

## [LOCAL NEWS](#)

# Vallejo paying tribute to 9/11 on Saturday

By **THOMAS GASE** | [tgase@timesheraldonline.com](mailto:tgase@timesheraldonline.com) | Vallejo Times Herald

PUBLISHED: September 9, 2021 at 3:47 p.m. | UPDATED: September 10, 2021 at 5:28 p.m.

Across the world on Saturday, millions will be paying tribute to the victims and heroes from the 9/11 terrorist attacks 20 years ago. The somber day of reflection and remembrance will be no different in Vallejo.

Ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. at Vallejo City Hall, city dignitaries will join the public for a memorial event.

At 11 a.m. the city of American Canyon will host a commemorative ceremony at 911 Donaldson Way.

Also at 11 a.m., Rebuilding Together will host a special distribution dedicated to veterans, active military, and other military families in Solano County. This program will be co-sponsored by Costco Vallejo, Wells Fargo, Home Dept, Phillips 66, Valero Benicia Refinery, Bank of America, Vallejo Community Presbyterian Church and other local community residents. It will be held outside in the parking lot at the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo.

All veteran, military households receiving either a Safe At Home Kit or Food Box are required to provide the following: Driver's license showing Solano County address and Military ID/VA Card or DD-214 Discharge Documentation. Each household is allowed one Safe At Home Kit.

"In lieu of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Rebuilding Together as well as our sponsors wanted to give back to veterans," Rebuilding Together Executive Director Elizabeth Hoffman said. "This is our way of thanking anyone in the military and giving back to veterans. It's our way of thanking first responders. I think everyone in our organization has held 9/11 as not only a day of remembrance, but as a day that volunteers such as ourselves want to do something positive and help out."

While many organizations will focus on Saturday, the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL) has partnered with the Firefighter Youth Academy every day so far in September for the "11 Days of Remembrance."

The academy's purpose is simple: Share the firefighting career and provide professional guidance and life skills to young teenagers. The program is also supported by Captain Ron Williams, and Fire Chief Floyd Cormier Jr. The academy started by using a retired fire station located in Richmond, and depends on partners like the Richmond Fire Department, educators, and the faith-based community to provide the program free of charge to the community's youth. SFARY is committed to helping "cadets" achieve desired academic outcomes.

On Saturday, this commitment will be demonstrated in a virtual event where cadets will engage in a "Stair Climb" as a way for firefighters and the community to honor and remember the FDNY firefighters who selflessly gave their lives so that others might live: A total of 90 floors.

On Sept. 11, the hijacked flight American Airlines Flight 11 struck the 93rd through 99th floors of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Just 17 minutes later, a hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 struck the 77th through 85th floors of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. In the minutes that followed numerous firefighters would climb up to 90 flights of stairs, often with as much as 80 pounds of gear on them, in order to help people trapped in the building and unable to move on their own. All while doing this with the threat of the towers collapsing, which would eventually happen — the south tower falling 56 minutes after being struck and the north tower falling 29 minutes later.

More than 2,400 people would eventually die from the attacks on New York City.

A hijacked flight American Airlines Flight 77 later crashed into the second floor of the Pentagon, while a hijacked United Flight 93 would crash into the former site of a coal mine in Shanksville, Pa.

The "Stairs Climb" in Vallejo at an undisclosed location (the media isn't invited) will not be open to the public for safety reasons, but will be filmed and available for public viewing on public access TV (VCAT), as well as on the youth academy's Facebook and Instagram pages. A online presentation time was not given by CVNL.

"The stair climb is a tribute to those who lost their lives on that day while climbing 90 flights," said Katelyn Willoughby, CVNL director of marketing and communications. "They will be paying tribute to the sacrifice they made."

CVNL Solano Volunteers will also hold a tribute breakfast on Saturday morning.

"Honoring the 20th anniversary of this moment in our nation's history by serving in your community helps transform 9/11 into a day of unity, empathy, and service," said Rhonda Smith, program coordinator, Solano Volunteers, CVNL. "By participating in '11 Days of Remembrance', we pay tribute to those lost and injured on 9/11, and to the many who rose in service in response to the attacks, including first responders, recovery workers, volunteers, and members of our military."

<https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2021/09/09/vallejo-paying-tribute-to-9-11-on-saturday/>