



True Patriots Care
The Village of Oak Brook
present the

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11/01

9/11 MEMORIAL

Healing Field

SEPTEMBER 9-13, 2026

Oak Brook Polo Grounds
700 Oak Brook Rd,
Oak Brook, IL

★ With ★

GRATITUDE & REMEMBRANCE

★ ★ ★

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to Jerry and the entire team at **True Patriots Care** for the incredible American flag display they created for us this past Fourth of July.

Your dedication and patriotism made it truly special for our community.

As we commemorate the **25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH**, we pause to remember and honor the lives lost, the heroes who answered the call, and the strength of our nation.

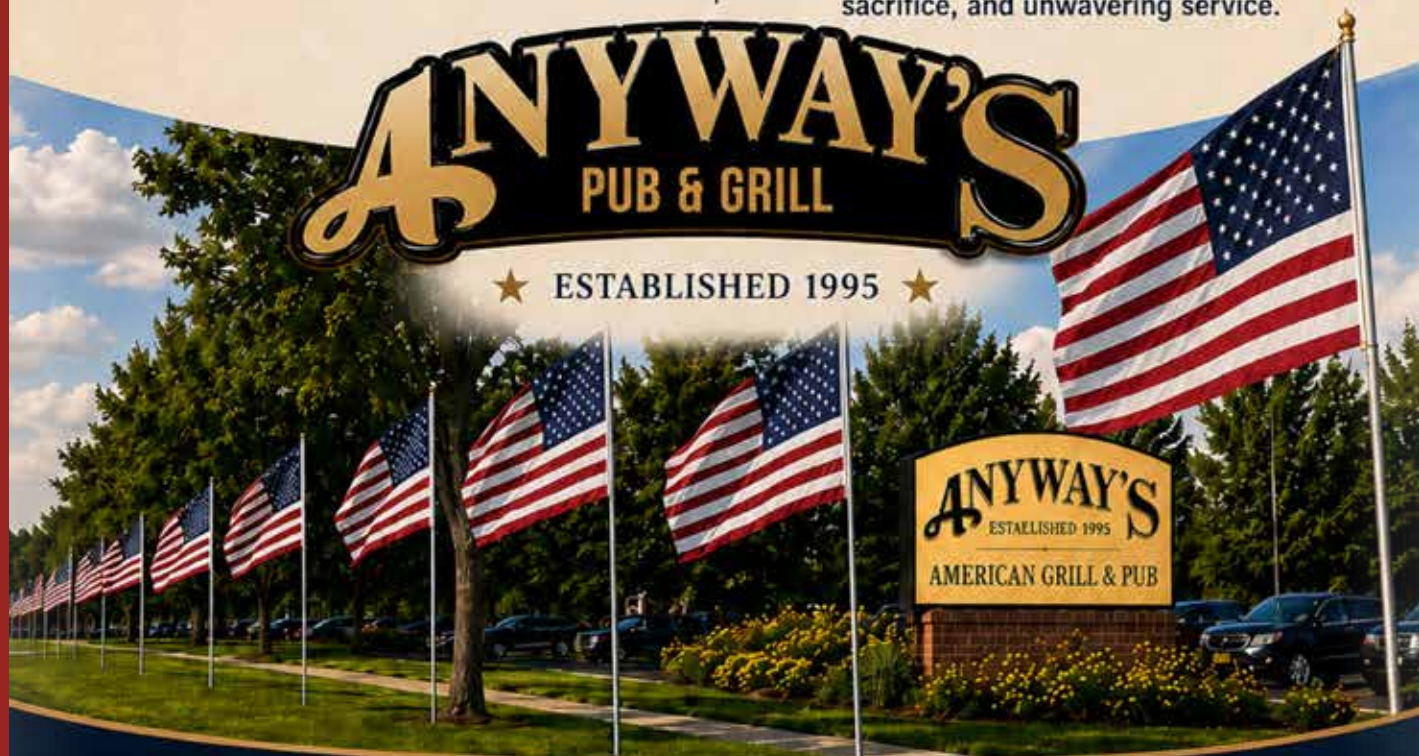


WE WILL NEVER FORGET.

