



Under the leadership of Public Safety Director Gary Goss, Farmington officers raise the flag during Wednesday's 9/11 observance in front of City Hall. The flag was flown at half-staff to remember those who lost their lives, then raised to full-staff at the conclusion of the ceremony.

CITY

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the deaths of 23 New York City police officers, 37 New York Port Authority police officers and 11 paramedics. These men and women bravely entered those two towers aware of the dangers.

Some firefighters wrote their social security numbers on their arms so they could be identified when their bodies were found, he said.

"Their efforts helped to save some 25,000 from those two towers," Goss said.

"To date, the death count with all three sites combined is 2,939," Goss said.

About 2,801 people died at the World Trade Center. Only 1,100 bodies were identified. The families of 1,700 victims never had a chance to say good bye.

"They don't know how their loved ones died," he said. "Only five survivors were found."

The towers, which rose a quarter of mile high, were reduced to a wreckage 60 feet

high after the collapse, he said.

Wednesday's observance began with Farmington Public Safety fire engines displayed on Liberty Street at 9:55 a.m. in front of the flag.

The observance followed the recommendations of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Presentation of the Colors was followed by Taps, during which the flag was lowered to half-staff. "Taps was originally adopted to be used at all military funerals in 1891," Goss said.

Tolling of the Bells at Salem United Church of Christ on Oakland began at 10:05 a.m. It is symbolic because in the days of the telegraph, that's how the community knew a firefighter died, Goss said.

The information came across as five dashes, pause, five dashes, pause and five dashes, he said.

Monsignor Walter Hurley of Our Lady of Sorrows Church followed Goss' speech at 10:15 a.m.

"The events of Sept. 11, 2001 showed humanity both at its

best and at its worst," Hurley said. "We saw acts of terrible depravity and in response to them, acts of great nobility. The men and women in the police and fire departments stood tall among the noble. We ask, 'How can people behave in such terribly different ways?'"

Heroes are measured in their value of human life, Hurley said.

"We honor these heroic men and women not by the words we speak but by the way we live out our own life and respect the value of every human life that they stood for, and for which they gave their lives," Hurley said.

The flag was returned to full staff with a rifle volley salute at 10:25 a.m. Traditionally, the volley was used to honor a soldier before he was laid to rest.

Remembrances like these reinforce American values, Goss said.

"Our nation is a caring nation as seen by the millions of dollars donated after Sept. 11."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER/OBSERVER

The flag at Farmington Hills City Hall flies at half-staff.

HILLS

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included the police color guard, "was very dignified and touching."

"I didn't think it would hit so hard," she said of remembering the day one year ago where the country froze in confusion.

"We lost so many good people," she said.

Fire officials performed the Tolling of the Bell for the fallen firefighters in New York.

According to fire officials, the practice started when fire departments used the telegraph to communicate fire alarms from those once-familiar red fire alarm boxes that stood on America's street corners.

When a firefighter was killed in the line of duty, the alarm office would tap out a special signal: five measured dashes, a pause, five dashes, a pause and five more dashes.

Hills City Manager Steve Brook said, "If there is a silver lining in this it's that we appreciate and respect each other more."



Theresa White listens to the 9/11 ceremony.

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