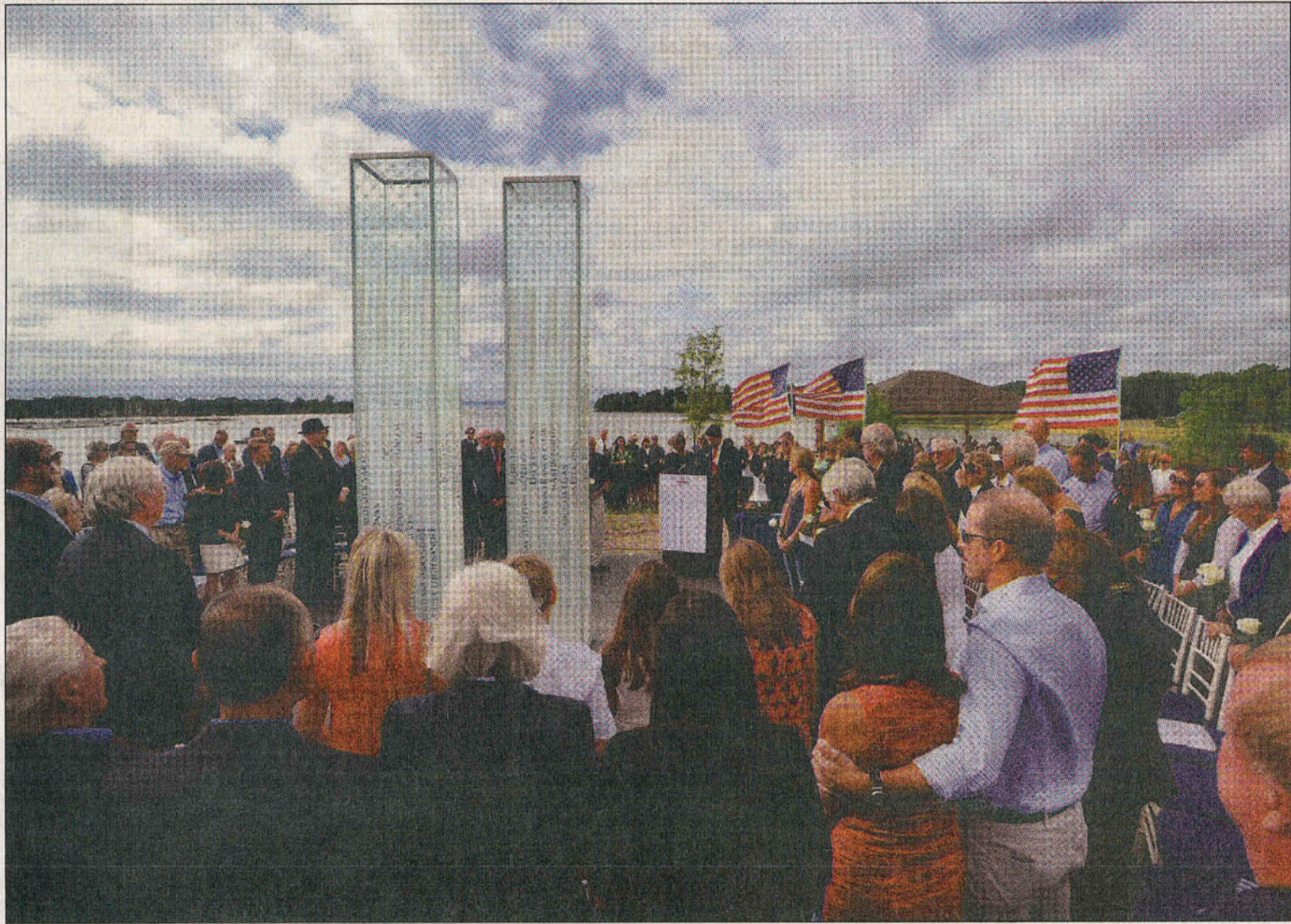


'WE DID NOT HAVE A PLACE TO VISIT OR REFLECT OR REMEMBER'



Bob Luckey Jr. / Hearst Connecticut Media

Friday morning's dedication ceremony for the September 11th Memorial in Cos Cob Park.

Sept. 11 memorial unveiled

By Ken Borsuk

The unveiling of the new September 11th Memorial in Cos Cob Park Friday morning provided an intimate remembrance for the families of the 33 victims of the terrorist attacks from Greenwich.

