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*In appreciation to the following contributors*

City of West Chicago, West Chicago Fire Protection District, West Chicago Police Department, West Chicago Park District, West Chicago Elementary School District #33, Community High School District #94, Benjamin School District #25, West Chicago Public Library, West Chicago Community Choir, West Chicago American Legion Post #300, VFW Post #6791, Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post #6791, Wheaton Academy, St. Mary's Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Water's Edge Bible Church, Boy Scout Troop #21, and Community Volunteers.

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## Recollections and Reflections

—“So many other events happened that day that our hearts went out as a nation to all those people who were lost, and America wept.”  
-Darby S.

—“I was a student at Northern Illinois University. I remember that many students skipped classes to watch TV sets in residence halls, and at the student center. We were all dumb struck—was this really happening? Classes were held as scheduled, but I couldn’t bring myself to attend. I stayed in my apartment, watched TV and prayed that my cousin, who worked in the World Trade Center, was okay.”  
-Melissa B.

—“After the first plane hit, a daughter called and told me to watch TV. So I saw the second plane hit. I watched from then on. I did not know anyone in New York.” -Pat S.

—“When I arrived at O’Hare (from London) on the 15th of September, it was a surprise event. My plane was the only one I could see moving at the airport. It was a concrete ghost town.” -Donald S.

—At the time, we lived in Carol Stream, right in the flight path to O’Hare. The silence that afternoon was deafening. I was so used to hearing planes fly overhead and now there were none. I can recall closing as many drapes and blinds as I could out of pure fear now that I wasn’t being distracted by the details of organizing and planning. I remember thinking, “What about our daughter—how could we bring a new life into such a scary world?” -Katherine W.

—Beautiful alabaster building, filled with beautiful lives, destroyed by the racial hate of a few. My tears are still fresh. My country and my heart will always remember-American #11 and #77, United #93 and #175, and the 343. -Tina G.

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If you are an individual or part of an organization, business or group that would like to help support the park memorial, please contact the West Chicago Park District administrative office at 630.231.9474. Thank you.

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## Program of Events

### **Posting of Colors:**

West Chicago Police Department and the West Chicago Fire Protection District Color Guards; Bagpiper Matthew Keller

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Star-Spangled Banner:**

Community High School District #94 Band under the direction of Steve Govertsen

### **Opening Prayer:**

Rev. Tim Mitchell, West Chicago Fire Protection District Chaplain

### **Welcome:**

Mayor Mike Kwaskan

### **Dedication of Park Memorial:**

West Chicago Park District Director Gary Major

### **Hometown Hero Presentation:**

West Chicago Park District Foundation

### **Honoring of Armed Forces, West Chicago Fire Protection District and the West Chicago Police Department**

Mayor Kwaskan, Police Chief Laz Perez, Fire Chief Robert Hodge

### **America the Beautiful:**

West Chicago Community Choir under the direction of Jo Noonan

### **Community Essay Readings:**

Police Officer Bob Winton, 10th Mountain Division  
Veteran Josh Kerber, U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division  
Deputy Chief Dennis Keefe, West Chicago Fire Protection District

### **Patriotic Medley**

Community High School District #94 Band

### **Lighting of Flashlights**

### **God Bless America:**

First United Methodist Church of West Chicago under the direction of Ron Benner

### **Five Bells Ceremony:**

West Chicago Fire Protection District

### **Twenty-one Gun Salute:**

West Chicago American Legion Post #300 and VFW Post #6791

### **Taps**

Ben Stibal and Quinton Letts

### **Benediction and Moment of Remembrance**

### **Retirement of Colors**