

9 YEARS AFTER 9/11

Geneva observance focuses on heroes, resilience of American people

By **SEAN McCracken**

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GENEVA — If the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks has been seen as more contentious or heated than past anniversaries, that ill will did not make its way to the shores of Seneca Lake Saturday morning.

The city of Geneva's ninth commemoration of the tragedy took place directly in front of the flag poles and Sept. 11 memorial stone marker on the lakeshore.

The observance began with the "Striking of the Four Fives," a ritual involving five bell strikes repeated four times. The service is now mostly tied to Sept. 11 but was created in the 19th century in New York City to honor firefighters who died while in the line of duty.

Mayor Stu Einstein was the first to speak, citing a quote from an unknown speaker shortly after the plane crashes at the World Trade Centers, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa.

"On Monday we were talking about athletes as heroes. On Tuesday, we relearned who our heroes are," Einstein said.

Assemblyman Brian M.



Kolb, R-129 of Canandaigua, spoke of a friend who fell victim to the attacks in 2001.

"His family didn't really have an opportunity to say a proper good-bye ... remember Tom and his family every year at this moment in time," Kolb said.

Karen Noonan, executive assistant for Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-54 of Fayette, presented Einstein and the city with a new 9/11 National Remembrance Flag, designed by Joanne and Steve Galvin of Wolcott, and read a letter from Nozzolio.

"The flag symbolizes the resilience of the American people to rise up to the devastating losses of that day and help Americans to heal and rebuild our country," read Noonan.

The observance also featured a rifle squad salute volley from the American Legion color guard and a performance of the national anthem by Lucile Mallard.



Spencer Tullis / Finger Lakes Times

The city of Geneva's ninth Sept. 11 commemoration took place at 10 a.m. Saturday directly in front of the flag poles and Sept. 11 memorial stone marker on the lakeshore. Sophie Heieck, 6, and her brother Max, 3, both of Geneva, hug their dad, Geneva Police Officer Eric Heieck, during the ceremony.