

Nationally recognized 9/11 memorial coming to Cannonsburg

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ROCKFORD, Mich. (WZZM) - Four months from today, our nation will mark the 10-year anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Now, West Michigan will mark the event with a nationally recognized memorial.

The Rockford Area Community Endowment (RACE) and local communities and [businesses](#) have teamed together to bring the nationally recognized Colonial Flag Foundation's "Healing Field" memorial to West Michigan on the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks.

3,200 flags will be flown on 8-foot poles. They will be placed in perfectly aligned

rows as a highly visual way to comprehend the enormity of the lives lost that fateful day.

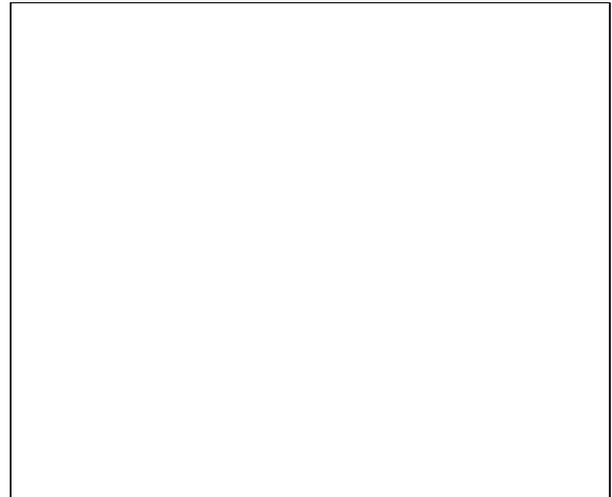
"When we get a chance to see 3,200 flags planted up the hillside, I think it's going to be just a fantastic tribute," said Arthur Johnson, honorary chair of the event and CEO of United Bank.

One of the flags will be a tribute to the life of Barbara Edwards, who was one of the 55 passengers aboard American Airlines flight 77 that crashed into the Pentagon.

"It kind of brings everything to life again," said Jack Vander Baan, who lives in Wayland and is Barbara Edward's [father](#). "It means a lot that the communities here want to keep [Barbara's] memory alive."

The public is invited to walk through the flags on the rolling hills of Cannonsburg, and take in special programs and events which will be scheduled throughout the 5 days of the memorial.

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All events are free to the public.

Flags may be sponsored for \$75 each and taken home at the end of the event to continue the tribute. Flag sponsorships can be made by clicking .

Organizers say volunteers will be needed for a variety of tasks leading up to and during the event. To [volunteer](#), contact Steve Gerencer at (616) 293-9194 or steve.gerencer@gmail.com

"I think it will be a great opportunity for children who weren't even born or were too little to know what was going on to have an [educational](#) experience here," said Sue Bodenner, project chairperson for the event. "We're all healing in different ways and every person walking through this field that day will be having a different experience."

By Brent Ashcroft

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