



The Navigator

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport

P.O. Box 31, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

September 11, 2021

www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org

President-Steve Di Camillo, Secretary-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Mary Sortal, President Elect-Open
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

Club joins fire department for 20th 9/11 observation

By Stuart Deane

For our 12th annual “Field of Honor,” the Exchange Club joined the Newburyport Fire Department for the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Keynote speaker was Fire Chief Christopher LeClaire. Special guest was past member, event originator and sponsor Kathleen Bailey, all the way from Savannah, Georgia.

Also adding to the emotion of the day was the presence of a sculpture made from the ruins of the World Trade Center.

The ceremony was structured around four moments of silence to acknowledge the impacts of the hijacked planes – 8:46 for American Airlines Flight 11 hitting the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York, 9:03 for United Airlines Flight 175 hitting the South Tower, 9:37 for American Airlines Flight 77 hitting the Pentagon and 10:03 for United Airlines Flight 93 crashing in Shanksville, Pa., when passengers realized what was transpiring and took command of the plane, becoming heroes instead of victims.

After a march-in of area firefighters and a presentation of the colors by the Newburyport Police and Amesbury Fire Color Guards, Kathy Peavey sang the “National Anthem,” followed by the Invocation by Father Tim Harrison of the Immaculate Conception Church and a recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

A medley of patriotic music by the Merrimack Valley Concert Band preceded remarks from local officials.

“On behalf of the city, I express my gratitude to the Exchange Club for honoring our heroes,” said Mayor Donna Holaday. “We



continue to tell their stories. Collectively we remember. Collectively we are resilient.”

“These flags are amazing,” said Kathleen Bailey. “We will never forget where we were that day. We held together as a nation, but this land has not always treated people of my skin color the same. If the Exchange Club had judged me by the color of my skin, we wouldn’t be here today. When one of us is not free, none of us are. It takes all of us to make a country.”

“It’s great to have Kathleen back,” said Richie Eaton, our first sponsor for the first event. “When she first asked, my immediate response was, ‘Yes.’ Each year when I first drive by, the flags always bring tears to my eyes.”

Veterans Affairs Officer Kevin Hunt offered several examples of those who raised their hands when called upon to serve. “Each raised his hand, each lost his life. They were not elected. They were not appointed. They volunteered.”

State Rep. Jim Kelcourse noted that his first job had been on Wall Street the year before 9/11, that he had lost a friend in New York. “The event touched us in so many (cont. on last page)

A gallery for the 2021 “Field of Honor” The Preparations



Atkinson Common



WJOP 96.3FM



Exchange flags at Vietnam “Moving Wall”



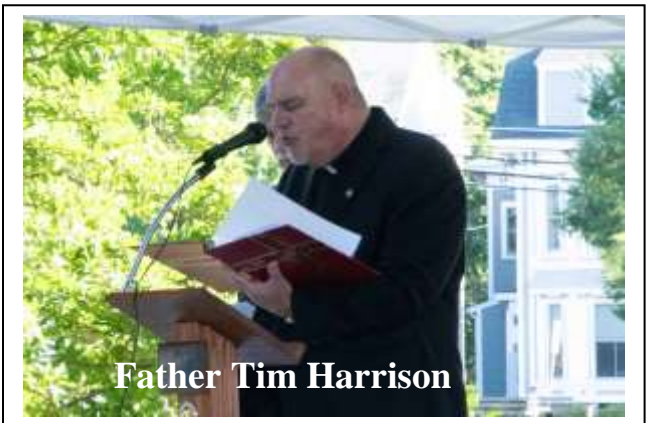
Co-chairs



With Kathleen Bailey



The Ceremony – Photos by Joe Murphy





Richie Eaton



Vet. Aff. Off. Kevin Hunt



Rep. Jim Kelcourse



Sen. Diana DiZoglio



Soloist Kathy Peavey



**“Service and fellowship are at the core of what we do.”
– Mike Reichek, Texas Regional VP, at 2021 N.E. District Convention –**

Thanks to those who serve

As I See It

Stuart Deane



On Dec. 6, 1941, all was quiet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. On Sept. 10, 2001, people went about their business in New York City. On Jan. 5, 2021, preparations for presidential succession were underway at the Capitol.

Then, came the next day. When a first responder, whether military, fire, police or health care, puts on his or her uniform each day, that which follows is a great unknown.

It could be routine. It could be war. It could be conflagration. It could be riot. It could be life-and-death accident or disease. In responding to such situations, the lives of victims are at stake.

How quickly and well the responders react to the emergency sometimes determines who lives and who dies. That is a lot of responsibility. At the same time, the responders are putting their own lives and health at risk.

At times, the responses are successful. Other times, the response is too late or the task too overwhelming. Responders must then deal with what might be perceived as a failure, which is the source of potential post-traumatic stress disorder.

Too often, we take all of this for granted. We don't appreciate such workers until we need one, until we or a loved one are in danger. Then, they become all-important.

In my own life, I have both served in the military and been protected by those who



Flags in the Field of Honor on the Bartlet Mall in Newburyport, with the Superior Court building in the background.

have served beforehand and since, so I am aware of that commitment. One son was walking to work in New York City on 9/11, so I am well aware of that fear factor.

I have not personally been in a fire situation, but I have called upon fire and ambulance personnel for family medical emergencies, so I know the urgency. I have not been in a crime situation, but it's comforting to know the police are out there if needed.

Life can change on a dime. An immediate response is often needed. It's reassuring to know that trained professionals are on the job, ready to respond.

For this, they deserve our appreciation.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and the ensuing response by fire, police, EMT and ultimately the military, the Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport will move its traditional Sunday Field of Honor on the Bartlet Mall to Saturday, Sept. 11, at 8:30 a.m. to coincide with the traditional 9/11 ceremony of the Newburyport Fire

Department.

"These men and women serve on the front lines" said Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday at a previous Field. "This is a day to remember them, to recognize them, though they all would say, 'I was just doing my job.' Events like this give us an opportunity to express our thanks. When you leave today, walk through these flags and take home a new appreciation for those who serve."

Fire Chief Christopher LeClaire will be the keynote speaker, with other officials also reflecting on the dedication and sacrifices of those who serve.

The Field of Honor is a grid of hundreds of full-sized American flags that may be purchased and dedicated to personal heroes who have served, whether military, fire, police, health care or, in this time of worldwide pandemic, those who have stepped up as essential workers.

In this small way, we say thank you. Please join us.

Stuart Deane, a Newburyport resident, is a longtime member of the Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport.

(cont. from first page) ways. I still have the days to enjoy my two boys. I am privileged."

"We must never forget," added State Senator Diana DiZoglio, here from Methuen.

"We all have somber, solemn memories of what was lost. We express our gratitude to those who sacrificed."

Keynote speaker Chief Christopher LeClaire of the Newburyport Fire Department described several acts of valor, including one firefighter who immediately pulled his retirement papers, raced to the towers and was never seen again.

"Fire and police and other responders were looked on with respect after 9/11," he said. "We were not divided. We were all Americans. We supported each other. We didn't yell and curse. We were one family. Let's act like Americans again."

The ceremony concluded with a "Verbal Wall" reading of the flag dedications, the singing of "God Bless America," led by Kathy Peavey, a Benediction by Father Tim Harrison and the playing of "Amazing Grace" by fire department bagpipers Jim MacDonald and Bill Shute.