



WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP

HEMANT MARATHE, Ph.D
Office of the Mayor

PRESS RELEASE

August 11, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Windsor to Commemorate 25th Anniversary of 9/11 with Twin Ponds 9/11 Memorial Rededication, New Addition to Site, and 2,983-Flag Tribute

WEST WINDSOR, NJ — West Windsor Township will host a **Special 25th-Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Friday, September 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM**, to honor the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks. The Ceremony will take place **at Twin Ponds 9/11 Memorial in the Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum**, located at the intersection of Clarksville Road and Route 571.

Join us for a special ceremony featuring the **rededication of West Windsor's Twin Ponds 9/11 Memorial** and the **debut of a new addition to the site**, funded by American Legion Princeton Post 76. The ceremony will also feature a **tribute of 2,983 flags planted in honor of every individual life lost**. The flags will be planted with help from WW-P High School South Students.

Originally dedicated on April 27, 2002, Twin Ponds holds historical significance as the very first permanent September 11th Memorial built in the State of New Jersey. The Twin Ponds Memorial's origins trace back to a swift community-led effort immediately following the tragedy, including Friends of West Windsor Open Space. Designed as a sanctuary for quiet contemplation, the site features twin-connected reflecting pools, a handmade bridge, and a waterfall. A World Trade Center steel beam recovered from "**Ground Zero**" was added in 2011.

"Everyone who was a West Windsor resident on September 11, 2001 has a personal story about that day," says **Mayor Hemant Marathe**, a resident since 1994. "We all lost family, neighbors, coworkers, or friends. Our community first gathered at this site right after the tragedy, before a formal monument even existed. For 25 years, we have continued to come together here. Today, we rededicate the Twin Ponds Memorial to ensure we always honor and remember those we lost."

"To the World, September 11th is a historic day of tragedy, but to those of us who lost a loved one, it is a deeply personal, daily reality," said **West Windsor Township Council President Sonia Gawas**, whose husband, Ganesh Ladkat, perished in the attacks. "The Twin Ponds have always offered me a quiet sanctuary to feel close to my husband. This Milestone Anniversary and the



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beautiful Field of Flags show that our community still stands guard over their memories, ensuring they are always honored with dignity."

"Twenty-Five years ago, as Council President, I convened a Committee to build a sanctuary for the souls we lost on 9/11," said **Allison Miller**. "Helen Rancan gave us our core vision: Twin Reflecting Pools to mirror the Towers that once stood. With local businesses answering the call of then Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh, we built a beautiful, contemplative garden. Twin Ponds became more than a local haven—it was the first permanent 9/11 Memorial in the State of New Jersey."

West Windsor Township, the Mayor and Township Council invite the community to come together to honor the fallen and witness the expansion of this sacred community space. The Ceremony is free for all attendees. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early.

About the Twin Ponds September 11th Memorial:

Located within the Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum in West Windsor, NJ, the Twin Ponds 9/11 Memorial serves as a permanent place of reflection, healing, and remembrance for the community, dedicated to ensuring that the events of September 11th and the lives lost are never forgotten.

The memorial was built using the fundamental elements of life: water, air, and organic material. A waterfall creates a stream that connects the twin reflecting pools, spanned by a handcrafted bridge, creating the Twin Ponds 9/11 Memorial site. In 2011, a steel beam recovered from Ground Zero was integrated into the site.

The new addition to the Twin Ponds 9/11 Memorial site was collaborated by Township Council President Sonia Gawas; Township Landscape Architect Alisa Stanislaw; Department of Public Works Director Tony Esposito; and support from American Legion Princeton Post 76.

Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum is located at the intersection of Clarksville Road and Route 571.

About West Windsor:

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