Thank you to all of our military, veterans, and first responders for your courage, sacrifice, and unwavering service.



★ ESTABLISHED 1995 ★



★ **BLOOMINGDALE** ★
304 W. Army Trail Rd.
630-351-8870



★ **OAKBROOK TERRACE** ★
5 E. Roosevelt Rd.
630-932-9323

★ **WWW.ANYWAYSPUB.COM** ★

Remembering

September 11, 2001

8:46am 9:03am 9:37am 10:03am

Everyone remembers where they were when the news bulletins started telling us about the first tower being hit by a plane. Then most watched in horror as the second plane hit the other tower. We all watched in disbelief when the Pentagon was hit, followed by the news of the crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The pictures of planes flying into buildings, fires burning, the towers falling. Our enemy wanted to frighten us, to change what we do.

They failed.

The 9/11 Memorial Healing Field® in Oak Brook is a tribute to the 2,977 Americans killed that terrible day 25 years ago. When you see 2,977 American flags and realize each flag represents a Mom, a Dad, a young child or first responder, it brings the sheer enormity of the loss of life into perspective.

Our enemies tried, but failed to make us afraid. They failed to make us retreat. They failed to make us change our way of life. We all came together that day. We were united. No matter where you looked, you saw our American Flag flying everywhere.

People were united together.

This week, we will again stand together, United. As we “Remember” and pledge that we will

Always Remember, Never Forget 9-11-01



Jerry Christopherson
President
True Patriots Care



Bring your old cell phones and donate it at
the 9-11 Healing Field



VILLAGE OF OAK BROOK

1200 OAK BROOK ROAD
OAK BROOK, IL 60523

September 9, 2026

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the residents of the Village of Oak Brook, it is my great honor to welcome you to the 2026 Healing Field.

As we gather to commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, we pause to remember the nearly 3,000 innocent lives that were lost, honor the extraordinary courage of the first responders who answered the call without hesitation, and recognize the service and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces who have defended our Nation in the years since.

This year also marks America's 250th anniversary—a milestone that reminds us of the enduring principles upon which our Nation was founded: freedom, courage, service, and unity. The Healing Field is a powerful expression of those ideals. Each flag represents a life, a family, a story, and a lasting reminder that even in our darkest moments, the American spirit shines brightest when we stand together.

As you walk among the thousands of flags, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect not only on the events of September 11, but also on the countless acts of compassion, sacrifice, and heroism that followed. May this place inspire each of us to honor those we lost by living lives of service, kindness, and gratitude, while ensuring future generations never forget the lessons of that day.

The Village of Oak Brook is proud to host this meaningful tribute, and I extend my heartfelt appreciation to True Patriots Care, our dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, Village staff, the Oak Brook Police Department, the Oak Brook Fire Department, and all of our community partners whose commitment and hard work have made this event possible. Their dedication reflects the very spirit of service that the Healing Field represents.

Thank you for joining us as we remember, reflect, and renew our commitment to the values that continue to unite us as Americans.

Sincerely,

Larry Herman
Village President



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
SPONSORS FOR OAK BROOK'S
AMERICA 250



WINTRUST®



IN THE *community*



CD PEACOCK



CHICAGO



The **helpful** place.



September 11, 2026



Dear Healing Field Visitor:

On behalf of the Oak Brook Police Department, it is my honor to welcome you to the Village of Oak Brook's Healing Field as our nation marks the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001.

I joined the Oak Brook Police Department in 2000, and like so many Americans, the events of September 11 left a lasting impression on me. For those of us called to public service, that day reinforced the profound responsibility we share to protect our communities, support one another, and honor those who place themselves in harm's way for others. As you walk among these flags, I encourage you to reflect not only on the nearly 3,000 lives lost, but also on the extraordinary courage and unity that followed. Each flag represents a life, a family and a story that must never be forgotten. Together, they remind us that remembrance carries a responsibility—to remain vigilant, to serve with compassion and to stand united as a community and a nation.

