

9/11 TEN YEARS LATER

STEEL FROM TOWERS IS USED FOR MEMORIALS

Frankenmuth, Birmingham, EMU to debut theirs today

By NAOMI R. PATTON
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Thousands of pieces of steel and concrete were culled from the mountain of debris left by New York City's fallen World Trade Center towers after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It was collected and stored in a hangar at JFK airport.

An architect extracted much of the material to be used for the 9/11 Memorial and Memorial Museum, but 1,300 pieces of steel remained, said Steve Coleman, spokesman for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

So, the Port Authority placed ads and articles in various municipal publications, firefighter and police trade publications and community papers, offering pieces to municipalities and community groups to create their own memorials.

"We got overwhelming interest," Coleman said of the more than 2,000 requests.

One was from Eric MacKinnon, a Frankenmuth volunteer firefighter who helped request a 10-foot-long, 950-pound piece in place for the nearly complete memorial in front of the fire station. It is to be introduced today.

"It's still sinking in as I drive by," he said.

The memorial in Frankenmuth is one of three new artifact memorials set to debut on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. The others will be dedicated at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and at a fire station in Birmingham.

The memorials will join the 40 other pieces of steel beams from the twin towers — some twisted and torn by the impact of planes that struck them and the towers' collapse — that are part of Sept. 11 artifact memorials across Michigan.

Teaching others about 9/11

When the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center, Lilly Epstein Stotland felt the ex-



Eastern Michigan University

Kevin Abbasse shows Eastern Michigan University's beam to union glassworkers. Damage on one end could be the result of it being ripped from the south tower.

plosion from her desk on the 29th floor of her office at Goldman Sachs, several blocks away.

"I could see it very clearly out of the window," said Stotland, 33, of Birmingham. "At that point, we weren't terribly alarmed."

Then the second plane flew close enough to the Goldman Sachs office at 85 Broad St. that Stotland said she saw it in her peripheral vision and "felt a tremendous shaking."

Stotland eventually left her office building, running through clouds of ash and dust as the twin towers collapsed. "I was purposely telling myself not to look too closely at the scene around me," she said. "I was covered from head to toe."

More than a year ago, Stotland, a general manager at Southfield-based Vesco Oil, which her family owns, read an article about the Port

See STEEL, PAGE 12A



Eric MacKinnon

Safety Officer Jamison Zehnder of Frankenmuth's fire department prepares to seal the department's beam from the World Trade Center so that visitors to the memorial can not only see it, but touch it, too.

STEEL: Towers now part of memorials

FROM PAGE 8A

Authority offering steel and volunteered to lead an effort to have a memorial in Birmingham. The memorial's costs were funded through her parents' Marjory and Donald Epstein Family Charitable Foundation.

"I really felt that having a memorial in the city of Birmingham was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Stotland said. "I didn't want to miss the chance to teach the students and teach the community what happened that day."

The 1-foot piece of slightly torn steel arrived by mail in August. It will be mounted on a pedestal and displayed under Plexiglas for the permanent memorial inside the Adams Fire Station, which will be dedicated today.

Acquiring an artifact

Coleman said the pieces of steel were cut to fit the specific requirements of each request. The only cost to the groups requesting the artifacts was the cost of transporting them from the JFK hangar to their final destinations.

He said he remembers volunteer firefighters — a group of farmers — from the Brown City Area Fire Authority, in Michigan's Thumb, scheduling their pickup around their farming schedule.

"That just typifies what we see out here," Coleman said.

MacKinnon said he read an article on the Fire Service Web site about the artifacts and worked with his chief to fill out an application. Six months ago, they learned they got it.

MacKinnon drove with Ethan Crichton, who also volunteers as a firefighter and EMT for Frankenmuth, to JFK airport at the end of April to pick up the steel. The two also went to Ground Zero and stayed in a firehouse in State College, Pa., on their way back.

"It was a great honor to be able to go out there," said MacKinnon, 24.

The steel is mounted at a 60-degree angle as part of a five-sided granite memorial: Two of the sides represent the World Trade Center towers; one represents the Pentagon, which also was struck; one represents Shanksville, Pa., the crash site of another of the hijacked planes, and the fifth side tells what it all means. The full memorial, with benches and a walkway, is expected to be completed this fall or next spring.

Understanding what happened

Eastern Michigan University is dedicating its memorial at Pease Park, near Pease Auditorium, this afternoon.

Walter Kraft, EMU vice president of communications, said the university requested its artifact after EMU President Susan Martin read an article about the Port Authority effort. John Donegan, EMU's facilities director, picked up the 14-foot steel beam from the JFK hangar in July.

