

Patriot Day 2017 9/11 Prayer and Remembrance Ceremony Sept. 11, 2017 at Jackson Township Fire Station 204

Remarks by American Legion Post 164 Commander Jeff Shipley

On behalf of the American Legion family, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Grove City and Jackson Township officials, police and fire departments, welcome to our 15th anniversary Patriot Day Remembrance Service. I'd like to thank Chief Little, the entire fire department and Police Chief Pearson for hosting the service today, and invite you visit this special 9/11 memorial after the service.

We pause today, here, across the country, and the world, to remember those thousands lost on this day 16 years ago in the attacks of 9/11, the thousands that are suffering and have died since 9/11 from injuries and illness resulting from the response to the attacks, and the war on terrorism across the globe. And the families that lost loved ones; thousands more parents, spouses and children; including six from Grove City now memorialized at the new Purple Heart Memorial Wall.

And to recognize and thank our first responders, police, fire and emergency services; our military service members and veterans, and government officials here and across our community and country that continue to serve, protect, and defend us.

On this day, the President requests that the American flag be flown at half-staff at homes, and on all U.S. government buildings. The President also asks Americans to observe the moments of silences, and to make this day a "day of service" to our country and communities. I would like to thank our special guests Ohio Rep. Laura Lanese, trustees and city council, Chief Little, Police Chief Pearson and Sheriff Conley.

Please stand for the invocation by American Legion Chaplain Don Hutchinson, the *National Anthem* and Honor Guard Salute.

Invocation: American Legion Post 164 Chaplain Don Hutchinson

National Anthem

Fire Department final bell

Honor Guard Commander, fire the fun salute and play taps

Moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., when 1st airplane struck the North Tower.

Closing prayer – American Legion Post 164 Chaplain Don Hutchinson

Closing comments – American Legion Post 164 Commander Jeff Shipley

In closing, as we mentioned, today is also a day of service, and we invite you to commit to volunteer at any of the numerous and worthy organizations across our community. September has also been declared National Disaster Preparedness month across the United States. As we leave today and return to our homes, schools, and work, I'd ask you to ask yourself: What would I do? How can you prepare to protect ourselves, families, friends, and neighbors? From checking and installing smoke detectors, to taking first aid and CPR classes, to the upcoming Active Shooter training being provided by the Grove City Police Department. There are many resources to help guide you and things we can do to be prepared and assist our government and first responders in before, during, and after disasters, to help reduce the impact and to literally save the lives of those around us. The key, like our first responders, is to know what to do.

Thank you for joining us today, and our Fire Department hosts have refreshments in the Fire Station.

Always Remember.