I extend my sincere gratitude to True Patriots Care, many volunteers, community partners, and Village staff members who made this meaningful tribute possible. Their dedication reflects the values of loyalty, honor and teamwork that guide the Oak Brook Police Department each day.

To our veterans, active-duty military personnel, first responders and all who have served our country and communities: thank you. Your courage, sacrifice, and commitment to protecting others embody the very spirit this Healing Field represents. May this powerful display inspire reflection, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to ensuring that we never forget.

Sincerely,
Brian Strockis, Chief of Police



THIS RIDE

9/11 RIDE

★ *to Remember* ★

TO HONOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THOSE WHO DIED ON 9/11
A DAY WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET

NEEDS YOU

★ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH ★



REGISTRATION OPENS
AT 8:00 AM
Registration encouraged online



JIFFY STANDS UP
AT 11:30 AM
Leave Woodstock Harley-Davidson



★ **RIDE TO**
OAK BROOK POLO GROUNDS



\$50 PER BIKE

NO FEE FOR
ADDITIONAL RIDER
FULL MULTI-AGENCY POLICE ESCORT

★ ALL MONIES & PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES ★



truepatriotscare.com





KARAS
Restaurant Group

NEVER FORGET

— 09.11.01 —



Campton Hills
Crystal Lake
McHenry
South Elgin
West Dundee
Woodstock



www.villagesquire.com



alexander's
café

Elgin
St. Charles



www.alexanderscafe.com



Elgin



www.oldrepublicbar.com



Crystal Lake
Elgin
Geneva
Hoffman Estates
Huntley
Roselle
St. Charles



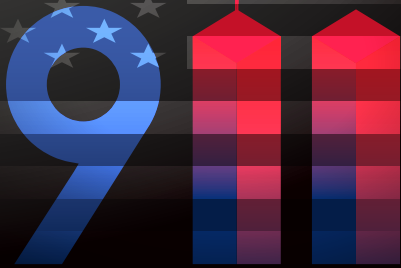
www.rookiespub.com

PURCHASE A FLAG

*Show your support and become
a part of this heartfelt event.*

AFTER THE EVENT, THE FLAG WILL BE TAKEN DOWN FOR YOU TO BRING HOME AND
CONTINUE TO FLY IT PROUDLY. NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW HOW MUCH WE CARE.
THE PURCHASE OF A FLAG IS NOT LIMITED TO THOSE HONORING A FIRST RESPONDER,
SOMEONE DEPARTED, OR WHO HAS SERVED IN THE MILITARY, BUT CAN BE DEDICATED
TO ANYONE. WE ARE A 501(C)3 NOT FOR PROFIT CHARITY.

\$50 PER FLAG



**HONOR. REMEMBER.
NEVER FORGET.**

★ SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ★



FIFTH THIRD

www.53.com



Hope

stands

Strong



Stellar Edge

MARKETING GROUP

www.stellaredgegroup.com

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, September 9th

6pm - Opening Ceremony

Welcome by Master of Ceremony - *Brian Strockis, Oak Brook Police Chief*

Posting of the Colors

Pledge of Allegiance - *Brian Strockis, Oak Brook Police Chief*

National Anthem - *Lisa Griffith, Oak Brook Historical Society*

Opening Prayer - *Chaplain Tim Perry*

Speaker - *Larry Herman, Oak Brook Village President*

Benediction - *Chaplain Tim Perry*

Thursday, September 10th

9-10:30 am - Brook Forest & Butler Red White & Blue Fun Run

6pm - Ceremony Begins

Welcome - *Jerry Christopherson, President True Patriots Care*

Present the Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Opening Prayer - *Chaplain Tim Perry*

Friday, September 11th

6pm - Ceremony Begins

Welcome by Master of Ceremony - *Kevin Fleege, Oak Brook Fire Chief*

Posting of the Colors - *DuPage County Honor Guard*

Pledge of Allegiance - *Craig Donnelly*

National Anthem

9/11 Memorial Wreath Placement

Guest Speaker - *Craig Donnelly, nephew of FDNY Lieutenant*

Kevin W. Donnelly "KD", FDNY Ladder Company 3

Guest Speaker - *Sue Mladenik, wife of Flight #11 passenger*

Guest Speaker - *Paul Swenson, President of Colonial Flag | Founder of the September 11th Healing Field® Flag Memorial Program*

