



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Thomas P. Charles, Director
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ODPS Releases Short Film in Honor of 10th Anniversary of 9/11

(COLUMBUS) –In preparation for the 10th anniversary of September 11 and in recognition of National Preparedness Month, the Ohio Department of Public Safety has released a short film titled *I Remember September 11*. The film features seven local first responders who were dispatched to New York's World Trade Center. The film gives first-hand accounts of the first responders' experiences in the rescue and recovery efforts.

"This film reflects a poignant moment in history, highlighting the personal experiences of seven local individuals," ODPS Director Tom Charles said. "It raises awareness of the bravery, dedication and service of our first responders during a vulnerable moment for our country."

Many of the film's subjects are members of the elite Task Force One, one of 28 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) teams that function within the National US&R Response System managed by FEMA.

The following is a complete list of the participants in *I Remember September 11*:

Gene Thomas- Ohio Task Force 1 member, Technical Search Specialist, World Trade Center

Sandra Lesko- Willoughby Hills Fire Department, K9 handler, World Trade Center

Dr. Randy Marriott- Ohio Task Force 1 member, Medical Team Manager, World Trade Center

Steve Shupert- Ohio Task Force 1 member, Team leader, World Trade Center

Jack Reall- Ohio Task Force 1 member, Team leader, World Trade Center

Mike Palumbo- Ohio Task Force 1 member, K9 handler, World Trade Center

Darrell Perkins- Volunteer, Box 21 Rescue Squad, Dayton, World Trade Center

I Remember September 11 can be viewed online at www.publicsafety.ohio.gov during the month of September.

The film project is part of ODPS' efforts to honor the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and to recognize National Preparedness Month.

As part of the effort, the Ohio Statehouse Lawn will again display its Field of Flags: 2,298 American flags decorating the west lawn, outlining the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon. Each flag represents an American life lost on that fateful day, September 11, 2001. A Statehouse ceremony including Governor John Kasich will be held Friday September 9 at 11:30 a.m.

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