

# The COLLEYVILLE Courier

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## 9/11 Memorial Hosts Annual Ceremony

By Scott Price, Staff Writer

Several hundred people gathered at the 9/11 Flight Crew Memorial at Northwest Highway and Texan Trail in Grapevine on Sept. 11 to remember those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks seven years ago.

As bagpipes played, airliners landing at D/FW Airport roared overhead. Many of those in the crowd lit candles while the pictures and names of the flight crews, police officers and firefighters displayed on a large screen. "This is dedicated to first responders, all first responders," said Valerie Thompson, founder of the 9/11 Flight Crew Memorial Foundation and an American Airlines flight attendant for 20 years.

Keller resident Ron Johnson was at the event to remember his sister-in-law, Michele Heidenberger, a flight attendant on American Airlines flight 77 that was crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Johnson said his wife, Diane, went to the Sept. 11 memorial at the Pentagon.

Johnson said that when friends or family visit the area, he always brings them to see the 9/11 Flight Crew Memorial in Grapevine.

Grapevine resident Joe Luccioni, also in the crowd, said his daughter's fiancé, Michael Francis Lynch, a New York firefighter, was killed when the World Trade Center towers collapsed. Luccioni said he keeps Lynch's memory alive.

"Not only each year but every day," he said. "I have a place of honor for him in my home."

Luccioni is also a member of the Lake Grapevine Runners and Walkers, and he and other members helped with the Sept. 11 memorial in Grapevine.

The 9/11 Flight Crew Memorial Foundation is still raising money to put a fountain around the memorial, which currently includes a statue depicting airline flight crew members, and there are pieces from the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a stone from the Pennsylvania crash site.

See [www.911flightcrewmemorial.org](http://www.911flightcrewmemorial.org) or call 817-282-0993 for more.