Farmington officials dedicate September 11 memorial

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A Saturday service at Memori-al Park in Farmington honored al Park in Farmington honored both war veterans and those who died in the Sept. Il tragedy at the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. More than 5,000 people were lost two months ago to the day. That's half of the City of Farm-ington's 10,000 residents, Mayor Bill Hartsock said. "Envisioning

that mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives were lost in the tragedy gives us some idea of the enormity."

Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills) greeted those whom he called "Farmingtonians."

tonians."
"It's fitting that those who lost their lives be remembered with veterans," Knollenberg said. "The nation which forgets will be itself forgotten. The assaults at the Trade Center and the Pen-

tagon weren't aimed just at New York and Washington, they were aimed at us. Terrorism tries to defeat us with fear. Looking at

this group and across the coun-try, I think fear is losing."
A maple tree was planted at Memorial Park, and a memorial marker was lain. The marker

reads:
In memory of those lives lost
In honor of the aurvivors
In appreciation for so many
heroic efforts
We will never forget Sept. 11,

2001.

An honor guard presented the flag, with the National Anthem performed by the Farmington High School band.

Speakers also included State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski (R-Farmington Hills), Walter Christonsen, American Legion Post No. 346, Carleigh Flaharty, president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and Tracey Finlayson, Miss Farmington.

Raczkowski said he was honored to remember both the country's veterans and its fallen members. In uniform, Raczkowski said he was there as an Captain in the Army Reserves and as a soldier and not as a state

representative.

What happened Sopt. 11
awakened patrictism and hearts,
Christonsen said.
"We can try to forgive but we
can never forget. It's a day that
will speak to all generations. On
our continent, war had slept for
nearly 140 years, until overything changed on Sopt. 11. It
awakened in America, in broad
day, to a disbelieving eye."
Voteran's Day was so named
because peace will not last forevcr. 'Christonsen said.
Flaharty said she was present
as "the quintessential average
American." Sept. 11 clarified for
her what it moans to be an
American. "My right to vote is
not just a right but a privilege,"

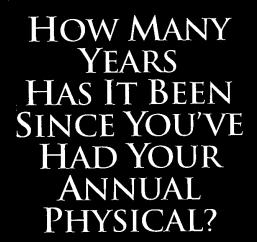
Finharty said.

Finhayson touted America's strength in democracy, military and economy.

Carel, Jim and Amanda Amish, who came to the ceremony, left no doubt about their patriotism. They sported leather coats with flag designs.

"They were really Christmas presents," Carel said. "He bought hime, I but his and we bought hime, I but his and we vacation at Epot Center in Florida when planes hit the World Trade Center. It was pretty seary," Carel said. "We didn't really know what happened. Things really changed in a week."





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