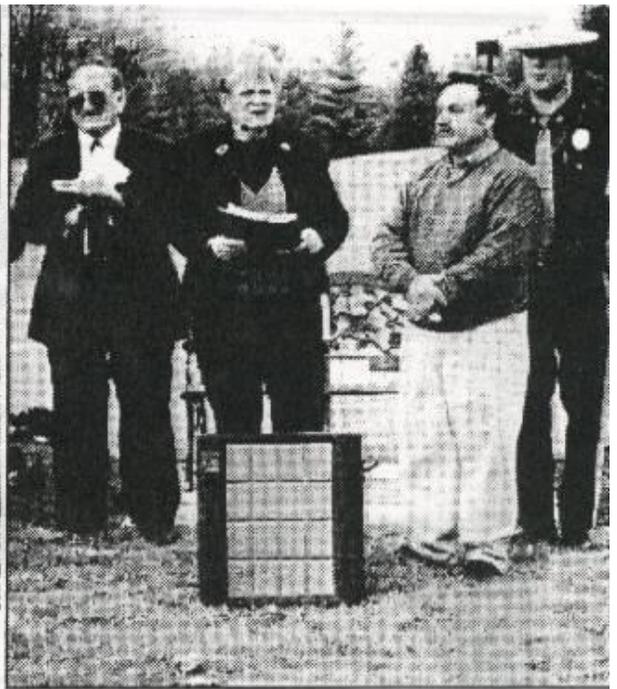
IN MEMORIAM

9 Wall officials and residents dedicate a serene spot to the Sept. 11 victims.



Clockwise from top left, Wall Mayor Frank Addonizio speaks at the Nov. 25 dedication of the Sept. 11 memorial. Bill O'Brien attended the dedication of two maple trees and a wrought-iron bench for the Sept. 11 victims. His son-in-law was one of the victims memorialized. Deputy Mayor Ned Thomson (left to right), Committeeman Jon Devlin and Committeewoman Mary Burne recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" at the start of the ceremony.

(PHOTOS: JAMIE SCANLON, JACORS/STAFF)



Wall Memorial

Wall Memorial Honors "Heroes," Inspires Hope for the Future

By Alesha Williams

A reverence for lives lost, and the promise of newly blossoming life and hope, were the themes intertwined at the dedication of Wall Township's "September 11, 2001 Living Memorial," Sunday November 25, 2001.

The Memorial itself stands as a symbol of hope and unity in the Township. The project is a collaborative effort of the Township's Environmental Advisory Committee, Keifer Award Company, West Belmar, who donated the memorial's plaque, and L.B. Forcellati and Sons of Wall, who donated the memorial's two red maple trees, cabbage plants, and a park bench.

"In the midst of tragedy, (we have been given) a great sense of community, which has brought out the finest qualities in people," said Wilma Morrissey, WTEAC Chairwoman (shown above).

Morrissey said that the living memorial was created to honor those who died by the hands of terrorists on September 11, particularly the area's local heroes; for those who lost family member "for all of us whose lives have been changed in ways we have yet to realize."

"The memorial's two red maple trees depict the Twin Towers," said Morrissey, "Its leaves are gone, resembling the destruction at Ground Zero. However, in the spring, these trees will be back full swing...each representing growth, freedom, and life - an indication that life, indeed, does go on."

Among the speakers at the event, was Nancy Niedermeyer of Wall, who lost her husband Alfonso Niedermeyer III, during the attacks. Alfonso Niedermeyer III was a Port Authority police officer for sixteen years before his life was taken in the fall of the twin towers. A week after his death, Nancy discovered that she was pregnant.

Niedermeyer addressed a crowd of about 50 attendees at the memorial, with a message of hope and optimism for the future of the community as well as the nation.

While she said that it's easy enough to "choose to nurture and develop the anger" that naturally follows such a heinous act, Niedermeyer said she hoped individuals would instead focus on "commitment to family, faith and community."

"Put time into what's going to truly nourish our own roots," said Niedermeyer, likening the community to the memorial's trees, and the promise of new leaves, life and hope to come in spring. *...Continued on page*

"I'd like to thank you for the memorial," said Niedermeyer, as her voice welled with emotion, "I think it's beautiful."

Also present at the ceremonies were the families of World Trade Center victims James L. Cooper, John E. Connolly, Jr., Robert W. O'Shea, and Christopher E. Lunder among them, Karen Lunder, Barbara O'Shea, and Dawn Connolly, Wall, above with Committee woman Mary Burne.

"The memorial was important to us," said Wall Township Mayor Frank Addonizio "The bench will serve as a place for people to sit and reflect on how fortunate we are to live in the United States. The trees will give perpetual attention to those that gave their lives on September 11."

