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AMHERST PLANS 9/11 CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE AT MEMORIAL HILL GROVE

Ceremony Chairperson and Amherst Town Clerk Deborah Bruch Bucki announced that the Town of Amherst shall conduct its annual "9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance" on Friday, September 11, 2009, at the Amherst Memorial Hill Grove, located along the Ellicott Creek Trailway, 7/10 of one mile from the entrance at North Forest Road (between West Klein Road and Maple Road). Assembly will begin at 11:30 AM. for a group walk processing to the Grove for a 12 Noon ceremony, which has been planned by a committee that includes Amherst department heads and employees, police officers, veterans, and residents.

A living memorial to the victims of the 9/11 attacks, the grove consists of an American flag, a monument, and 120 trees surrounding a memorial bench. Two pathways that traverse the grove form a memorial ribbon. A stone wall offers seating that faces the monument and the trees, and thereby permits visitors an opportunity to stop and reflect upon the lives of those who perished.

Describing the importance of the 9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance, Town Clerk Bucki commented, "This year, America marks the eighth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Americans must not only remember the police officers, firefighters, and civilians who died on that horrific day, but also recall its role in galvanizing the fight that our troops currently wage abroad against the evils of terrorism."

The Master of Ceremonies will be Don Postles, news anchor for WIVB-TV Channel 4. The Ceremony of Remembrance will include musical performances by the Amherst Senior Center Singers and vocalist Sandy DeGlopper. The Town of Amherst Police Department Honor Guard and members of Amherst's uniformed services will also participate, and the names of the 9/11 victims from Western New York will be read by members of their families, by representatives of American Airlines and United Airlines, and by local first responders.

For those who need it, the Town of Amherst will provide limited transportation to the grove from the Ellicott Creek Trailway parking lot, located on North Forest Road. Participants may bring lawn chairs for seating if they wish, but bleacher seating will also be available. The ceremony is open to the public, will last approximately one hour, and will take place rain or shine.

