Brookhaven Officials, Rocky Point VFW Honor 9/11 Rescue Dogs at Diamond in the Pines Statue Unveiling

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Memorial revealed to the public in honor of the eleventh anniversary of September 11th.

Pictured with VFW representatives and Suffolk County Police Department members are (starting fourth from left) County Legislator Ed Romaine; Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh; Dan Murphy, who served in the Vietnam War and lost his son in Afghanistan; Councilwoman Jane Bonner; State Assemblyman Dan Losquadro; Rocky Point VFW Post 6249 commander Joe Cognitore; Brookhaven Town Veterans Services Officer John Rago; and Rocky Point VFW member Rich Acritelli.

Farmingville, NY - On September 8th, Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh and Councilwoman Jane Bonner were on hand at the unveiling of the German Shepherd rescue dog memorial at the 9/11 Memorial at Diamond in the Pines Park in Coram. The event marked the 11th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Also present at the event were members of the Suffolk County Police Department's K-9 unit, including Chase, the dog that recently was in headlines for finding a missing doctor in a local county park. Following the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, hundreds of rescue dogs were used to search through the wreckage to find survivors. The bronze statue was funded with over $20,000 in private donations to the Rocky Point VFW Post 6249.

"On the eleventh anniversary of this tragedy, we must keep the victims of the attacks in our thoughts while honoring those who not only helped in the recovery effort here at home but those who also defend our freedoms abroad," said Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Walsh, "This statue serves to honor those brave animals that were vitally important to the rescue and recovery effort following the September 11th attacks, as well as those that provide assistance and companionship to our veterans at home and soldiers overseas."

Councilwoman Jane Bonner said, "The memorial at Diamond in the Pines Park is a reminder that the American spirit of bravery and determination is not only present in people, but also in the dogs that continue to serve as part of our Armed Forces. I commend Rich Acritelli, Joe Cognitore, and the members of the Rocky Point VFW for honoring the extraordinary animals that search tirelessly through the wreckage of the fallen towers, as well as those that serve our

community through the Suffolk County Police Department on a daily basis."

The September 11th memorial at Diamond in the Pines Park was originally commemorated in September of 2011 in honor of the tenth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center. It includes tributes to the rescue workers, the veterans of the War on Terror, and Brookhaven residents who lost their lives in the attacks. For more information about the memorial, visit www.vfw6249.org .

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor
One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258