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"Healing Field" Memorial in Horseheads

By: Bill Mich

The "Healing Field" in Horseheads is a memorial of 2,000 flags paying tribute to the lives lost a decade ago. As our Bill Mich tells us, what makes it so unique is the ability for people to personalize their tributes.

HORSEHEADS, N.Y. -- "My son, who is now ten, was eight-months-old and I was feeding him a bottle watching the Today Show."

"I was sitting in our ad room in our home on Lower Maple Ave and I called my daughter at work and said a plane just hit the twin towers."

Ten years have gone by, but it still feels like yesterday since the attacks of 9/11. And as those images remain so clear in our mind, so do the memories of the ones lost that day and the feeling of national pride in the months and years to come.

"We decided that it would be a wonderful way to get the community together again like America got together and rallied around the flag 10 years ago. And we wanted to do that again and replicate that," said organizer Carol Gough.

Two thousand American flags, each with a personal dedication. Some for those lost a decade ago. Others for local heroes who have died serving our country in the years following.

"We lost our grandson November 12th of 2010 in Afghanistan and that's such a heartbreaker," said Elmira resident Phylis McKlevis.

The attacks may have happened hundreds of miles from where this memorial was located in Horseheads, but for visitors, the sight of the flags and the names that they read brought back that national pride and a reminder that we are all in this together.

Georganne Buchtel of Bressport said, "Hopefully the people in New York and Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. and everywhere in America can realize that under this flag, we stand as one."

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