

## **9/11 CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Town of Amherst will conduct its 22nd Anniversary “9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance” on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 9:30AM, at the Amherst Memorial Hill Grove. The Grove is 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).

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. It is a living memorial—with 120 trees, in groups of 9 and 11, surrounded by a bench with pathways in the shape of the memorial ribbon. All the trees and all the monuments were donated by our community.

Former Amherst Supervisor Susan Grelick who served as Supervisor during 9/11 and is the current Ceremony Chair said: “Amherst Memorial Hill Grove, created on October 20, 2001, was one of the first 9/11 Memorials built in the country. The grove is different now from when it was first built. The tree roots run deeper; the branches are stronger, reminding us of how we joined together to create this peaceful place to educate future generations of what happened and of all the lives we lost.”

There will be a reflection delivered this year by Erie County Fire Chaplain, Pastor Steve Biegner. Pastor Biegner has many years of experience responding to emergency calls to provide comfort and assistance to victims and families suffering from traumatic situations.

The Rev. Paul Seil, chaplain for the Buffalo Fire Department, who has spent many years comforting people facing the most difficult situations will deliver the invocation.

The program will also include the presentation of colors by the Town of Amherst Police Department Honor Guard, the singing of the National Anthem by Mary Kate O’Connell, the reading of the names of the local victims, accompanied by the tolling of the bell by the Getzville Fire Company. The Williamsville East High School Chorale, Bagpiper Danne Farrell, and Bugler Alexander Francisco will also participate.

For those who are in need, the Town of Amherst will provide limited transportation to the grove from the Ellicott Creek Trailway parking lot, located on North Forest Road. Some seating is available at the site, but participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs if they wish. The ceremony is open to the public, will last no more than one hour, and will be held rain or shine.

### **Town of Amherst**

[www.amherst.ny.us](http://www.amherst.ny.us)

[9/11 Commemoration Committee Website](#)

In conjunction with the Anniversary of the 9-11 attacks, members of the Amherst Youth Engaged in Service (YES) Program setup a memorial of flags in front of the Amherst Town Hall. [\(2022 Photos\)](#)