

# Their Flag:

## In Memory of September 11<sup>th</sup>



PHOTO BY JEN SOVIE

The Galvin family proudly displays "Their Flag". This is the flag that they hope will become the official remembrance flag of 9-11.

by Jen Sovie

WOLCOTT — After the September 11th tragedy, Steve Galvin and his family wanted to contribute more than just a financial donation to honor and pay tribute to the victims of the attack.

The day after the event, Steve knew what it was he wanted to do to show his remorse for the tragedy. He came up with an idea to design a flag that would represent what happened that day as a way of remembrance. After several

designs and research of more than 1,700 flags, Stephen and his wife designed a flag that they hope will become the "official" flag in remembrance of 9-11. The first flag was hand-sewn, free of charge, by Bobby Chilson, a woman from Waterloo, NY.

Each piece of the flag has significant representation. The blue in the background of the flag represents the color of the state flags for each state where a plane went

down: New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The black in the center of the flag represents the sorrow that is felt from each of the lives lost due to this tragedy. The stars represent the four planes that crashed and the innocent lives lost at those sites. The blue star represents the Pentagon and Ameri-

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can Airlines Flight 77, as well as the lives lost on that flight and in the Pentagon. The two white stars represent each of the towers of the World Trade Center, American Airlines Flight 11, United Airlines Flight 175, the passengers on those flights, as well as all the lives that were lost inside the towers. The red star represents United Flight 93 that crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the passengers of that flight, as well as those who heroically gave up their lives to protect the loss of more innocent people. All four stars are touching, as well as the two white stars touching the blue in the flag, representing our unity in the United States.

Galvin and his family went to New York City and actually toured Ground Zero, showing their flag to workers and New Yorkers at the site to show their support. The appreciation of their flag was greatly felt by the Galvin's, and many people shared with them their own personal stories of how the attack of 9-11 touched them. They even traveled to the Pentagon to wave their flag in remembrance of the victims.

The family has done a number of things in order to help promote their flag in hopes it will soon become "official". They are obtaining signatures of people who support the flag and it's representation. They have also offered to have local school organizations sell the flags and stickers of the flags, to help support the schools own needs. The schools would be able to keep a portion of the proceeds, while the remainder will be donated to various 9-11 causes. The Sodus School District has taken them up on this offer, and the senior class will be selling stickers of the flags. Their students' names will also be submitted as the donors of the remainder of the proceeds to whatever relief effort of their choice.

"You have a lot of people involved in this. This touched a number of lives. People and the victims need something to hold onto to help remember what happened. We are looking for this to be important, and I feel that down the road it will be. We can't let people forget about what happened," says Galvin.

For more information on how to support this flag and make it "official", or to purchase a flag, please call the Galvin family at 594-9274 or email them at [jmgalvin@zlink.net](mailto:jmgalvin@zlink.net).

All proceeds of the flag will be donated to various relief efforts supporting the 9-11 tragedy.