

# Raleigh will get a World Trade Center artifact

RALEIGH -- The city will get a 2-foot-long piece of steel from the World Trade Center, one of many artifacts made available by New York authorities to commemorate the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

When it arrives in a few weeks, the piece will be displayed at the Raleigh Fire Department Museum or possibly as part of a police department exhibit, said Barry Furey, director of the Raleigh/Wake Emergency Communications Center.

Long-term, a permanent home could be designed as part of a planned downtown public safety center. Talks over the complex have stalled amid conflicts over cost and location.

Showcasing the artifact is a way to honor the work of public safety personnel, Furey said.

"Certainly, that day was the largest single loss of first responder life in the history of the United States," Furey said. "It's a reminder, for our folks, of the importance of the job that we do."

Pieces of the collapsed towers are stored in a hangar at John F. Kennedy International Airport. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey provides the artifacts at no cost for local 9/11 memorials across the country.

Furey spent years trying to secure a piece of the towers for Raleigh. A breakthrough came a few days ago when the Port Authority contacted the city with word that an artifact was available, Furey said.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to accept it.

Memorials incorporating pieces of the World Trade Center are rare in North Carolina. There's one in Jacksonville, just outside Camp Lejeune, and another in the town of Clyde in the mountains. At Fort Bragg, a steel and granite monument honoring soldiers who fought in Afghanistan or Iraq includes an eternal flame burning in a bowl cast from steel salvaged from the collapsed towers.

In Chatham County, the developer of a planned cemetery and gardens west of Pittsboro has offered to provide space for the county's 9/11 memorial, which will feature a steel beam from the World Trade Center.

Chatham's memorial also will honor the work of local firefighters and other first responders.