



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

August 15, 2011

TO: CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
SUBJECT: NEW YORK DRIVE A MEMORIAL TO 9/11/01

At the August 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, Councilmember Gene Masuda requested that the City Council consider the request made by John McDannel to designate New York Drive as a memorial to 9/11/01. Attached is the proposal prepared by Mr. McDannel outlining his request. The proposal has two distinctive phases.

At this time the request is to approve the designation of New York Drive and include two monument signs that would identify this street segment as a memorial to 9/11. Mr. McDannel has already begun to engage the community so that they are part of this process. In regards to the anticipated cost for fabricating the monuments, Mr. McDannel has indicated that he has begun fundraising and is confident that he will get the entire amount.

Additionally, Phase I also includes consideration to formally request two World Trade Center beams from the New York Port Authority to be shipped to the City of Pasadena. And On September 11, 2011 at 11:00 am hold an informal groundbreaking event on New York Drive to unveil the memorial concept.

Staff is recommending that the City Council refer the proposed concept to designate New York Drive as a memorial to September 11, 2001 to the City Council's Public Safety Committee, or any other committee acceptable to the City Council, for their review and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Gutierrez

Assistant City Manager

City Hall

100 N. Garfield Avenue

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08/15/2011

Item 16

***New York Drive: A Memorial to 9/11/01: A concept to Designate New York Drive as our NORTH EAST GATEWAY TO PASADENA between Altadena Dr. and Sierra Madre Drive as:***

***"New York Drive A Memorial to 9/11/01"***

Phase I: Approve the memorial concept: Approve the designation of New York Drive and the concept of adding signage on New York Drive to signify the dedication of this Pasadena Street as a memorial. This phase can stand alone as a tribute to lives lost in New York City on September 11, 2001 and possibly become the catalyst for Phase II.

The desire is to have the Pasadena City Council approve Phase I. Phase I currently has financial support throughout our community and it would require the following steps to be taken:

- Designation of NY Drive as Memorial to 9/11/01
- Design and construct two median monument signs with funding raised by the community in agreement the City of Pasadena over this coming year.
- Consider formally requesting two World Trade Center Beams from the NY Port Authority to be shipped to Pasadena this year. (draft letter attached) The beams could be used in constructing the monument signs and or featured in phase two.
- Host an informal groundbreaking or unveiling of this intent on 9/11/11 @ 11:00am on NY Drive in the parking lot of the former Earthlink buildings. This event would be open to the community.

Phase II: Develop a 10 year strategy to convert Eaton Canyon Debris Basin into a permanent Pasadena lake supporting wild life and new recreational facilities with the City of Pasadena, County of Los Angeles and other user groups and concerned citizens of our community.

- Creating a lake in Pasadena would dovetail nicely with the Emerald Necklace concept
- Develop hiking/biking and horse trails around the new lake and park linking them to the Eaton Canyon Nature trails and to the Emerald Necklace concept.
- This vision will be a lasting legacy to Pasadena's heritage long into the future.
- These improvements should add valuable open space for our community, enhance property values and increase economic benefits by bringing more visitors to our lovely city.

Thank you for your consideration of Phase 1 and the launching of Pasadena's memorial to 9-11.

**Jomsky, Mark**

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From: Stone, Rhonda  
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2011 11:25 AM  
To: Bogaard, Bill  
Cc: Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Jomsky, Mark  
Subject: FW: Proposed Resolution for City of Pasadena  
Attachments: Supporter groups of the NY Dr. Memorial

Mayor,

The following email has been received from John McDannel refining the 9-11 proposal. In addition the attachment is an email received from John McDannel listing supporters of this proposal. Two Star News articles, (Sept. 11, 2006 and Jan. 14, 2011) have been provided with the request to have this information made available for Council at tonight's meeting. Placing copies of the articles in your mailbox.

*Rhonda Stone*

Field Representative  
Office of the Mayor  
100 N. Garfield Ave., Rm. S228  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
(626) 744-7147 fax: (626) 744-3727  
From: John McDannel [mailto:johnmcdannelav8or@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2011 10:36 PM  
To: Stone, Rhonda  
Subject: Proposed Resolution for City of Pasadena

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF PASADENA CITY COUNCIL 8-15-2011**

Designate New York Drive between Sierra Madre Blvd. and Altadena Dr.

as a Memorial to 9/11/01. The Memorial signs shall read:

**New York Drive**

**A Memorial to 9/11/01**

Phase I: Approve the designation of New York Drive, between Sierra Madre Blvd. and Altadena Drive, by adding temporary memorial signage on New York Drive to signify the dedication of this Pasadena Street as a memorial to 9-11-01. This phase can stand alone as a tribute to the 2,977 lives lost in New York City on September 11, 2001 and possibly become the catalyst for Phase II.

