9/11 Memorial Service – September 11, 2006

September 11th, 2001 will always be remembered as one of the most shocking days in American history. Armed terrorists from foreign countries hijacked four American planes, filled with passengers, and used them as missiles in an attack against the United States. The planes destroyed the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York City, damaged the Pentagon Building in Washington, and crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. More than 3000 people were killed in this tragic event, seven of whom were either Livingston residents, or had grown up in our town.

We gather here at our 9/11 Living Memorial Garden for a brief ceremony to commemorate the fifth anniversary of a day so horrific that it defies comprehension, even to those of us who were not directly affected. We wish to honor the seven Livingston men, as well as all the people, who lost their lives.

Before we begin our ceremony, I want to acknowledge the presence of my fellow Councilmembers Lee Peyser, David Katz, Steve Santola, and Gary Schneiderman. Also, our Town Manager, Michele Meade.

Garden Description

The 9/11 Memorial Garden was designed to be a place where the victims, heroes, and all those affected by September 11th, 2001 are remembered.

The concept of having a garden as Livingston's memorial was chosen because it offers a place for quiet contemplation, reflection and remembrance.

? An octagonal shape was selected. Seven of the sides symbolize the loss of our seven Livingston residents, and the eighth side is in memory of all the others who perished.

? The sundial in the center of the garden represents the passing of time, a very important part of the healing process. The sundial sits on a base that is a piece of structural steel from the rubble of the Twin Towers.

? Sacred soil removed from ground zero is contained in a sealed vault beneath the sundial.

? The four plaques surrounding the sundial indicate the time and place of each attack.

As this garden grows so will our resolve that acts of terrorism will not diminish the strength of our nation and our people. May there come a day when people of all nations and all faiths will live in peace and harmony.

Conclusion

This marks the end of our Ceremony of Remembrance. I want to thank everyone who participated, their names are listed in the program, and I want to thank each of you for coming.

Mayor Renee Green