"We did not have a place to visit or reflect or remember," said Demi Ferraris, cousin of Greenwich resident Teddy Maloney, who was killed in the attacks. "Our family would spend the last few years driving to Westport to visit a stone that bears his name at Sherwood Island Park. While the site is extremely beautiful, it's just not home," she said at the ceremony.

"For a guy who left such a big impression on Earth, it was difficult for us to pay our respects to a small stone in a town where we had little connection ... Like so many of the other families no remains of Teddy were ever recovered," said Ferraris, co-president of the Greenwich Community Projects Fund Inc.

"This beautiful moment with its use of transparent architectural design and symbolism will forever shed light on what was a dark day in our country's history."

First Selectman Peter Tesei

► **SLIDESHOW:** To see more photos and a video, go to bit.ly/1L7gWNU

The memorial was put together by the Greenwich Community Projects Fund through private donations and was presented as a gift to the town. The memorial consists of two glass towers, symbolizing the World Trade Center, with the American flag carved into them and the names of Greenwich's vic-



Jonathan Egan, who lost his father, Michael Egan, and his aunt, Christine Egan, in the terrorist attacks 14 years ago, at Friday's ceremony.

tims in the flag's stripes. "Today's memorial unveiling is a poignant moment for Greenwich and the family members of those we lost 14

years ago," First Selectman Peter Tesei said. "This beautiful moment with its use of transparent architectural design and

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Bob Luckey Jr. / Hearst Connecticut Media

At left, Ralph Sabbag, of New Jersey, hugs a fellow attendee at the dedication ceremony for the September 11th Memorial in Cos Cob Park Friday morning. Sabbag lost his son, Jason Sabbag, in the terrorist attacks.

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symbolism will forever shed light on what was a dark day in our country's history."

Tesei was joined by several other elected officials at the ceremony, including U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Greenwich resident.

"Thank you to the Town of Greenwich for showing us what is important about America and what is important about being an American ... to never forget our heroes, never forget the spirit of this place,"

Blumenthal said. "As beautiful and elegant as this memorial is, it is more than just glass and bricks and mortar, it is a spirit."

A packed crowd of nearly 500 people overflowed the area surrounding the memorial and its spiral path; visitors lined up around the path all the way around the park and its view of the Long Island Sound. Shuttles were needed to bring people from satellite parking areas after the park's 100 slots were filled.

James Ritman, co-president of the Greenwich Community Projects Fund, said the memorial

was a gift to the families of those that lost loved ones in the attacks.

"It's bittersweet. And while it's a little more sweet today, it's still a sad day for so many people," Ritman said. "We're all so, so proud of what we've accomplished here. It's been a real grass roots effort with the town coming together. We had over a thousand donors and we have hundreds of people here today supporting us. Everyone wanted this to happen."

The work took nearly five years to complete, although minor work on the glass towers, including

caulking, still has to be completed.

Despite that, Ritman said, there was "no way we were going to miss having this dedication on this September 11th morning."

The ribbon cutting of the memorial, which preceded the ceremony, was done by Greenwich resident Sally Maloney, the mother of Teddy Maloney, surrounded by her family.

"It was such an honor," Maloney said. "I didn't expect it, and when they asked me to do it a couple of days ago it was a culmination for me of all the personal hard work we have done with all the board members. It's been a long haul and this couldn't have been a bigger honor."

The memorial had the support of all of the families of Greenwich's victims, something Ritman said was critical.

"That was one of the turning points for us," Ritman said. "When we met with the families and we unveiled the design and the location of the memorial they were so united. They were 100 percent unanimous that this had to happen and it was the right site and the right design. That's when this became very real and we knew we had to get this built. Their support is really what's gotten us here today. They've been our inspiration from the start and they continue to be our inspiration today."

Charles Hilton designed the memorial.

"All I can say is your design is truly genius," Ritman said at the ceremony. "When I look at this memorial, I am in awe of what you have created. I think one town resident summed it up best when

he said there are no words to describe how beautiful this memorial is."

Hilton said the goal was to honor those from the community lost in the attacks, create a place for education and teaching of future generations about 9/11 and to "design a place in our hometown for the family members and friends of those lost to find solace and healing in the comfort of our Greenwich community."

Hilton said all along he had wanted to put the memorial by waterfront in Greenwich because of water's "ability to create a calm and tranquil setting and provide a stunning, picturesque background."

"I think you will all agree we could not have found a better site than this," Hilton said.

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