The desire is to have the Pasadena City Council approve Phase I.

Phase I currently has favorable support throughout our community and

will require the following steps to be taken:

- Designate NY Drive, between Sierra Madre Blvd. and Altadena Dr., as Memorial to 9/11/01
- Design and construct two suitable – permanent - median monument signs that will be artistically created and approved by the appropriate committee to be appointed by the City Council.

These stand-alone signs should be acceptable to the appropriate LA County governmental agencies so that LA Counties signage will be a duplicate of Pasadena's sign. Our goal is that both ends of NY Dr. shall be stand-alone mirror images of each other.

- Consider formally requesting that two World Trade Center I Beams be shipped to Pasadena from The NY Port Authority this year. The World Trade Center I beams will be used in constructing a new Pasadena monument to memorialize 9-11-01 in one of our parks.
- Host an informal groundbreaking ceremony, to designate NY Dr. as a memorial to 9/11/01, on Sunday 9/11/11 @ 11:00am. This event will be held at the parking lot of the former Earthlink buildings located on the SW side of NY Dr. near Bradley Street. This event will be open to the community. We have already secured approval for the use of this industrial complex for that date and for this purpose.

Phase II: Develop a 10 year two pronged goal.

A. Develop a new park along NY Drive, between Sierra Madre Blvd. and Altadena Drive, dedicated to 9/11/01. The World Trade Center I beams will be eventually used as the center piece for this new Pasadena Memorial Park.

B. Attempt to convert Eaton Canyon Debris Basin into a permanent Pasadena lake that will eventually support recreation and provide refuge for local wild life. There will be co-located facilities for Bikers, horse riders, joggers and walkers.

- Creating a new lake and new recreational facility in Pasadena will dovetail nicely with the Emerald Necklace concept being developed in Pasadena.

- This exciting vision will be a lasting legacy to Pasadena's heritage long into the future. This concept will be a complimentary addition to Pasadena's legacy.

- These improvements will add valuable open space for our community, enhance property values and increase economic benefits by bringing

more visitors to our lovely city.

Thank you for your consideration of Phase 1 and the launching of

Pasadena's memorial to 9-11.

**Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** John McDannel <johnmcdannelav8or@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2011 1:03 AM  
**To:** Stone, Rhonda  
**Subject:** Supporter groups of the NY Dr. Memorial

#### 9/11/01 SUPPORT TEAM

The following groups have expressed their support for the 9/11/01 Memorial on New York Drive in Pasadena. In all but a few cases the leaders of these groups have either written letters to Mayor Bogaard, Mike Antonovich, Congressman David Dreier and Congressman Adam Schiff.

Pasadena Rotary Club  
Pasadena After Hours Rotary Club  
Pasadena Optimist Club  
Pasadena Masonic Lodge  
Pasadena American Vets  
Pasadena Viet Nam Vets  
California Order of the Purple Hearts  
Sierra Madre Rotary Club  
Altadena Rotary Club  
High Point Academy  
Lenders Processing Services Inc.  
Magic Growers  
Dove Creek Home Owners

Plus a number of individual citizens who have learned about the Memorial concept through the newspapers or other sources.

## Pilot touts park idea

### New York Drive site called ideal

By JANEITE WILLIAMS  
STAFF WRITER

PASADENA — When terrorists flew a United Airlines Boeing 767 into the World Trade Center's south tower Sept. 11, 2001, John McDannel took it personally.

"I'd flown that plane; I happened to know some of the crew members who died," said McDannel, a pilot and captain with United Airlines for 32 years. "I recognized United's colors when the plane went in."

The tower collapsed on an adjacent building where his son-in-law worked, McDannel said, and when he went to New York City two days later, he found a place and a people forever changed.

