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## 12th Annual 9/11 Remembrance and Candlelight Vigil Tonight

By Clare Varellas



Photo Doug Kohen

One year later, the first remembrance and candlelight vigil was held. Every year the event has evolved, so that today it will feature various musical performances, a posting of the colors by Lafayette Boy Scouts, four significant speakers, a vigil prayer by a pastor, and an incredible amount of primary source photos and newspapers from around the country.

One of the event's speakers is Sean Hickey, one of the first responder New York firefighters who worked to rescue people at Ground Zero that day. Another is Stephen Gelman, a Navy Commander for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) who worked with the FBI in counter-terrorism in both the United States and the Middle East following the events of 9/11. Gelman appreciates Lafayette Flag Brigade holding the event and was very willing to speak at it.

"Unfortunately, it's not a pleasant thought to remember," said Gelman. "A lot of people died, and it's good to honor all the first responders. We tend to have very short attention spans in this fast-paced culture, so it's good to [look back]."

First responder firefighter Hickey expresses similar notions, and says that he appreciates people honoring the anniversary of a day that will never leave him.

"What happened to New York happened to the country, and New York is my home," said Hickey. "Every year I long to be with the guys I was with on 9/11, and because I'm so far away, [the people at the event] are like my adopted family. I can be around people that care about what happened. They honor a day that I have to live through 365 days a year."

The event is open to the public and will be held today, Sept. 11, from 4 to 8 p.m. on the El Curtola Bridge at the Hwy 24 overcrossing in Lafayette (take Pleasant Hill Road, south exit to Old Tunnel Road, then to the top of the hill). For information and a map showing the location, visit [www.nevereverforget911.com](http://www.nevereverforget911.com).

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