



# NEWS



## News Headlines 09/09/2021

- San Bernardino County Fire to hold 9/11 reflection ceremonies at fire stations
- Never Forget: Southern California Ceremonies Mark 20th Anniversary Of 9/11 Attacks
- How the 9/11 attacks are taught in Southern California schools
- Forest are 'better places for cremated remains
- Man bitten during bar fight in Hesperia, 3 women arrested

## San Bernardino County Fire to hold 9/11 reflection ceremonies at fire stations

Martin Estacio, Daily Press

Posted: September 8, 2021



Najah Williams places an American flag into the grass in 2019 in preparation for Victor Valley College's annual Flag of Honor event, which honors 9/11 victims. Daily Press File Photo

**The San Bernardino County Fire Department** will be holding ceremonies this weekend at each of their full-time fire stations in honor of those who died on Sept. 11.

The public is invited to come for the 15-minute Reflection Ceremonies at their local station at 8 a.m. Saturday, the 20-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks in 2001.

“Ceremony will include a reflection of 9/11 events, the lowering of the U.S. flag to half-staff, and the tolling of the bell,” county fire officials said.

Sirens will also be sounded twice during the ceremony between 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. as a tribute to the victims.

In a video, county officials remembered how they felt when they saw planes strike the two towers at the World Trade Center in New York City that morning.

Tom Marshall, deputy chief of operations for SBCFD, said when he saw the South Tower collapse less than an hour later, “... we knew a lot of our first responder brothers and sisters were going to be killed.”

“There was no doubt that that was going to be an eventuality of the situation,” he said.

Of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the attacks, more than 400 were emergency workers, including 343 firefighters.

County EMS Training Officer John Commander said he was deployed to Ground Zero as part of a Disaster Medical Assistance Team that was activated after the towers fell.

A DMAT is a group composed of healthcare professionals which provides “high-quality rapid-response medical care” after emergencies and disasters, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Commander said when he first arrived, crews were still in search and rescue mode hoping to find survivors in the rubble.

“It was surreal, like if something out of a movie,” he said of the destruction at the World Trade Center site. “Carnage everywhere.”

When the body of a potential rescuer was found, Commander said a horn would sound and all work would stop. A group of law enforcement officers or firefighters would then go to the body’s location.

“A U.S. flag would be draped over the individual,” Commander said who became choked up during the video. “They would actually have like a funeral procession. All rescuers would line on both sides of West Street and salute as the vehicle (with the body) went back to its final destination and it is something that became commonplace.”

In total, 20 people were pulled out alive after the Towers’ collapse, according to New York Magazine.

“9/11 lies true to my heart and we’ll always remember them, until the very day that I eventually pass on,” Commander said. “We will never forget.”

Here is a list of local fire stations where you can go to participate in a ceremony:

#### Adelanto

- Station 322, 10370 Rancho Road

#### Helendale

- Station 4, 27089 Helendale Road

#### Hesperia

- Station 302, 17288 Olive St.

- Station 304, 15660 Eucalyptus St.

- Station 305, 8331 Caliente Road

#### Lucerne Valley

- Station 8, 33269 Old Woman Springs Road Road

#### Phelan

- Station 10, 9625 Beekley Road

#### Spring Valley Lake

- Station 22, 12398 Tamarisk Road

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/story/news/2021/09/08/san-bernardino-county-fire-hold-9-11-reflection-ceremonies-fire-stations/5766744001/>

## Never Forget: Southern California Ceremonies Mark 20th Anniversary Of 9/11 Attacks

Staff Writer, CBSLA

Posted: September 8, 2021



LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) — Southern Californians will mark the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with remembrance ceremonies on Saturday.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in four coordinated attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and a plane crash into a field in Pennsylvania the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. In the 20 years since, Sept. 11 has been declared a national day of service and remembrance.

Some 3,000 flags comprise a 9/11 memorial at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, on September 11, 2020, as the US commemorates the 19th anniversary of the attacks. – Each flag represents a victim and their nationality. (Photo by VALERIE MACON / AFP) (Photo by VALERIE MACON/AFP via Getty Images)

One of Southern California's most long-standing Sept. 11 tributes takes place every year at Pepperdine University in Malibu. The Waves of Flags display features 2,977 flags placed in the university's Alumni Park, along Pacific Coast Highway and Malibu Canyon Road. One flag is placed for each person who died in the attack, including national flags for each foreign country that lost a citizen. The flags will be raised Wednesday, and lowered on Sunday, Sept. 26. Pepperdine will also hold several remembrance events on Sept. 11.

The Nixon Library in Yorba Linda and the Reagan Library in Simi Valley will also host Sept. 11 remembrance events. The Nixon Library's commemoration ceremony begins at 11 a.m. and will include 23 tons of wreckage of the World Trade Center as its centerpiece. At the Reagan Library, an evening ceremony will include keynote remarks from retired Col. David Sutherland and retired NYPD Officer Marc Manfro. Both events are free, but guests are asked to register online in advance.