Bugles Across America

Emerald Society of Illinois Small Group

Benediction - *Chaplain Joe Kovarik*

Saturday, September 12th

2pm - Ceremony Begins

Welcome by - *Jerry Christopherson, President of True Patriots Care*

Present the Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Opening Prayer - *Chaplain Tim Perry*

Sunday, September 13th

11am - Reading of the Names

1:30pm - 9/11 Motorcycle Tribute *Ride to Remember* Arrival

FD Ladder Truck with Flag over Oak Brook Road for Motorcyclists

2pm - Ceremony Begins

Welcome by Master of Ceremony

Present the Colors - *OBPD/OBFD Honor Guard*

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Opening Prayer - *Chaplain Tim Perry*

Speaker - *Larry Herman, Oak Brook Village President*

Guest Speaker - *Tim Mottl, 9/11 Rescue and Recovery Worker; Tunnels to Towers Ambassador*

Emerald Society of Illinois Full Band

Speaker - *Jerry Christopherson, President of True Patriots Care*

Closing Benediction - *Chaplain Tim Perry*

Retrieve the Colors - *OBPD/OBFD Honor Guard*

2026 Healing Field Guest Speakers



Paul Swenson

President of Colonial Flag | Founder of the September 11th Healing Field® Flag Memorial Program

Paul Swenson is President of Colonial Flag and founder of the September 11th Healing Field Flag Memorial Program and the Build a Better America Civics Fair. A graduate of the University of Utah, Paul also earned a master's degree in International Business and studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo. His career and studies have taken him throughout the Middle East and Europe.

Paul has dedicated much of his life to promoting patriotism, civic engagement, and service. His many honors include the George Washington Medal of Honor, the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Patriot Award,

and recognition as Patriot of the Year by Hill Air Force Base. He is also an Honorary Colonel with the Utah National Guard and previously served as the Army Reserve Ambassador for the State of Utah.

Through the Healing Field program, Paul has helped create a powerful and lasting way for communities across America to remember and honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001.



Craig Donnelly

Nephew of FDNY Lieutenant Kevin W. Donnelly ("KD") | Ladder Company 3

Craig Donnelly has called Oak Brook home for more than 10 years, where he lives with his wife, Katie, and their three sons. Professionally, Craig owns and manages Donnelly Law LLC, a general practice law firm based in Oak Brook. Craig has frequently shared his personal experiences and reflections on September 11, 2001, honoring the life and heroism of his late uncle, FDNY Lieutenant Kevin W. Donnelly ("KD") of Ladder Company 3, who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11. Through his family's story, Craig offers a deeply personal perspective on the courage, sacrifice, and lasting legacy of the first responders who answered the call that day. We are honored to have him share his reflections as part of this year's remembrance.



Sue Mladenik

Wife of American Airlines Flight 11 Passenger Jeff Mladenik

Sue Mladenik is the wife of Jeff Mladenik, who was a passenger aboard American Airlines Flight 11 on September 11, 2001. Jeff was a devoted husband and father, a CEO, and an ordained minister who served on staff at Christ Church of Oak Brook. Sue and Jeff are the parents of six children: Kelly, Joshua, Daniel, Grace, Hannah, and Bethany. Sue resides in Sugar Grove, Illinois. As our guest speaker, she will share her personal story and reflections on Jeff's life, her family's experience, and the enduring impact of September 11. We are honored to welcome Sue and grateful for her willingness to share such a deeply personal perspective as we gather to remember and honor all those whose lives were forever changed by 9/11.



Tim Mottl

9/11 Rescue & Recovery Worker | Tunnel to Towers Ambassador

Tim Mottl is a resident of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, where he lives with his wife, Melissa. Together, they have three children and three grandchildren. Professionally, Tim serves as Partner Alliance Leader for Cloud and Endpoints with Xerox IT Solutions in Oak Brook. He has also given back to his community as a baseball and football coach and as a USA Pickleball Ambassador for Northern Illinois.

