

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
LEGISLATOR LESLIE KENNEDY.**



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LESLIE KENNEDY JOINS IN PLANTING OF SURVIVOR TREE



(Legislator Kennedy and members of the 9/11 Responders Remembered standing together with the Survivor Tree)

July 7th, 2016 – The celebration of our nation continued in the local community following this past Independence Day weekend; on Thursday the 9/11 Responders Remembered Park Inc. held a special ceremony to commemorate the fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives on September 11, 2001.

Legislator Leslie Kennedy (R-Nesconset), accompanied by her husband Suffolk County Comptroller John M. Kennedy, joined the organization at the Village Hall in the Village of the Branch to participate in the planting of the "Survivor Tree".

The Survivor Tree is a type of Pear tree decorated with American flags and ribbons that was planted into the ground outside the Village Hall.



(President of the 9/11 First Responders Remembered Inc. speaks about the symbolic importance of the Survivor tree)

President Martin Aponte as well as other members of the 9/11 Responders Remembered Park Inc. spoke at the event; they each discussed the important symbolic nature that the tree represents.

The essence of the Survivor Tree represents a remarkable story. Following the attacks on September 11th, 2001, a Callery Pear tree was discovered at Ground Zero somehow standing amongst the rubble; its branches were burned and impaled from the aftermath of the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. The tree was removed from the site by first responders and replanted at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City after its recovery.

The same type of tree was planted at the memorial park in the Village of the Branch; it stands as a constant reminder of resilience, revival and rebirth for our nation.

Following the ceremony's completion, Legislator Kennedy offered great praise for the organization, the Survivor Tree and all 9/11 victims/first responders.

"Still to this day the memory of all those who lost their lives on 9/11 live on in our hearts, this tree acts as a symbol of how strong our community and our nation are under tremendous pain and adversity; it is such an honor to stand here with the Responders Remembered organization reflecting and remembering the heroes who sacrificed their lives on a day that will live in infamy in our nation's history."

This September will mark the fifteenth anniversary since the attacks; the Survivor Tree offers constant proof that with each passing year the remembrance of all of the victims of 9/11 will continue to be honored.

For more information about the 9/11 First Responders Remembered Park Inc. as well as other events hosted by the office of Legislator Leslie Kennedy, please call our office at (631)-854-3735 or log onto Legislator Kennedy's Facebook page at facebook.com/legislatorlesliekenedy.

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