KITSAP 9-11 MEMORIAL

Not just a Memorial to view but to Experience on Many Levels

On September 28, 2009 Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue, of Silverdale, WA, received confirmation that their request for steel artifacts from the World Trade Center had been approved by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. CKFR was the third in the nation to apply, and the first in Washington State to receive approval.

Learning of the impending arrival of these artifacts, team *Serendipitous* of the *Leadership Kitsap* organization, joined forces with CKFR to plan for the transport of the artifacts across our nation. With the beams weighing over 5,000 lbs. each the daunting tasks of planning and paying for their transport began. In August 2010, with approximately an 800 motorcycle escort he beams (honorably wrapped in an American flag) arrived at the Kitsap Mall in Silverdale,Washington to the cheers of thousands.

After the arrival of the steel, a non-profit group called the *Kitsap 9-11 Memorial Project* was formed and tasked with approving a design, raising construction funds, and securing an appropriate memorial location. Over the next three years the group earned tens of thousands of dollars by selling merchandise and engraved bricks so the first phase of construction could begin. The final phase came when local labor groups, representing various construction trades, joined forces with local businesses and hundreds of volunteers to complete this beautiful memorial.

Three major elements were incorporated into the final design to represent the twin towers, the Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania. The design incorporated the stories of that day at the level of detail desired by the visitor. Some visitors may simply want to walk the location with no commentary and enjoy the beautiful surrounding views and memorial. Yet others may desire to know details of the memorial that explains the events of the day, the stories of heroism as they unfolded, and seek out the many hidden elements included into the design. Each element of the memorial tells a part of the story.

One element of the memorial is the colorful and creative tiles that were designed by 5th grade students throughout Kitsap County These students, who were born in the year of the 9-11 event, were asked to design and paint a ceramic tile depicting *"What a Hero Means to Me".* These tiles are now imbedded into the wall surrounding the memorial.

Another element is the multi-colored granite rings designed to represent a giant clock that is aligned to a series of events as described and occurred on September 11. Due North is the top of the hour, due South is half past the hour and East and West are the quarter hours. Each ring tells stories of a hijacked flight relating to the WTC site, the Pentagon, or the Pennsylvania crash site of Flight 93. For example: The ring representing WTC North Tower, and American Airlines Flight 11, begins just before due north and a dark strip at the end of that ring indicates the time the tower was stuck by the plane. At 10:28 a.m. there is another dark strip representing the South Tower that radiates out to where it meets the low wall surrounding the memorial marking the time of its collapse. And, the Pentagon radial line runs through the center of a break in the low wall which contains an actual limestone cornerstone that was salvaged from the building facade. The diameter of the central circle is identical to the fuselage radius of the 767 aircraft, and the black granite squares represent the seating layout of the coach cabin on the three planes.

And, at the center of the memorial are the two steel beams that had plummeted to the ground in the crashing and crumbling of the twin towers. They are aligned north and south, and positioned in relation to each other in the same way the north and south towers were to one another. When viewed from the east or the west, they lean inward, form an arch, and remind us of Ground Zero. But when viewed from the north or the south, they are straight and erect as they were before 9-11.

This memorial now stands tall honoring those that lost their lives and also details the fateful events as they happened on that day. Events, that happened many miles from this location, yet events that will tie our nation together forever.

Upon completion, the Bremerton VFW Post 239 became stewards of the memorial and it was officially dedicated to the City of Bremerton on September 11, 2013.

Help Maintain the Memorial by…

** Buying an Etched Brick—which will be installed at the Commemorative Plaza at the memorial*
** Purchasing a coin, patch or other merchandise items*
** Becoming a volunteer steward to help with landscape maintenance*

Brick and merchandise order forms, Stewardship application and more memorial details can be found by visiting our Facebook page at—Supporters of Kitsap 9-11 Memorial
or the official web site is at: http://www.bremertonwa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Kitsap-911-Memorial