



Community News

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Couple creates a flag to remember



The 9/11 Remembrance Flag flying under the Stars and Stripes. It is hoped that this flag becomes nationally sanctioned. photos by K. Nevin

By Kathi Nevin

The distinctive 9/11 Remembrance Flag designed by Stephen and Joanne Galvin of Wolcott has been seen flying at Canandaigua's City Hall, Veteran's

Memorial and Minipark as well as at RG&E Operations Centers, the Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC, and at Ground Zero.

The Galvins designed the flag so "that we may never forget," and to help the relatives of the victims. The proceeds from the sales of 9/11 Remembrance flags and stickers will go to charities benefiting the victims' families. The Galvins' greatest hope is that their remembrance flag will reach each victim's family and that this memorial pattern becomes a national symbol.

"A lot of thought went into the design," said Ellen Polimeni, Mayor of the City of Canandaigua. "It is inspirational and patriotic."

Every color, star and emblem on the flag represents an aspect of that unforgettable day. The four interlocking stars symbolize the four planes that crashed into the World Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA. The stars are linked representing the nation's unity. The black center panel symbolizes sorrow, while the two blue panels represent the dominant color in the state flags of

New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania where the planes went down.

Through a great deal of time and effort, the Galvins' flag has finally reached some of the family members of the victims of 9/11. The first flag, manufactured by a Valley Forge, PA company last August, was

sent to Patricia Scales, wife of Lt. Col. David Scales, who was killed when the terrorist-commandeered plane slammed into the Pentagon. Scales has been promoting the flag ever since.

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Couple creates a flag, continued from front page



Joanne and Stephen Galvin of Wolcott designed the 9/11 Remembrance Flag.

The Galvins have been working tirelessly trying to gain exposure for their flag. They have appeared on area news-casts, at malls, parades and other public ceremonies. They are currently working with the American Legion to get further exposure.

Though official recognition is slow in coming, the Galvins get requests for flags almost daily. The poignant and heartfelt expressions of gratitude that the couple regularly receives in the form of e-mails, cards and letters help to spur them on.

Since there appears to be no protocol to have a non-military or non-government flag receive official designation, the Galvins have been encouraged by Assemblyman Robert Oaks and Congressman Tom Reynolds to obtain signatures from citizens on a petition to have their copyrighted design become a nationally sanctioned flag. Over 1,000 signatures

have already been collected. Assemblyman Brian Kolb and even U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer's office have expressed an interest in their cause.

You can add your name to the secured on-line petition at www.911remembranceflag.com. (Go to online petition on the Site Navigation Quick Launch.) Petitions are also available at Wood Library and the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce.

Order 9/11 Remembrance flags and

stickers by calling (315) 594-9274 or emailing jmgalvin@zlink.net. Check out the web address at www.911remembranceflag.com. Three-by-five foot flags are \$40; four-by-six inch handheld flags are \$5; and stickers are \$2.50. A flag might make a great Holiday gift for that someone hard to buy for and the proceeds of your purchase would go to the 9/11 relief efforts.

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