On September 11, 2001, Tim was living in Vernon Hills when the World Trade Center towers were attacked and collapsed. Recognizing that specialized fiber-optic camera equipment used by his brother, a contractor in

Rhode Island, could assist rescuers in seeing into areas that were otherwise difficult or dangerous to access, Tim contacted FEMA in Washington, D.C.

After speaking with a FEMA field director in New York City, Tim and his two brothers were asked to come as soon as possible. Tim drove from Illinois while his brothers traveled from Rhode Island. They spent 24 days at Ground Zero, assisting first with search-and-rescue efforts and later with the difficult recovery operation.

Today, Tim serves as a Tunnel to Towers Ambassador, helping honor the sacrifice of those who lost their lives on September 11 and those who answered the call to serve.

As our guest speaker, Tim will share firsthand stories and photographs from his 24 days at Ground Zero, providing a personal perspective on the courage, sacrifice, service, and resilience witnessed in the aftermath of 9/11.





DESIGN

PRINT

MAIL



service printing corporation

**Trusted, Local Printing
That Helps Your Business**

***Stand
Out***

11960 Oak Creek Parkway • Huntley, IL 60142
847-669-9620 • **serviceprintingcorp.com**

Thanks to our In-Kind Sponsors

Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook Chicago

Chicago Regional Carpenters

Village of Oak Brook

MPG Auto Body

Woodstock Harley-Davidson

Many Volunteers



A Field of Flags
Oak Brook's promise
to Remember

ONLY IN
OAK BROOK
ONLYINOAKBROOK.COM

HYATT[™]
LODGE
OAK BROOK



MARRIOTT
CHICAGO OAK BROOK



THE
DRAKE
OAK BROOK

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION[™]
HOTELS

Le MERIDIEN
CHICAGO-OAKBROOK CENTER



HYATT
house[®]
CHICAGO
OAK BROOK



DOUBLETREE
by Hilton[™]
CHICAGO - OAKBROOK

Residence INN[®]
BY MARRIOTT

The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters is honored to partner with True Patriots Care in support of its mission to recognize and support those who have served their communities as first responders and as members of the armed services.

We're especially grateful for the opportunity to do our part and set up the flags at True Patriots Care Healing Field® in Oak Brook as the nation observes the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. At this solemn event, we take the time to reflect on and honor the many heroes who lost their lives that fateful day.

The Carpenters Union has a long and proud tradition of supporting our men and women who are currently in the armed forces, those who have retired and those who have fallen.

We are longtime partners with the Helmets to Hardhats program that gives military personnel top priority in civilian constructions jobs. Under the Helmets to Hardhats program, veterans can enter Building & Construction Trades apprenticeships and training programs at a higher level because of military experience. It's an honor to participate in this program and give veterans the construction training they so rightfully deserve as a small token of gratitude for their service to our country.

