



NEWS RELEASE

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Township honors patriots, first responders of September 11, 2001

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (September 11, 2020) – The Woodlands Township and Board of Directors hosted two events on September 11, 2020, in memory of those who were lost during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and in honor of the first responders who continue to selflessly serve the community today.

The Township hosted the Patriot Day of Remembrance at 7:30 a.m. at The Woodlands Central Fire Station. The Woodlands Fire Chief Palmer Buck welcomed the group and offered remarks, along with the Posting of Colors by The Woodlands Fire Department Honor Guard. The National Anthem was performed by Lauren Erato along with an invocation by Chaplain Pat Pechacek.

“This morning, I ask of you to consider three words: Remember, Reflect and Renew,” said The Woodlands Fire Department Chief Palmer Buck. “As first responders, we take an oath...regardless of the challenge, the men and women of The Woodlands Fire Department continue to do their jobs taking care of our community. This morning I ask that they renew their pledge to serve our community, our state and our great country.”

Township Chairman of the Board Gordy Bunch read the Patriot Day proclamation, stating, “We urge all citizens to honor those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and to reflect upon America’s proud tradition of freedom and bravery and to renew our commitment to serving our community, state and our nation.”

After a reading of the Firefighter’s Prayer, the firefighters took part in The Ringing of the Bell, in honor of the 343 firefighters, eight paramedics and more than 70 law enforcement officers who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Following the bell ceremony, the group observed a moment of silence.

“We are forever grateful to the heroism of our first responders,” said U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady. “On that day, Americans witnessed first-hand the unbelievable courage and bravery of our everyday heroes. It is so important that we remember this day.”

At 5:30 p.m., the Township hosted First Responders Day in Town Green Park. Chairman Gordy Bunch welcomed the crowd and introduced the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) Honor Guard for the Posting of the Colors. The invocation was offered by Sergeant Mike Evans of MCSO, followed by the National Anthem by Lauren Erato.



The ceremony included guest speakers Fire Chief Palmer Buck; MCSO Captain Tim Holifield; District Chief Spencer Hall of Montgomery County Hospital District; Captain Jonathon Zitzmann of Harris County Constable's Office; and Mallory Lyon, Director of District Operations for Congressman Kevin Brady. The ceremony also included musical performances by trumpeter Tyler McGee and bagpiper Patrick Salmon.

During the ceremony, Chairman Bunch said, "Today, we gather to honor and give thanks to all first responders that serve our great hometown. The Woodlands residents and businesses are so fortunate to have the best fire department in the country, exceptional EMT's and EMS services and a Sheriff and Constable Office that go above and beyond for us. We salute all of the agencies that serve The Woodlands, which are all represented and here with us today. These individuals work around the clock to ensure the safety of our residents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year."

To watch a replay of the ceremonies, please visit The Woodlands Township Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheWoodlandsTownship. For more information about The Woodlands Township, please call 281-210-3800 or visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.



The Woodlands Township hosted the Patriot Day of Remembrance at the Central Fire Station on September 11, 2020. Speaking at the event were The Woodlands Fire Department Chief Palmer Buck, top left; Township Chairman Gordy Bunch, top right; and U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady, bottom.



Township Chairman Gordy Bunch speaks at the First Responders event at Town Green Park on September 11, 2020.