

COATESVILLE

FORGED IN HONOR

National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum commemorates Sept. 11



BOB WILLIAMS THE WILLIAMS GROUP

Kim Barr of Valley Township and her father, Pete Dorshier of East Brandywine, pledge alliance to the American flag. The 9/11 Remembrance at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in Coatesville on Monday

For MediaNews Group

COATESVILLE » In stark contrast to the brilliant skies of Sept. 11, 2001, the day terrorists struck down the World Trade Centers resulting in an unfathomable loss of life, gloomy skies hung over Coatesville Monday morning as the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum commemorated the 22nd anniversary of the attacks.

Numerous local and regional politicians, local clergy, and community leaders spoke at the solemn event. In attendance were commu-

nity members, EMTs, police and fire firefighters.

Life Transforming Ministries' Executive Director William "Bill" Shaw recalled his memories, "My family and I have been honored to be a part of this commemoration here in the Lukens Historic District since the steel 'came home.'"

Shaw is referring to the acquisition of the 500 tons of World Trade Center steel tridents (28 pieces of steel) that were returned to Coatesville on April 15, 2010, in a 27-tractor trailer convoy.

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The Lukens Band performs patriotic songs Monday during the 9/11 Remembrance at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in Coatesville.

Museum

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National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum President Scott G. Huston and Historian Emeritus Eugene Di Orio negotiated their return to the city where the steel was "born." The "trees" were manufactured at what was then the Lukens Steel mill (now Cleveland-Cliffs) in Coatesville starting in 1967.

"Lukens was selected for their expertise in producing small-batch specialty steels — something capable of supporting incredible loads, thus the bases for the two towers," said James Ziegler, executive director of the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum.

Scott Huston referred to the Steel Worker's Memorial behind him when he spoke of seeing the steel tridents (or "trees" as coined by the New York Times), for the first time in a hangar in JFK Airport, after the towers fell.

"When you go into the hangar at JFK, you immediately see bikes, fire trucks, ambulances, and tiny items like keychains — all things that were left in place and their owners never returned to claim them. It was called the "Mourning Room" in the hangar. We went in after the families. It was quite impactful."



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State Rep. Dan Williams unites the crowd Monday during the 9/11 Remembrance at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in Coatesville.

Also in attendance was Lieutenant Rodger H. Ollis Jr. of the Coatesville Police Department.

"This is a day I don't really have a lot to say. I cannot put my feelings into words, it's all about emotions. Twenty-two years ago, I remember where I was after the first attack hit that morning. Knowing, after it was determined to be a terrorist attack, how many lives were lost, and others would be changed forever. Whether you were in law enforcement or not,

life would no longer be the same. We (fire, EMTs, military and police) run towards the chaos when others should run away."

Speakers at the Commemoration included U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, State Sen. Carolyn Comitta, State Rep. Dan Williams, Chester County Commissioners Marian Moskowitz and Josh Maxwell, and Coatesville City Manager James Logan.

South Coatesville Police Chief Kevin Pierce, sang beautiful renditions of "The

Star-Spangled Banner," "Amazing Grace," and "God Bless the U.S.A." Local vocalist, Heidi Marcelli sang a moving version of "America the Beautiful." The day was made memorable by the poignant interpretations of psalms and choral pieces by the Lukens Band.

Scott Huston concluded by saying, "What played out



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Police Chief Kevin Pierce of South Coatesville sings the national anthem during the museum ceremony.

in front of us all is now in our collective memory. We were all Americans that day. We still are today, and we will be tomorrow."

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is located on the campus of the Lukens National Historic District, at 50 S. 1st Avenue in Coatesville. Easily accessible in the heart of Coatesville and adjacent to the River Walk, NISHM is open six days a week for tours, lectures, and educational programs. It draws international crowds to its

facility, which educates the public on the people, places, products, and processes of steel making, as well as the importance of educating children in the STEAM discipline (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math).

Visit NISHM at www.steelmuseum.org or visit the campus for their daily tours. Call 610.384.9282 for further information.

This article written for MediaNews Group by Melinda M. Williams