

# Plans unveiled for local 9/11 memorial

Honoring Victims, Heroes of 9/11

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**UTICA --** It is a fitting memorial, Vanessa Graham said, that is difficult to look at.

The sketch shows emergency workers carrying away a victim. A firefighter salutes. And looming above them are two tall buildings, side-by-side and unmistakable.

For now, the images exist only on paper. But some hope they one day become sculptures, built in F.T. Proctor Park as a memorial to those who died during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The design was unveiled Thursday during the kickoff of a \$1 million fund-raising campaign to build the memorial. A tearful Graham, whose brother, Don J. Kauth, died in the World Trade Center, attended.

"It's kind of tough to see it because, you know, seeing the building and that's where Don worked," Graham said, her voice wavering. "You know, it just brings it all back again.

"I'm glad they're memorializing it," she said. "They should."

More than 100 people crowded into the Hotel Utica as a nonprofit organization, Mohawk Valley 9/11 Memorial Park Inc., laid out its vision. Utica Mayor Tim Julian is the honorary chairman.

The city will provide one acre along Culver Avenue for the proposed park, but for the memorial to happen -- organizers hope to have it done by Sept. 11, 2006 -- donations must come from corporations and residents throughout the region, fund-raising co-chairman Richard Hazard said.

"We are here because we have not forgotten," he said. "We all said, 'What we can do?' This is something we can do."

For many in the Mohawk Valley, the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, remain a vivid memory. At least six people with local ties died in the attacks, and about a dozen Utica firefighters, including current Chief Russell Brooks, went to New York City immediately after the attacks.

Brooks called the memorial a tribute to the almost 3,000 people who were killed, including more than 300 firefighters. He said he still remembers seeing firefighters receiving orders to go into the burning towers.

"I watched their faces as they got their directives," said Brooks, a memorial park committee member. "None of them hesitated."

If built, the park would be visible from Culver Avenue. The Twin Towers, possibly made of granite, would be roughly 7 feet by 18 feet, said designer Joseph Carrado of Rome.

Photographs from the day's attacks, including the Pentagon strike, would partly cover the buildings. A U.S. flag would wave nearby, he said.

Carrado, an engineer for the state Department of Transportation, said the sculptures would be bronze. A fountain would signify contemplation, he said.

"On one level, it's about 9/11," Carrado said, "but on another level -- that's a deeper level -- it's about the sacrifice of people helping other people."



HEATHER AINSWORTH / Observer-Dispatch

Utica firefighters, from left: Joe Puleo, Joe Cieslak, Dan Winn and Ralph Lucia prepare to take part in a ceremony as the Color Guard Thursday prior to the unveiling of the Mohawk Valley 9/11 Memorial Park design at the Hotel Utica.



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Winnie Kauth, mother of 9/11 victim Don J. Kauth, accepts an American flag as a representative of other Mohawk Valley residents who lost loved ones at the World Trade Center Thursday. At right is Mohawk Valley 9/11 Memorial Park Inc. co-chairman Brian Brooks.