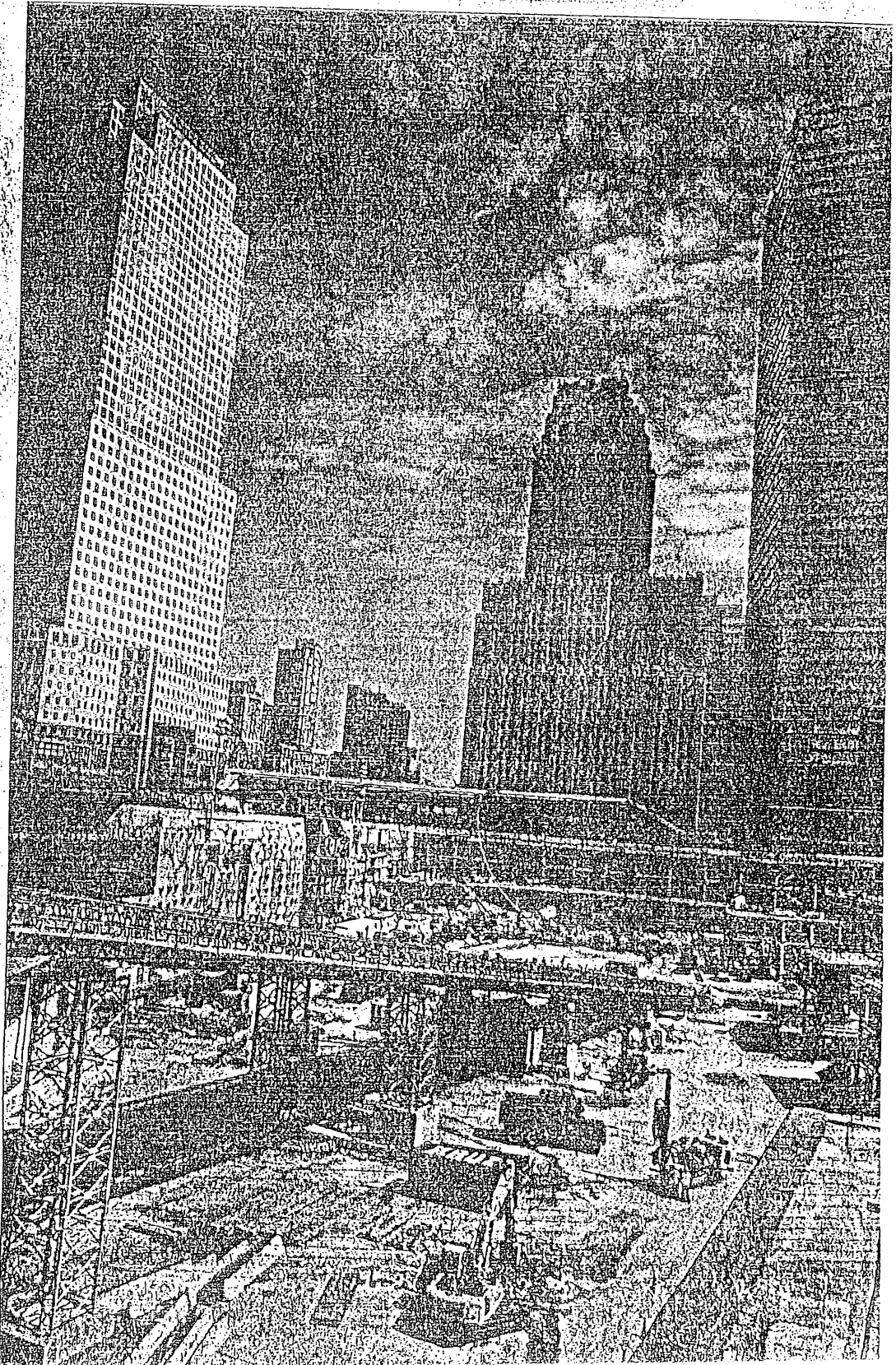
So McDannel is making it his personal goal to bring to Pasadena a permanent tribute to those who died that day.

"And where better" in the Pasadena area "than New York Drive?" he says.

His ambitious plan for a 9/11 memorial is the offshoot of a project he has worked on since 1993, started soon after firestorms ravaged the unincorporated Kinveloa area in the hills northeast of Pasadena and destroyed 120 homes.

Since then he has completed his self-imposed task of planting and maintaining about 180 young oak trees along a mile or so of New York Drive between Eaton Canyon