Thursday, November 29, 2001

TheTIMES...at the jersey shore

IMAGE OF THE WEEK



SECTION AA

IMAGE OF THE WEEK

*Patricia Connolly of Wall hugs
his mother during the dedication
of a memorial to victims of the
World Trade Center attacks. 4*

TANYA BREEN/Staff Photographer

Dawn Connolly of Wall, who lost her husband, John, in the World Trade Center attack, hugs her son, Patrick, during a dedication of a memorial at the Wall municipal complex on Sunday. Among those present at the dedication of the memorial, which includes a park bench set between two newly planted red maple trees, were family and friends of five area residents who died in the terrorist attacks.

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Memorial dedicated to residents killed in WTC

By Jonathan C. Hall

On Sunday afternoon, the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee [WTEAC] dedicated its "September 11 Living Memorial" to those who died in the New York City terrorist attacks.

In particular, the WTEAC's memorial was intended to honor Wall Township's own who perished in the World Trade Center attacks. Committee Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey said. She listed James L. Cooper, John E. Connolly Jr., Robert W. O'Shea, Christopher E. Lunder and Al Niedermeyer III as local heroes who lost their lives in the attacks on New York City.

On hand for the ceremony were the wives of four of those lost: Dawn Conolly, Barbara O'Shea, Karen Lunder, and Nancy Niedermeyer. Mayor Frank Addonizio, Committeewoman Mary Burne, Committeeman John Devlin and Committeeman Ned Thomson also attended.

"It was a very impressive ceremony," Mayor Addonizio said, noting the rare beauty and symbolism of the memorial itself, located at the Wall Municipal Complex.

The WTEAC memorial is a "living" memorial in that its composition features living plants and trees. A park bench sits between two red maple trees and purple cabbage plants, all donated and planted by L.B. Forcellati & Sons on Route 35 in Wall.

An inscribed plaque for the memorial was donated by Mark Souza of Keifer's Awards. The inscription reads, "September 11, 2001, National Day of Mourning. Let Freedom Ring! Dedicated by the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee."

Ms. Morrissey offered a symbolic meaning for the memorial's components. "Simplicity and dignity are key essential elements in the design of our memorial," she said. "The two red maple trees that you see here depict the Twin Towers. Their leaves are gone resembling the destruction at Ground Zero. However, in the spring, these trees will be back in full swing, each representing growth, freedom, and life — an indication that life, indeed, does go on."

Committeewoman Burne opened the ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance and an emotional invocation. "We pray and express our deep condolences to all in our community that have suffered the loss of loved ones, friends, neighbors, and colleagues," Mrs. Burne said. "Their world, and ours, has been forever

changed."

"Father, in the midst of tragedy you have given us a great sense of community, which has brought out the finest qualities in people," Mrs. Burne continued. "We now understand that we are not in charge of our own safety. Everyday happenings that did not require a second thought now need careful planning and extra concern. Father, help us master each step, not mourn. It hurts us to think of loved ones and friends now dead.

"Heavenly Father," Committeewoman Burne concluded, "guide America where democracy reigns supreme. Amen."

Ms. Morrissey acknowledged and thanked Joan Koos for her tireless efforts to help bring the memorial dedication to fruition. Ms. Morrissey and Ms. Koos put a lot of time and effort into the living memorial project, along with Committeewoman Burne, township committee liaison to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Ms. Morrissey thanked Mary Burne for her input and assistance in seeing through to the dedication's success. The WTEAC chairwoman also thanked L.B. Forcellati, Mr. Souza, the township committee, the Wall Township Department, and WTEAC members Mary DeSarno and Ed Lot

Ms. Morrissey enjoined the public to recognize the positive and enriching function of a memorial such as this one. "It seems fitting that this living memorial placed on municipal ground where local government decisions are made, where volunteer boards and committees meet, where township employees work, and where the community utilizes the library for learning," Ms. Morrissey said.

"We chose the bench for quiet reflection time. We hope that you will use this memorial bench for contemplation or for just reading a book," she continued. "This bench is designed for your pleasure and enjoyment."

In his remarks at the ceremony Mayor Addonizio brought a broader perspective to Wall's modest memorial. Mr. Addonizio, who is intimately familiar with service to his country, suggested that Americans are fortunate to have strong-willed leaders and ought to rally behind them.

He cited the shortcomings of simple pacifism in a time when Americans and the American way of life are under attack. He said that all Americans need to get behind the war effort in Afghanistan and unflinchingly support the leaders and soldiers who protect American freedoms.

