

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.

9/11 anniversary is a time for healing, some say

Several faiths plan to share services today

By NIRAJ WARIKOO
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

As the nation marks the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks today, a wide range of religious and ethnic groups are coming together across metro Detroit to promote unity and healing.

In churches, mosques, temples and community centers, local residents are trying to find common ground as they remember the victims.

At the historic Central United Methodist Church in Detroit, the imam and congregation of the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn — the biggest mosque in Michigan — will attend morning services alongside Christians today. At St. John's Episcopal Church in Royal Oak, Jews, Muslims and

Christians will mark the anniversary. And interfaith worship services will be held tonight at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, a 150-year-old conservative synagogue in Southfield.

"It's about healing," said the Rev. Ed Rowe, pastor of Central United. "It's all about recognizing that we share common ground and building on that foundation to achieve a greater understanding of each other's faith."

At Central United Methodist — which marked its 200th anniversary last year — there will be talks by Rowe and Imam Hassan Al-Qazwini, who heads the Islamic Center of America. The 10 a.m. service is open to the public and will include a question and answer



PATRICIA BECK/Detroit Free Press

The Rev. Ed Rowe, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, will welcome the congregation of the Islamic Center of America.

session that promotes Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Rowe said the goal is to "build a relationship of lasting goodwill."

On Saturday, minority and

labor leaders from across the country took part in a conference in Dearborn held by the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS). Called US Rising: Emerging Voices in Post-9/11 America, the gathering examined the particular challenges Arab Americans, Muslims and south Asians confronted over the past decade.

From racist abuse to the FBI's use of informants inside mosques, some say they've been treated as second-class citizens at times, according to conference participants.

Since 2001, federal law enforcement has made fighting terrorism its top priority, and many Arab Americans and Muslims have been on their radar. FBI visits to homes and businesses in cities like Dearborn became part of the

post-9/11 landscape.

"Our fellow Americans have a misunderstanding of Islam," said Chuck Alawan, 81, of Farmington Hills, a U.S. Army veteran of Arab descent who attended the conference. "There is a great deal of misinformation."

Arab Americans and Muslims should not be viewed solely through the lens of Sept. 11, said Linda Sarsour, head of advocacy and engagement at the National Network for Arab American Communities, a project of ACCESS.

"We were here before 9/11," she said in the lobby of the Arab American National Museum, where panel discussions were held Saturday. "And we'll be here after" the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

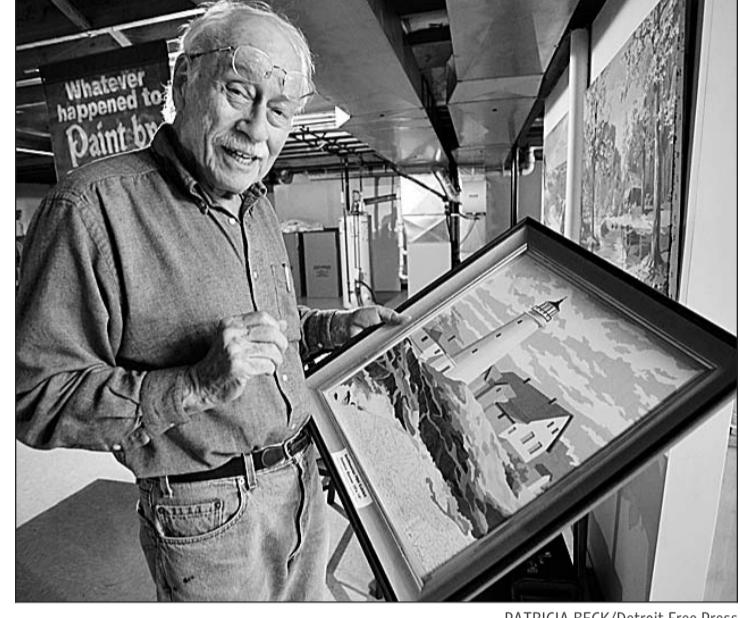
Despite the challenges the 2001 attacks caused, Arab

Americans and Muslims in Michigan have made remarkable gains, leaders said.

In 2008, voters in a Detroit district with not many Arab Americans elected Rashida Tlaib to the state House, the first Arab-American Muslim woman to be in the Michigan Legislature. And last year, voters in a mostly white conservative district in west Michigan elected U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, who is of Palestinian descent, to Congress.

"The Arab-American community faced challenges," said Nadia Tonova, the Dearborn-based director of the National Network for Arab American Communities, which helps 22 Arab-American groups in 10 states. "But we got more organized and built institutions."

■ CONTACT NIRAJ WARIKOO: 313-223-4792 OR NWARIKOO@FREEPRESS.COM



Dan Robbins holds the prototype for the banner that hung outside the Paint By Number exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in 2003.

