



TOWN OF ACTON
Fire Department
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Robert Hart
Fire Chief

Anita R. Arnum
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September 1, 2022

Invitation to attend:

On Sunday, September 11th 2022 at 09:55 hrs there will be a brief ceremony commemorating the events of September 11, 2001. The ceremony will be held in front of the monument at the PSF 371 Main Street. In attendance will be members of the Fire Department, Police Department, Dignitaries and visitors. The ceremony should last approximately 20 minutes.

Some history: Lauren Rosenzweig Morton usually attends the ceremony, her husband Phil Rosenzweig was killed on 9/11. He was on American Airlines Flight 11 which crashed into the North Tower. Lauren is an Acton resident and has served on many boards in town.

Also killed on 9/11, was Acton resident Madeline "Amy" Sweeney, she was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11. She phoned American Airlines from the plane and identified the hijackers which later assisted the FBI in identifying the perpetrators. Her husband Michael Sweeney usually attends the ceremony at the state house each year. Annually the Massachusetts EOPS presents the Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery.

"STRIKING THE FOUR FIVES" (Ringing of the bell)

The fire service is rich with ceremony, custom, and tradition. The custom of rendering final honors has its origins in the New York City fire department, where many years ago, long before the advent of radios or pagers, fire alarms and daily announcements were dispatched from central headquarters to outlying firehouses by a system of bell commands and telegraph.

When a firefighter died in the line of duty or when an important official passed away, headquarters would transmit five bell strikes, repeated in four series, with a slight pause between each series, followed by the announcement. This was done as far back as 1865 when the New York City Fire Department announced to the rank and file the death of Abraham Lincoln.

The custom has continued down to the present day to render final honors to departed comrades.

Hope to see you all at the ceremony.

Respectfully,

Robert Hart
Fire Chief
Acton Fire Department