Mayor Addonizio also expressed grief for the families of those who died on Sept. 11, and especially for the over 10,000 children who lost a parent in the attacks. Mr. Addonizio, whose father died when he was just seven years old, knows how difficult growing up with that kind of loss can be.

As a moving final touch to the ceremony, Nancy Niedermeyer, wife of Port Authority policeman Al Niedermeyer lost on Sept. 11, offered her reflections and hope for the future in the face of the

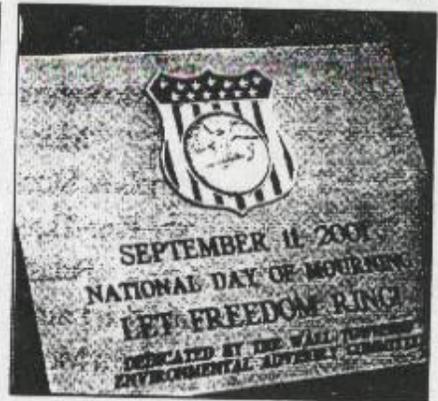
Wall remembers

Wall Township



Nancy Niedermeyer [left], whose husband, Port Authority Police Officer Al Niedermeyer III died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, spoke on Sunday at the dedication of a living memorial created by the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee. In addition to Mrs. Niedermeyer, other Wall residents who lost family members in the attack attended, including Barbara O'Shea [below] who also lost her husband.

SHAWN HUBER
PHOTOS



Wall Mayor Frank Addonizio [left] was one of several Wall officials to attend the dedication of a memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The memorial is home to a plaque [above] remembering the victims.

SHAWN HUBER PHOTOS

September 11, 2001 Living Memorial



We would like to thank you for participating in our "September 11 Living Memorial" today.

- ◆ This living memorial is intended to honor those who died by the hands of the terrorists in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C.
- ◆ This living memorial also is in remembrance of the fallen –our finest, the police, – our bravest, the firemen, and other volunteers, who willingly gave their lives.
- ◆ This living memorial is for the loved ones who lost family members and whose lives will forever be shattered.
- ◆ This living memorial is for all of us whose life has been changed in ways we have yet to realize.
- ◆ This living memorial, in particular, is to honor Wall Township's own and our local nearby heroes. Mr. James L. Cooper, Mr. John E. Connolly, Jr., and Mr. Robert W. O'Shea, Mr. Christopher E. Lunder, Mr. Alfonse Niedermeyer III, as well as anyone else from Wall or locally, who may have lost their life at the World Trade Center.

Simplicity and dignity are key essential elements in the design of our memorial. The two red maple trees, that you see here, depict the Twin Towers. Its leaves are gone resembling the destruction at ground zero. However, in the spring, – these trees will be back in full swing, each representing growth, freedom, and life – an indication that life, in deed, does go on. It seemed fitting that this living memorial be placed on municipal grounds where local government decisions are made, where volunteer boards and committees meet, where township employees work, and where the community utilizes the library for educational learning. We chose the bench for quiet reflection time. We hope that you will use this memorial bench for contemplation or for just reading a book.

The WTEAC would like to share with you, our inscription on the plaque, which reads:

September 11, 2001
National Day of Mourning,
Let Freedom Ring!

Dedicated by the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee.

September 11 will be a historic day forever remembered because it was the first time that we have been so horrifically attacked on American soil. It will be one of those, do you remember where you were days. It ranks right up there with World War I, World War II, and Pearl Harbor, just to name a few of the more memorable events. We are more patriotic today – look around at the American flags that you see on cars, houses, and buildings. We are united, we stand together, and we remain firm. We need to be thankful this Thanksgiving weekend for those military folks, who are putting their lives on the line, for our freedom – a gift to be forever treasured and never to be taken for granted. We should be thankful for the gift of the American way of life. We fully support our President and our military, for endeavoring to eradicate terrorism acts against our country.

In Mayor Giuliani's acknowledgement to the WTEAC, his last sentence reads, "Inspired by countless examples of courage and generosity, we have met the worst of humanity with the best of humanity." In that spirit of demonstrating the best of humanity, may we request that you shake hands with your neighbor on the right and left of you in a show of unity and support.

The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee wishes, each of you a life filled with promise, hope, peace, and newfound freedom. May the best be yet to come! Let freedom ring!

Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee
Wilma Morrissey, Chairwoman

GOD BLESS AMERICA -- IT'S ME AND YOU



Early one morning a September Day
People headed out on their merry way
Day turned to darkness with us asking why
Planes of pleasure forced from the sky

America was dealt a cowardly blow
Its world trade centers were targets below
Planes headed down driven by hate
Pictures of horror were the victims fate

If the towers could have held out a hand
They would have cradled their fellow man
All they could do was shed a tear
pilots of evil were drawing near

Explosions, fire, smoke filled the air
Destruction and chaos was everywhere
The pentagon suffered a spineless attack
Heroes had taken another plane back

Rescue workers arrived on the scene
Risking their lives remaining serene
Crashing towers buildings in flames
Innocent lives lost so many names

United we stand Red White and Blue
In God we trust seeing us through
May his hand guide all that we do
God Bless America Red White and Blue

■ Submitted by Stephen Boan

I Am An American



I am glad that I am an American.
Let me live and die that way.
While there is strife in other nations,
We hope for peace, for which I pray.



Keep aloft the torch of freedom,
Burn it bright to lead the way.
Hold me steadfast to my country.
From the path, don't let me stray,

I am thankful that I am an American,
Let me live and die that way.

Author Unknown



TOWNSHIP OF WALL
2700 Allaire Road
P.O. Box 1168
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ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Telephone (732) 449-8444
FAX # (732) 449-8996

September 21, 2001

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: September 11 Terrorism Attack

On behalf of Committeewoman Mary Burne, myself, and the entire Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee, we would like to applaud the efforts of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani for his outstanding role in administering to New York's needs, the firemen who are the bravest, and the police officers who are the finest.

The citizens of New York were a shining light, in setting the example across the nation, for their demonstration of brotherly love, patriotism, and compassion for others. In a time of tragedy, one discovers the qualities of really true leaders as evidenced by the deeds of Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Governor George Pataki, and President George Bush. All three leaders showed steadiness, honesty, and a loving heart for its people.

The bond of unity and loyalty in the United States will remain forever strong. The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee, in your neighboring state, deeply regrets the loss of life in New York City. The families who suffered such tremendous losses in New York and in Washington, D.C. will remain forevermore in our thoughts.

God Bless America!

Wilma J. Morrissey
WTEAC Chairwoman

C: President George W. Bush
Governor George E. Pataki

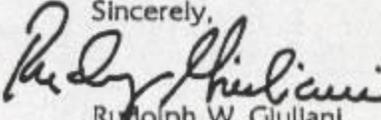


October, 2001

Thank you for your kind letter concerning the attack on the World Trade Center. I know that all New Yorkers deeply appreciate your thoughts and prayers on behalf of the victims and their families.

In the aftermath of this unimaginable tragedy, New Yorkers and Americans have united as never before. Inspired by countless examples of courage and generosity, we have met the worst of humanity with the best of humanity.

God bless America.

Sincerely,

Rudolph W. Giuliani
Mayor



THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capitol on November 4, 2002, at the request of the Honorable Christopher H. Smith, Member of Congress.

This flag was flown in commemoration of September 11, 2002. Let freedom ring! Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee.

Alan M. Hantman, FAIA
Architect of the Capitol



This American Flag is presented to

**The Wall Township
Environmental Advisory Committee**
Monmouth County, N.J.

and flown over the United States Capitol Building on Nov. 4, 2002

at the request of

Congressman Christopher H. Smith

in commemoration of the One Year Anniversary of September 11, 2001.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Smith".

Christopher H. Smith, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

September 11, 2001

National Day of Mourning

Let Freedom Ring!



**Dedicated by the Wall Township
Environmental Advisory Committee**

Wall to dedicate 9/11 memorial

WALL: The Wall Environmental Commission is dedicating a memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on Nov. 25. The ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. on the library side of the municipal complex on Allaire Road.

THURSDAY, NOV. 22, 2001

TheTIMES...at the jersey shore • Thursday, November 22, 2001

September 11 Living Memorial to be Held in Wall

The Wall Township Environmental Committee is extending an open invitation to anyone who wishes to attend the dedication of the "September 11 Living Memorial" on Thanksgiving Weekend - Sunday, November 25 at 1 p.m. This event will take place on the library side of the Wall Municipal Complex on Allaire Road. Parking will be in the Town Hall Complex.

L.B. Forcellati & Sons has donated two Red Maple trees, a park bench, and a platform of stones underneath the bench, and cabbage plants around the trees. Keifer Award Company has donated the plaque. The WTEAC appreciates their contribution in making this beautiful memorial possible. This living memorial is dedicated in remembrance of those who died in terrorist attacks, the loved ones left behind, and to all of us whose lives have been changed in ways not yet realized. Mayor Frank Addonizio and Township Committee members will be in attendance. In keeping with the spirit of unity, we stand united. Please keep this date open. Bring your friends, neighbors and family for this one-half hour or less dedication.