All **San Bernardino County Fire** stations will host a 15-minute Reflection Ceremony at 8 a.m. Saturday. Each ceremony will include a reflection of that day's events, the lowering of the U.S. flag to half-staff, and the tolling of the bell.

The City of Beverly Hills will hold its annual ceremony in its 9/11 Memorial Garden. The 5:30 p.m. ceremony will include a wreath laying, ringing of the bell, playing of taps, a 21-gun salute and a flyover in partnership with the city of Los Angeles. The 9/11 Memorial Garden at 445 N. Rexford Drive is open daily and includes a Twin Towers floor beam at the center of the site.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/never-forget-southern-california-ceremonies-mark-20th-anniversary-of-9-11-attacks/ar-AAOeIjd#image=1>

## How the 9/11 attacks are taught in Southern California schools

Beau Yarbrough, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: September 8, 2021



A 25-foot-long steel beam from the World Trade Center bolstered Sept. 11 history lessons at Patriot High School in Jurupa Valley on Friday, Sept. 3, 2021. (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

Today's children have grown up in the shadow of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

They have never known a world where the Twin Towers loomed over the Manhattan skyline, where taking an airplane flight didn't require multiple layers of security or — until recently — where the American military wasn't fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The events of Sept. 11 aren't formally part of high school history lessons — California's curriculum standards have not been updated since the late 1990s — but Southern California teachers talk about it each year near the anniversary of the attacks. But every year — and especially this year, the 20th anniversary — Southern California teachers rise to the challenge of explaining how that day shaped the world their students have inherited.

“Over the years, as I've taught more and more, the knowledge of the event becomes less and less,” said Gabriela Adams, who teaches 11th-grade history at Nava College Preparatory Academy in Los Angeles. “When I first started teaching, I could ask ‘What do you remember about 9/11?’ Now, they haven't been born yet.”

Adams was a high school student herself in September 2001.

“I didn't comprehend the severity at the time, and in that way, it's the same for the students,” she said. “History can happen in our lifetime. History is now ... I think the pandemic helped a little bit in that regard.”

But everyone who was old enough at the time has a Sept. 11 story, upon which teachers rely.

Mandy Hatcher, who teaches social studies at Ladera Ranch Middle School in the Capistrano Unified School District, has students interview an adult family member and an adult outside their family about their memories of the day.

“I think talking to their parents, or talking to friends or family members, it brings it alive,” she said. “A lot of them have family members who served in the military, or still serve, so it's still fresh.”

The fact that the events of Sept. 11 played out on live television helps bring them home to today's students.

“On the day of Sept. 11, the agenda is as follows: They walk in, they’re exposed to the ‘Today’ show from Sept. 11. They see Matt Lauer talking to someone, and then they’re interrupted because something is going on,” said Austin Piazza, a history teacher at Cajon High School in San Bernardino. “I’m showing this to you, because this is exactly what I was watching.”

Students are then given write-ups of the Sept. 11 experiences of Cajon teachers, which are used as a source when students write about the terrorist attacks.

“It makes it more relatable,” Piazza said, “It’s someone that they know.”

Some teachers go beyond personal stories or news coverage with physical representations of the day.

In 2019, Bob Green, a history teacher at Patriot High School, brought a beam from the wreckage of the World Trade Center to Jurupa Valley. The beam is the property of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, in which his father previously served.

The names of all 343 New York City firefighters who died Sept. 11 are displayed on a sign beneath the beam. Green uses those firefighters as a way to connect his 11th-grade U.S. History students to the tragedy of that day.

“We go on a website and look at all the men who died,” Green said. “And you can already see their names and faces, and they look like me, or they have the same last name as me, or they’re two brothers. And that’s compelling. It’s not just statistics.”

Students then pick a firefighter and look up their biographies online before they visit the beam. There, they find their firefighter’s name, take a picture of it, and return to class to write a short biography of the firefighter’s life and death for a 9/11 class presentation.

In the Los Angeles Unified School District, Stephen Franklin and his leadership students at Sun Valley Magnet School near Burbank Airport took over the school’s auditorium — as they do every fall — to create living memorials and interactive experiences that help bring historical moments to life.

This year, the auditorium includes scale models of the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers, a mock-up of an airport terminal and an American flag, which includes the names of the 2,977 people who died in the Sept. 11 attacks.

“You had a generation of kids who are more and more removed from it,” Franklin said. “It’s something that we need to remind kids about.”

The project seems to work.

“In a way, this memorial I have helped create here at my school has made the experience personal,” senior Gaby Romero, 17, wrote in an email. “We made a 15 foot tall and 25 foot long American flag with all the victims names, hand-written by my peers. I saw names just like mine.”

Franklin’s students have also recreated the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting, the scene of George Floyd’s murder and the office of Yvette Velasco, an environmental health specialist who was killed in the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center.

