

REMEMBERING 9/11: Piece of steel from World Trade Center gets American Legion honor escort to Bayonne's memorial to Sept. 11 victims

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By **Charles Hack/The Jersey Journal**



CHARLES HACK JOURNAL PHOTO Bayonne Department of Public Works employees carry a 4-foot piece of World Trade Center steel yesterday through Harbor View Park.

Three motorcyclists braved the rain yesterday to escort a section of World Trade Center steel to its new resting place at the foot of the “Teardrop” memorial at Harbor View Park in Bayonne.

Members of the Bayonne-based Post 19 American Legion Riders of New Jersey escorted the 4-foot steel beam draped with an American flag on a flat-bed trailer from City Hall to the monument site at the tip of the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor at around 11 a.m.

“It’s an honor to bring it here,” said Mike Wilson, county commander of Post 19 and Vietnam U.S. Navy veteran, who coordinated the motorcyclists. “None of that steel should be moved without an escort.

“That steel represents people killed in the Trade Center building by terrorists. That steel represents soldiers killed in the battlefield, and that steel represents our freedom,” Wilson added.

Employees from the Department of Public Works carried the beam section donated by the Port Authority into the park and to where it will stand just on the outside of the “Teardrop” memorial’s paving slab.

Pompilio & Sons Memorials of Jersey City mounted the steel onto a granite base yesterday afternoon.

The granite base is engraved with the words “Steel from the World Trade Center,” said Frank P. Perrucci, chairman of the 9/11 Bayonne Remembers Committee.

Perrucci said the steel memorial will be unveiled and blessed by clerics of different faiths at a ceremony on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. prior to the annual Interfaith Memorial Service at 7 p.m.