

# NORTH FULTON NEIGHBOR

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## Roswell Rotary Remembers 9/11 tribute honors innocent lives lost

Lindsay Moscarello Sep 11, 2018

Roswell Rotarians, residents, city officials, firefighters, police officers and soldiers all gathered at Roswell Area Park on the morning of September 11 to honor all the lives lost that day.

September 11, 2001 is a day that America will never forget, one that claimed countless innocent lives when terrorism struck the World Trade Center towers in New York City.

On the 17th anniversary, Roswell Rotary Remembers 9/11 was held at the Mike Gann Memorial in the park.

Claude Michael 'Mike' Gann was a Roswell resident who lost his life on 9/11.

First responders and all emergency responders who sacrificed their lives that day were honored.

Roswell Fire Chief Ricky Burnette, Jackson Kell, Police Chief Rusty Grant and United States Marine Corps 1st Sgt. Walter Marques participated in the Laying of the Wreaths.

Burnette laid a red wreath in honor of fallen firefighters, Kell, a white wreath for fallen civilians; Grant, a blue wreath for fallen police officers and Marques, a gold wreath for fallen soldiers.

Those who continuously put their lives on the line everyday; soldiers, firefighters, police officers; to protect the residents of the city they serve, were also recognized.

Shepherd's Men co-founder Travis Ellis spoke of the efforts to "never forget."

"We have an obligation to not forget. This is something that needs to reside in our hearts and souls daily, not just one day out of the year. We need to be consumed with a fire that is protecting our republic. We should never rest on the fact that liberty is always guaranteed, because you can look through the course of our history and it is not. We can guarantee that we will remain free if we commit ourselves to protecting this great gift bestowed upon us," said Ellis.

Ellis works to save service men and women who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.

He also took time to honor the "patriot heroes" of Flight 93, the plane that crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

"The 40 patriot heroes who saved countless lives by their actions that morning," said Ellis.

Flight 93 passengers fought against the hijackers to prevent that plane from hitting whatever its intended target was.

Ellis sent out a message to all attendees. "I challenge you to never forget, but always remember."

"What you have to do is serve, engage in the fight, because we must remain vigilant to be free and all of us have an obligation to engage in that fight, to protect the freedoms we hold so dear. I challenge you to do this, not just this day, but everyday."

The ceremony concluded with Taps and a 21 Gun Salute.

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United States Marine Corps 1st Sgt. Walter Marques laid a gold wreath in honor of all the fallen soldiers. From left, Sgt. Marques, Chief Grant, Jackson Kell and Chief Burnette salute in their memory.

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