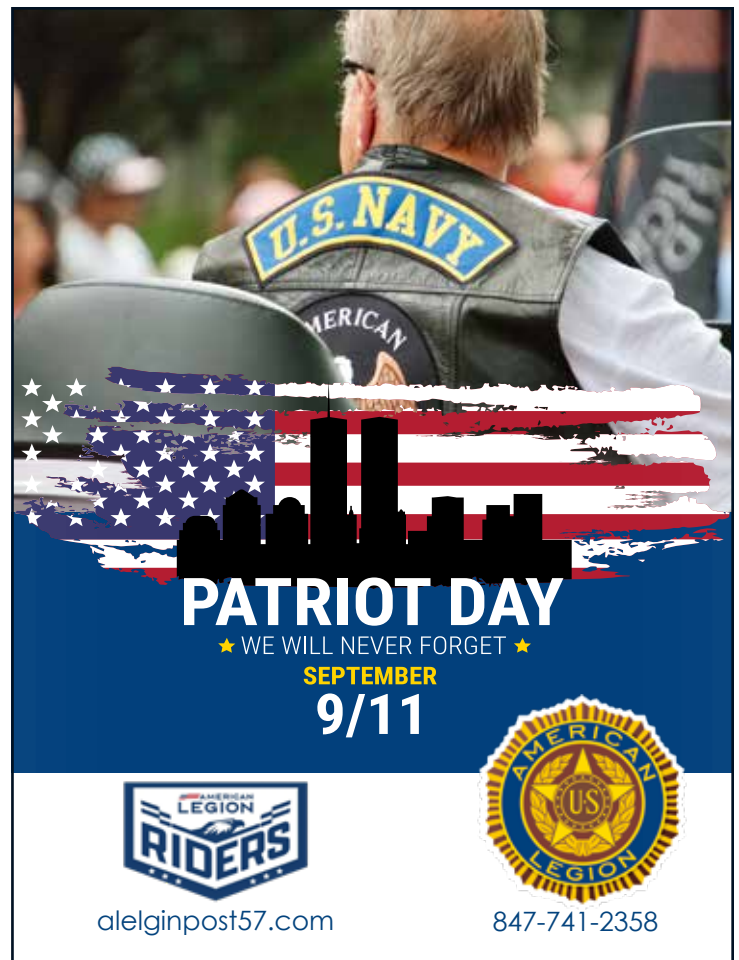
The Carpenters Union is also a longstanding participant in the United States Army Reserve's and National Guard's Employer Partnership Initiative.

The initiative is important for both employers, the Army Reserve, and the National Guard to collaborate on promoting the inherent benefits of a shared workforce while addressing the challenges and methods unique to employing warrior-citizens.

"This partnership gives stability to our members and their families and enhanced opportunities to achieve their military career goals," said District Director, Gary Perinar III. "This is an outstanding program that benefits both our veteran members and our signatory contractors and we're glad we can be a part of it."

Many of these warrior-citizens, like our union carpenters, possess advanced skills, certifications, and training, and become more valuable in maintaining military readiness for the benefit of our nation.

Thank you again to all our veterans past and present who've played a vital role in making the Carpenters Union the force it is today.





True Patriots Care is dedicated to recognizing and supporting those who have served their communities as first responders and as members of the armed services. The foundation seeks to enrich the lives of these individuals and their families through honor and support.

2026 Upcoming Events

Constitution Day . St. Charles, IL . September 17-22
Heritage Fest . East & West Dundee . September 18-20
Back the Blue . Panton Mill Park, South Elgin, IL. September 26
Army Navy Game . VFW, West Dundee, IL . December 12
Wreaths Across America . West Dundee, IL . December 19

Board of Directors

Jerry Christopherson	Paul Schoonhoven	Mark Topple
Kevin Rynders	Allison Hanchett	Frank Duggan
Colonel Larry Kaifesh	Joy Symonds	John Skillman
	Herb Bolding	

www.truepatriotscare.com

We are a 501(c)3 Not for Profit Charity

847.460.2467

**1314 Dancing Bear Lane
Elgin, Illinois 60120**

**THE MID-AMERICA CARPENTERS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
HONORS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11.**

**WE PROUDLY PARTNER WITH
TRUE PATRIOTS CARE TO SUPPORT OUR FIRST
RESPONDERS AND MILITARY HEROES.**



STRONG ALONE. UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER.®



Tunnel to Towers Foundation

Tunnel to Towers is committed to delivering mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and building specially-adapted *smart homes* for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. Children of the Foundation's home recipients are offered full scholarships for undergraduate degrees and accredited trade school programs, helping secure their futures.

The Foundation is also committed to eradicating veteran homelessness and helping America Never Forget September 11, 2001.

We **DO GOOD** so that we may **NEVER FORGET** the sacrifices made by America's greatest heroes.



Smart Home Recipient
NYPD Detective 2nd Grade Eder Loor

\$11 PER MONTH
SUPPORT AMERICA'S
HEROES WITH A PLEDGE!

TO LEARN MORE,
VISIT T2T.ORG