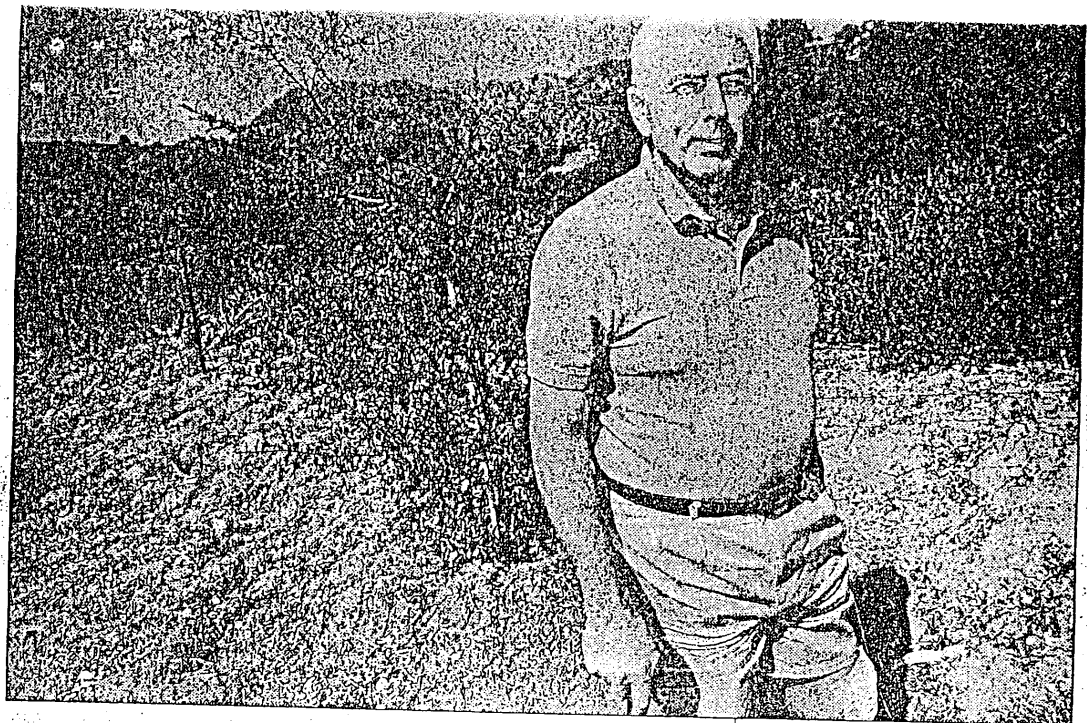
## 5 YEARS LATER ...





utify the area, add two 40-foot less steel col-fallen twin tow-stal and flanking He'd like to see Wilcox Canyon, and rename the Drive. It would dms of 9/11 and en and women in and Iraq. something last-d," he said. nates it would million" dollars including the ned Wilcox Can-eaté a park. pent mostly his estimates about h the odd check d well-wishers project, this will

TREES / A6



KEITH BIRMINGHAM / STAFF

**IN MEMORIAM:** Retired airline pilot John McDannel has planted 180 oak trees along New York Drive and wants to dedicate a memorial to those who lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001.

## TREES

### Ex-pilot urges 9/11 memorial

Continued from A1

need wider support, McDannel said.

He has started to recruit help from the city of Pasadena, Los Angeles County, local service clubs and businesses.

"It would have to be a community effort, and it would be huge," McDannel said.

As far as neighborhood support goes, 23-year resident Janet Black said McDannel has it.

"I think John's proposal would be absolutely a fantastic thing — but I'm not sure the city will buy it," Black said. "New York Drive is a very ugly street and it's unfortunate a city with all the beauty of Pasadena hasn't done more to improve it than they have."

"The city asks people to get involved, and John has, but at this point the city needs to step forward. His plan of doing a 9/11 memorial would be a very nice tribute."

Jonathon Glus, Pasadena's

executive arts director, said the process for approving memorials depends on the site and whether it's "a unique art object by an artist using art monies."

But he said proposals by individuals can happen, given the funding.

"Oh sure, that's how most of these projects start," Glus said. "Then he starts making the rounds, going to neighborhood associations, getting the general 'buy-in.' He needs to research legal issues, zoning and traffic, all aside from the money, then he goes through the city-approval process and that's it."

Glus said McDannel's 5-year goal was "very generous."

Councilman Steve Haderlein, whose district includes incorporated portions of northeast Pasadena, called the memorial "a phenomenal idea."

"I think the city [will be] as supportive as we can to such a proposal," Haderlein said. "I'd like to see it continue to be worked on to its finally being produced. It's a great idea, and I think John should be given a lot of credit for coming up with it."

McDannel said getting credit is less important than seeing the project through.

"I think back to Ronald Reagan," he said. "For four months during the 1980 [presidential] campaign, I was his pilot. He would often say it's not important who gets the credit — it's that the project gets completed."

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## FAITH

### Religious leaders

mentality of retaliation and violence," said Rev. George Regas, the group's founder and rector emeritus of All Saints Church



in an effort to beautify the area. Now he wants to add two 40-foot illuminated stainless steel columns, echoing the fallen twin towers, on a rock pedestal and flanking an American flag. He'd like to see the memorial at Wilcox Canyon, the half-way mark, and rename the section Memorial Drive. It would honor both the victims of 9/11 and the U.S. servicemen and women killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I want to create something lasting and meaningful," he said.