“The hope was to strike a chord, however I could,” Franklin said. ““This affects people like me.””

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/09/08/how-the-september-11-attacks-are-taught-in-southern-california-schools/>

## FORESTS ARE ‘BETTER PLACES’ FOR CREMATED REMAINS

Christina Fuoco-Karasinski, Pasadena Weekly

Posted: September 9, 2021



Better Place Forests launched a conservation memorial forest, Better Place Forests Lake Arrowhead, so those who choose cremation can reserve a protected tree to rest their ashes.

“The idea for Better Place Forests came from my experience with cemeteries,” said Sandy Gibson, the co-founder and chief executive officer.

“My father was 63 when he died of a stroke when I was 10. That was unexpected. So, we ended up having to go to the local cemetery near our home and find a plot.”

The only available plot was close to the road, and Gibson’s mom did not care for that. She wanted enough spaces for her; her husband; and potentially Gibson, his brother and their spouses. They settled on it.

“It was tough, because he never chose this place and it wasn’t a nice place,” Gibson said.

“My mom did her best to make it sound good, but it was pretty obvious that none of us really liked the spot. We hadn’t designed a tombstone before. We ended up with a shiny black granite tombstone that was terrible. From the gravesite, we could see the cars and the bus stops. It’s just not a beautiful location.”

A year later, Gibson’s mother’s cancer returned, and she died.

“For the rest of my life, that’s been their place.”

Lake Arrowhead is Better Place Forests’ 10th forest nationwide, and the fifth in California. Located in the San Bernardino Mountains, along the Rim of the World scenic byway, and just 90 minutes from Los Angeles, Better Place Forests Lake Arrowhead is SoCal’s first conservation memorial forest.

Wildfires are an issue and a direct effect of climate change, Gibson said. The need for a way to conserve local forestland is important. Approved by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, Better Place Forests’ new forest management plan allows those who choose cremation to reserve a beautiful, private and permanently protected tree to return their ashes to the earth and leave a lasting legacy of conservation, he added.

During tours of the property, guests can see the property and learn more about the rising demand for alternative death care options and how Better Place Forests customers find peace planning end of life knowing they’re helping to conserve the San Bernardino Forest.



“On my mom’s birthday, March 1, in 2015, I was sitting there listening to traffic and the bus stop,” Gibson said. “I just thought there has to be a better place than this.

“That’s where the name comes from. This is a place that people would want to remember the person they love. When I think of my mom, I think of a black tombstone. Here, the world is a little bit more beautiful because you lived. I think that’s something that we all aspire to.”

Gibson called Better Place Forests a sustainable alternative to traditional cemeteries. Pricing varies on location and setting, tree type and size, and the number of memorial ceremonies. Visit [betterplaceforests.com](http://betterplaceforests.com).

“By choosing a tree, you’re helping to contribute to the purchase of the land from private landowners to the creation of endowment funds to maintain that land forever,” he said.

“Then we restrict development on those property. Each county is different in the way we do it. In some cases, we work toward conservation easements and other places.”

Gibson said he found 80% of baby boomers choose cremation, but they are not pre-purchasing in cemeteries.

“It’s not that they don’t care about rituals and they care about their family being taken care of,” he said. “They want something different. They’re drawn to values like celebrating life or taking up less space and leaving the world a little bit more beautiful.”

<https://pasadenaweekly.com/forests-are-better-places-for-cremated-remains/>

## Man bitten during bar fight in Hesperia, 3 women arrested

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: September 8, 2021



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Sheriff’s officials said three women were arrested after a 51-year-old Victorville man was bitten in the arm during a bar fight inside the Whiskey Barrel.

On September 2, 2021, at approximately 5:04 p.m., deputies from the Hesperia Station along with rescue personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the Whiskey Barrel Bar, 12055 Mariposa Road, in reference to a fight inside the business.

Through investigation, it was discovered that the victim and the suspect, 24-year-old Shelsea Martinez, a resident of Victorville, were in a verbal argument and a fight ensued.

“During the fight, Martinez bit the victim and caused major injuries to his arm,” stated a sheriff’s news release.

According to the release, when deputies attempted to detain Martinez, 46-year-old Shannon McDermott, a resident of Wilmodar, and 27-year-old Veronica Gonzalez, a resident of Hesperia, actively obstructed and resisted deputies.

After a brief struggle, Martinez, McDermott and Gonzalez were detained. The male victim from Victorville was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Martinez was arrested and booked at High Desert Detention Center for PC 203- Mayhem. Gonzalez was arrested and booked at High Desert Detention Center for PC 148(a)(1)- Obstruct/Resist a Peace Officer and a misdemeanor warrant. McDermott was cite-released for PC 148(a)(1).

<https://www.vvng.com/man-bitten-during-bar-fight-in-hesperia-3-women-arrested/>