

One World Trade Center Workers Reflect on Emotional Milestone

Ryan Trowbridge

It's a project six years in the making, and an emotional milestone. 37,000 tons of steel, a 186 foot concrete-fortified base, which will rise 400 feet about the original north tower.

"It's really a symbol of the resiliency of the American people."

Just getting to the top is a journey. Elevators only travel to the 90th floor, which then means climbing to the 100th floor.

At 1,200 feet, in the crane, one is eye level with helicopters.

On that day more than ten years ago, these guys witnessed the unthinkable. "Everyone kind of climbed on top of the crane to get a better view. You could see the towers fall," says Tom Gordon, Crane Operator for Local 14

ABC's Bob Woodruff asks, "How many days do you think about the past, what happened here, versus what you're creating?"

"Not a day goes by that at some point in the day have something come back," says Local 14 Master Mechanic Kenny Klemens.

ABC cameras capture one steel beam – a dedication to a fallen firefighter from Ladder 16.

"Tough coming into work every day and there were family members outside trying to give you flowers to bring in. Tough," says Klemens.

"Do you have a message to American when they see this thing being rebuilt?" asks Woodruff.

Gordon replies, "I say, be proud of what's going up."

"America should be proud knowing we did this everyday, for everybody," added Klemens.

One World Trade Center now

And for Ivor Hall, who immigrated to the United States 27 years ago, it's his gift to the country. "This building...it's, uh it's so emotional for me. You can't even imagine how I feel. I feel proud," he says, fighting back tears.