McDannel estimates it would cost "a couple of million" dollars and dreams of including the 5-acre, privately owned Wilcox Canyon property to create a park.

Although he's spent mostly his own money — he estimates about \$6,000 — along with the odd check from neighborhood well-wishers on the oak-tree project, this will

Please turn to TREES / A6



**IN MEMORIAM:** Retired airline pilot John McDannel has planted trees and wants to dedicate a memorial to those who lost their lives Sept.

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Continued from A1

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## FAITH

### Religious leaders preach tolerance

Continued from A1

mentality of retaliation and violence," said Rev. George Regas, the group's founder and retired pastor of All Saints Church in Pasadena. "It takes a lot of loving and a lot of attention. The goal, Regas said, is

Jan 14, 2011

# CAJAL

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## Duke continues drive for 9/11 memorial

I had forgotten that the Kinneloa civic leader who proposed five years ago a memorial along New York Drive to the victims of the 9/11 attacks had a connection to the national tragedy.

**John McDannel** was profiled back then on our front page by staffer **Janette Williams**. As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11, I took a drive around his big neighborhood Wednesday evening with the man who operates rather as the hands-on Duke of Kinneloa, and asked him why he's still so passionate about commemorating the lives lost 3,000 miles from where the tragic events occurred.

Well, first I asked McDannel — tall, full head of white hair, former track star, still slim — to remind me what career he had retired from. "Pilot for United — and before that, pilot in the United States Air Force."  
There you go.



LARRY WILSON

Not only that — McDannel had piloted the very United jetliner that was crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center within weeks of its loss. He knew the pilot who was hijacked and killed. On that awful morning, McDannel had landed another plane in Washington, D.C. and quickly got into a car he pointed north — right past the smoldering Pentagon — toward New York City, because his future son-in-law worked in that very tower, and hadn't been heard from.

His daughter's fiancée and other family members near the scene sur-

vived. But for him, McDannel says, 9/11 remains "a personal event."

A daughter served in the Navy. He was the personal pilot for **Ronald Reagan** during the first presidential campaign. And now, in retirement — oh, and by the way, he saved his own house in the Kinneloa fire of '93, while others burned down around him — McDannel pursues his dream of the memorial, which is much more than a plaque and a flag. Though he does have a notion for that kind of monument in front of the open space at Wilcox Canyon he wants to save from development as a park.

"New York Drive — what better place?" he asks as he drives. Right. One problem is, there are jurisdictional issues. Pasadena, Altadena, also unincorporated, mesa-isolated Kinneloa, the Angeles National Forest and huge swaths of county flood control land overseen by the Public Works Department — shades of the

Arcadia woodlands — come together where the memorial would go.

But it's already coming together, in a sense, in fits and starts. McDannel has himself planted over a hundred oaks along the long parkway that in the early 1960s was built to connect Altadena and Hashtags Ranch. He convinced the city to pull out handscapes in the median strip and landscape it with drought-tolerant plants. He pulled off the side of the road above Eaton Wash Dam, and pointed to the ducks in the pond down below. You don't realize it driving by, but the debris basin behind it is 54 acres. "Geez," I said — "this could be huge — like east Pasadena's Arroyo Seco."

Man of few words except when rattling off facts, McDannel smiled and said, "You got it."  
I'll continue to profile John McDannel's passion in upcoming columns.

Public Editor Larry Wilson's blog is [www.insideocal.com/public/cje](http://www.insideocal.com/public/cje)

**PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PASADENA CITY  
COUNCIL**

at the 8-15-2011 regular City Council meeting

- 1.) Designate New York Drive in Pasadena between Sierra Madre Boulevard and Altadena Drive to be a memorial to the victims of the September 11, 2001 tragedy.
- 2.) Erect signage to inform the public of the designation. The Memorial signage shall read:

**New York Drive Memorial**

**In Memory of the Victims of the 9/11/2001 Tragedy**

**(or other similar language that the Pasadena City Council deems appropriate).**

- 3.) Initially, temporary signage shall be erected by the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy - September 11, 2011. The expense of the temporary signage shall be paid for by the Pasadena Rotary Club.
- 4.) Ultimately, permanent monument signage shall be erected in the median of New York Drive once sufficient private funding has been raised by Pasadena civic groups and a suitable design has been approved by a volunteer commission appointed by the City Council.