

Remember the victims and heroes of Sept. 11

As the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks approaches this week, it is fitting to take some time to reflect on the events of that day. I'm sure each of you remembers where you were and what you were doing the moment you heard the terrible news. The anniversary of such a tragic event brings up the shock and anger we felt and reawakens the pain of those still mourning loved ones lost. But it is also a reminder of the courage of our residents and the strength of our country.

The immediate aftermath in New York City, in rural Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia put into motion a powerful response. In each location firefighters, police officers, emergency medical responders and "regular people" rushed to the aid of those in peril – many losing their own lives in the process. And in the following months our country came together to mourn but also to heal and rebuild. Volunteers from all over reached out to help in any way they could – cleaning up, giving blood, or donating funds to help survivors recover and re-start their lives. It is this spirit we must remember and continue to foster.

In Pittsford, we will honor the memory of those lost with a simple but fitting tribute. On Sunday, September 11, church bells throughout Pittsford will ring at 10:30am – the time that the second tower of the World Trade Center fell. Bells at Nazareth and St. John Fisher colleges will also toll at this time. American flags, provided by local Boy Scout troops, will line the length of Main Street in the Village. These simple but meaningful acts are intended to honor those who were lost and those whose heroic acts saved many lives.

Should you find yourself in Pittsford at this time, please join us at 10:30 am as the bells ring to pause in silent reflection as a way to pay tribute to the heroes and the fallen of September 11, 2001. As their spirit will continue to inspire us, let us continue to honor them. As always, please feel free to reach me with your comments at bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org or stop by and see me at Town Hall.