The beam, marked "74" and "South," is believed to have

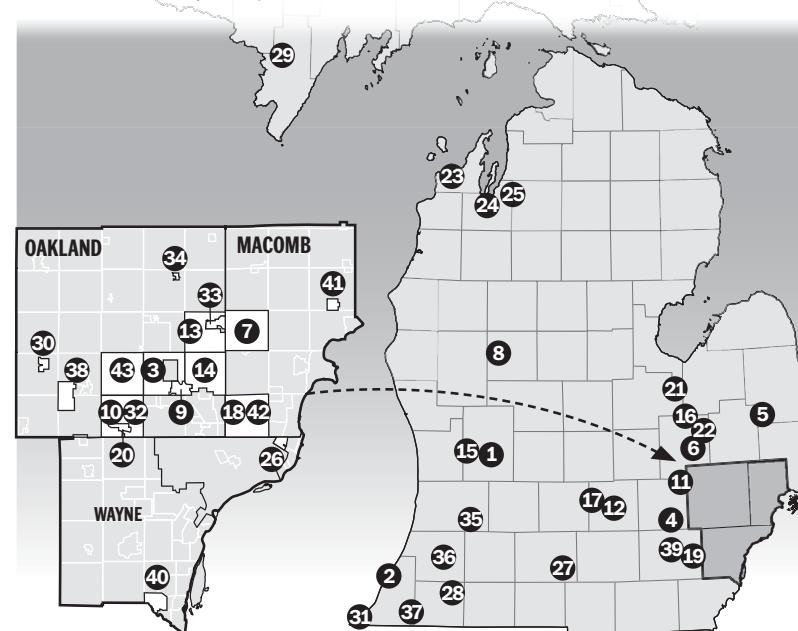


Eastern Michigan University

Carpenters Charlie Laws, center, and Jeremy Burl of Christman Construction create the forms for the concrete base of the 9/11 memorial next to Pease Auditorium on the Eastern Michigan University campus.

Artifact destinations in Michigan

Fire departments, emergency services, cities, schools and a VFW hall have obtained permission to receive World Trade Center artifacts from the New York Port Authority for 9/11 memorials.



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| 1 Ada Township Fire-Rescue Department | 22 Genesee Charter Township Fire Department Station #1 |
| 2 American Red Cross, Berrien County chapter, Benton Harbor | 23 Glen Arbor Township |
| 3 Bloomfield Township Fire Department | 24 Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority, Traverse City |
| 4 Brighton Area Fire Department | 25 Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department, Battalion # 3, Williamsburg |
| 5 Brown City Area Fire Authority | 26 Harper Woods Fire Department |
| 6 Charles Stewart Mott Community College, Flint | 27 Homer Fire Department |
| 7 Charter Township of Shelby, Fire Department | 28 Marcellus Ambulance Service |
| 8 Big Rapids Department of Public Safety | 29 Meyer Township, Hermansville |
| 9 City of Birmingham | 30 Milford Fire Department |
| 10 City of Farmington Hills | 31 New Buffalo Township Fire Department |
| 11 City of Fenton Fire Department | 32 North Farmington High School, Farmington Hills |
| 12 City of Mason Volunteer Fire Department | 33 Oakland Township Fire Department, Rochester |
| 13 City of Rochester Hills Fire Department | 34 Orion Township Fire Department, Lake Orion |
| 14 City of Troy Fire Department | 35 Otsego Fire Department and Rescue, Otsego |
| 15 City of Walker Fire Department | 36 Paw Paw Firefighters Association |
| 16 Clio Area Fire Department | 37 Pokagon Volunteer Fire Department, Niles |
| 17 Delhi Township Fire Department, Holt | 38 The Wixom Association of Professional Firefighters |
| 18 Detroit Arsenal Fire Department, Warren | 39 University of Michigan Department of Public Safety, Ann Arbor |
| 19 Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti | 40 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9363, Flat Rock |
| 20 Farmington Public Safety Department | 41 Village of New Haven Fire Department |
| 21 Frankenmuth Fire Department | 42 Warren Fire Department |
| | 43 West Bloomfield Fire Department |

Source: New York Port Authority

MEMORIAL FACTS

FRANKENMUTH

A 10-foot-long, 950-pound steel floor beam. Location source: unknown.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

A 14-foot-long, 6,800-pound steel beam. Location source: Imprinted "74" and "south," indicating 74th floor, south tower.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

A 1-foot-long steel beam. Location source: unknown.

FIRST-RESPONDER DEATHS

Rescue workers who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center:

343 Firefighters and paramedics
23 New York Police Department officers
37 Port Authority police officers

MARTHA THIERRY/Detroit Free Press

come from the 74th floor of the World Trade Center's south tower. The steel and granite memorial was designed by a committee of faculty, staff and students to be approachable, Kraft said. The steel is coated with an epoxy to protect it.

"There is power in just touching, in being able to touch the piece," Kraft said. "You can see the force of what happened."

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