Sept. 11 memorial set

The Wall Township Environmental Committee is extending an open invitation to anyone who wishes to attend the dedication of the "September 11 Living Memorial" on Thanksgiving weekend. Sunday, Nov. 25 at 1 p.m.

This event will take place on the library side of the Wall Municipal Complex, Allaire Road. Parking will be in the town hall complex.

L.B. Forcellati & Sons has donated two Red Maple trees, a park bench and a platform of stones underneath the bench and cabbage plants around the trees. Keifer Award Company has donated the plaque. The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee expressed appreciation to the companies for their contribution in making this memorial dedication possible.

This living memorial is dedicated in remembrance of those who died in the terrorist attacks, the loved ones left behind and to all of those whose lives have been changed in ways not yet realized.

Committeewoman Mary Burnie, liaison to the environmental advisory committee, will perform the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Frank Addonizio will be the main speaker.

Organizers invite all to come with their friends, neighbors, and family to the dedication, which is expected to last one-half hour.

THE COAST STAR, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2001

Wall Townsh

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This living memorial is dedicated in remembrance of those who died in the terrorist attacks, the loved ones left behind and to all of those whose lives have been changed in ways not yet realized.

Mayor Addonizio and township committee members will be in attendance.

The dedication, which is expected to last a maximum of one-half of an hour, is open to the public.

Wall Township

WTEAC marks anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks

The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee [WTEAC] commemorated Sept. 11 Patriot Day with flags placed at its "September 11 Living Memorial" at the Wall Township Municipal Complex.



WTEAC placed a flag on both sides of the commemorative bench, which is flanked by two trees as a symbol of the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center.

The flags will remain up for a period of seven to 10 days memorializing the event that took place on Sept. 11, 2001. The WTEAC will set a tradition of continuing the placement of the two flags each and every year, in honor of those who sacrificed their lives.

THE COAST STAR, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

Wall Township



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A guide to fishing & boating at the Jersey Shore.



November 26, 2001

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Standing tall in tribute

Published in the Asbury Park Press 11/26/01

Maple trees planted in Wall as memorial to local WTC victims

By SAMUEL P. NITZE
STAFF WRITER

The two red maple trees dedicated yesterday as a memorial to victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have a lifeless, wintry look, rising up gray and bare-limbed from their plots at the Wall municipal complex.

That is part of the point.

"The leaves are gone, resembling the destruction at Ground Zero," said Wilma Morrissey, chairwoman of the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee, the group that organized the dedication. "However, in the spring, these trees will be back in full bloom, each representing growth, freedom and life - an indication that life indeed does go on."

Morrissey, addressing a gathering of more than two dozen residents and elected officials, suggested that the memorial's placement near the municipal complex, a meeting place for volunteer groups and home to local government and the public library, was in part a tribute to community.

She described organizing the memorial - two trees set among purple cabbage plants at each end of an iron bench - as "one of the most heart-felt, heart-wrenching projects we have done."

Among those present at the dedication yesterday were friends and family of five area residents who died in the attack on the World Trade Center: James L. Cooper, John E. Connolly, Jr., Robert W. O'Shea, Christopher E. Lunder and Alfonse Niedermeyer III.

Nancy Niedermeyer, whose husband was a Port Authority police officer for 16 years, compared herself to the maples, saying that during the long weeks since her husband's death, she has often felt as if her own roots had grown frail and undernourished.

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But she said she has begun to shift toward a stronger attitude, driven in part by the hopeful promise of her pregnancy, a gift of life discovered only after her husband was gone. She said Sept. 11 should serve as a wake-up call for everyone to renew commitments to community, family and faith.

"There will be new leaves in the spring," she said, gesturing to the trees. "There will be new life. There will be new hope."

Mayor Frank Addonizio urged the crowd to offer unflagging support for the military operation under way in and around Afghanistan.

"Disgruntled pacifists" would in time try to undermine that support, he said, but people needed to stay strong for a struggle that was not likely to end soon.

After the ceremony, Dawn Connolly, whose husband worked for EuroBrokers on the 84th floor in one of the twin towers, said the passage of time since the attacks had in some ways made her loss harder to bear, her struggle more intense.

"The reality is starting to settle in," she said, one arm draped over her son Patrick's shoulder. "You really know he's not coming home."

But, she said, yesterday's dedication was a stirring reminder that she and her family are not alone.

"That's what gets you through: the support of so many people, people you didn't even know," she said. "You look in their eyes and can see they mean it."

Samuel P. Nitze: (732) 643-4230 or snitze@app.com

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