

Special tribute to mark 9/11 in Pittsford

September 11, 2001 was a day that everyone will always remember exactly what they were doing when the first plane crashed. That day, Americans, and the rest of the world, watched in horror as four planes were hijacked and flown into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania. In total, there were nearly 3,000 victims, over 400 of which were emergency workers who responded to the scene and died as they attempted to rescue people and fight fires. On September 11, 2001, America was changed in a profound way.

Each year, the Pittsford Celebrates festival is held on the second Saturday in September. In 2001, it fell on the Saturday following 9/11. I remember there was a lot of discussion over whether we should hold the event or whether we should cancel it. We decided that we would continue with the event, and try to honor our country in the best way that we could. The festival was adorned with American flags and we held a tribute to honor the fallen. Following the festival, I had a number of residents thank me for continuing to hold it. The festival allowed the community to come together and mourn our losses together. It also allowed people to feel united and gave people an outlet to feel pride in our country. It was a very moving event – one filled with love for our community and America.

This year, Pittsford Celebrates will fall on September 11. We have decided again to hold our event, as scheduled. To make sure that the day is honored properly, we will be holding a special tribute. The highlight of the tribute will be a spectacular fireworks display and several patriotic musical performances, including a performance by The Chorus of the Genesee. The Chorus of the Genesee will sing four part a cappella music and will perform the Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America, Battle Hymn of the Republic and America the Beautiful. Travis Fitch, an acoustic guitar player, will follow the Chorus of the Genesee with This Land Is Your Land, God Bless the USA and one other patriotic song. Three members of The Empire Statesman Drum and Bugle Corps will also be present to play taps in honor of our fallen heroes.

The 9/11 tribute will begin at 8:30PM, behind the Pittsford Community Library, after the headlining band, Brass Taxi. For more information about the tribute and/or the Pittsford Celebrates festival, please visit www.townofpittsford.org. We hope that all Pittsford residents will attend and help us honor and reflect on this very significant day in American history. The tribute will be dedicated to patriotism and thanks for this great country and community we live in.