Paint By Number creator recalls old New York skyline

By BILL LAITNER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The West Bloomfield man who originated Paint By Number kits in the 1950s has joined with his former employer to create a kit that remembers the World Trade Center tragedy.

"I always hoped that there was something I could do that would recognize this event," Dan Robbins said.

Today, survivors of the tragedy and their relatives will gather in New York City to paint an expanded, 5-by-7-foot version of Robbins' new picture, according to the support group Voices of September 11. And from each \$80 set that is sold, Palmer Paint will send a portion of the proceeds to Voices of September 11, according to the group, based in New Canaan, Conn.

"Hopefully, it will do well and help Voices of September 11 aid victims and their families, "which also means the firemen, the policemen, everyone who was hurt by this," Robbins said.

Robbins' sweeping view of the Manhattan skyline, called "Gone But Not Forgotten," depicts the ill-fated World Trade Center's twin towers in ghostly white. He made the offer to have his new set be a fundraiser through a granddaughter's husband.

"I'm hoping that my painting is a good fund-raiser," the artist said last week, from his home studio.

The painting began as simply a view of the Big Apple across New York harbor, be-

Where to buy it

For more about the kit, go to www.paintbynumersonline.com

fore anyone imagined the mayhem to come.

In March 2001, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., displayed Robbins' New York skyline as part of a retrospective of the paint-by-number hobby craze that swept the nation after Robbins struck on the idea while working for Palmer Paint, a children's paint-set maker in Detroit in 1950.

"The idea was, I'd introduce this as a new Paint By Number set." It was to be his first in decades; he quit the business to become a freelance commercial artist in the 1970s, Robbins, 86, said Friday.

"After 9/11, that idea fell apart, obviously," he said. Later, he repainted the skyline with the twin towers "as ghost images," Robbins said. He approached Palmer Paint, then supervised dozens of artists turning out the kits, he said. The company, now in Troy, began selling the set online three months ago.

Robbins said he never made much money from his innovation that sold kits by the millions. "I was just an employee, and we didn't get any kind of patent." He's to get a royalty of about \$6 from the sale of each "Gone But Not Forgotten" kit, he said.

■ CONTACT BILL LAITNER: 586-826-7264 OR BLAITNER@FREEPRESS.COM

Robbins created this "Gone But Not Forgotten" kit of the World Trade Center towers. From each set that is sold, Palmer Paint will send a portion of the proceeds to Voices of September 11.



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
Twin Towers World Trade Center September 11 2001

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.

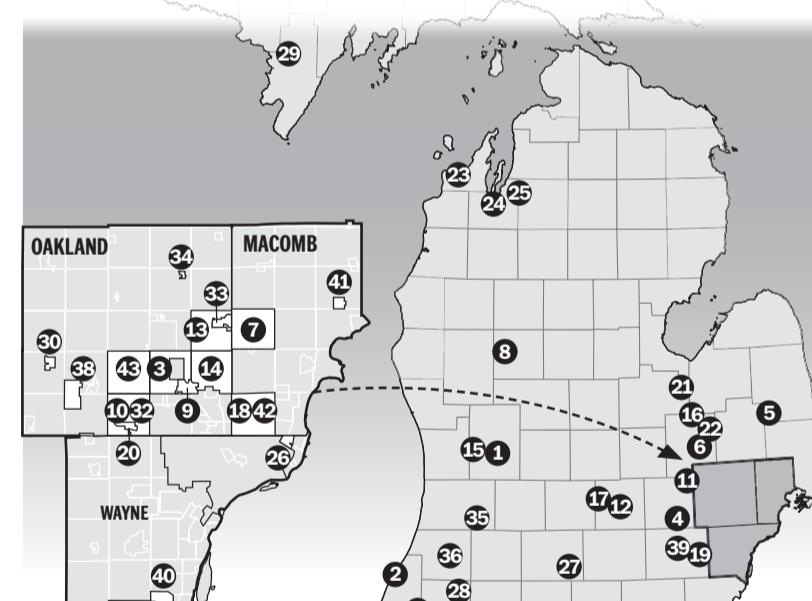
The beam, marked "74" and "South," is believed to have



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.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 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 | New York Police Department officers |
| 23 | Port Authority police officers |
| 37 | Port Authority police officers |

MARTHA THIERRY/Detroit Free Press

TAX PROBLEMS

- Federal & State Taxes
- Income & Payroll Taxes
- IRS Settlement Offers-In-Compromise
- IRS & State Installment Payment Plans
- Criminal & Civil Tax Litigation

Former IRS Revenue Officer & Attorney

Contact: **NAOMI R. PATTON**: 313-223-4485
OR NPATTON@FREEPRESS.COM

Free consultation: (888) 829-3648
www.abrahamandrose.com

Law Offices of Abraham & Rose, P.L.C.
30500 Northwestern Hwy., Ste. 410, Farmington Hills