

Woodbury comes together for 9/11 anniversary service

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Woodbury Volunteer Fire Company members salute to the American flag after a new one was put up on the flagpole to half-staff at a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on Sunday morning at Hollow Park. Andreas Yilma Republican-American

WOODBURY — The twenty-first anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack was met with blank, cloudy skies that matched the somber tone of those who attended the annual memorial service at Hollow Park.

“Woodbury continues to hit my heart with moments like this where the community continues to come together and unite and respect our country and it’s really touching,” Woodbury Parks and Recreation Director Jami Gore said.

Thousands lost their lives during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia and at a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The tragedy hits home for many residents in Woodbury. The town lost residents David Carlone, Patrick Danahy, Paul Gill, Evan Gillette and Diane Snyder, some of whose families were in attendance Sunday.

Woodbury First Selectman Barbara Perkinson said there are tributes across the nation and the world that honor those people and the memorials will remember those lost forever.

"Memories live forever, some in our minds, but others live visually so that we never forget those we loved and lost on that day."



Woodbury Volunteer Fire Company and Boy Scout Troop 54 members help put up the new American Flag at a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on Sunday morning at Hollow Park. Andreas Yilma Republican-American

Neal presented flowers to the widows of Carlone and Gill. Other family members were set to be honored with flowers by the end of the day, except for the family of Patrick Danahy, whose parents have passed away.

Woodbury Volunteer Fire Company, Woodbury EMS, and American Legion Post 155 members were all in attendance.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 54 attended the ceremony as well. Their presence was important since the late Evan Gillette was an Eagle Scout with the troop many years ago.

Fire department members tolled a fire bell in the traditional memorial salute to those killed that day. Firefighters and boy scouts also took the American flag down and replaced it with a new one at half-staff. The American flag was only replaced due to its old, worn-down condition.

The old flag, along with American flags, will be properly disposed of at a flag retirement ceremony at Hollow Park on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m.

American Legion Post 155 Commander, retired Army Green Beret former fire chief Bud Neal said he began organizing the ceremony over two decades ago because there was an attack on the country and American residents need to all stand together against this terrorism.

"If we don't remember, our kids and grandkids will never remember," Neal said.



Boy Scout Troop 54 members and armed force veterans salute to the American flag after a new one was put up on the flagpole at half-staff at a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on Sunday morning at Hollow Park. Andreas Yilma Republican-American

Reverend Sandy Koeing of the North Congregational Church of Woodbury presented a benediction highlighting that, although many people know cruelty of the world, love overcomes.

"21 years later we still intimately know the violence of the world around us, but as we go from this place today, may we continue to hold hope for the world, that love wins at the last," Koeing said.

"Today, reflecting and remembering the events that took place in 2001 reminds people of the sensitivity of time and the importance of standing united as a nation and to never forget those who we remember today and always," Perkinson said.