

Local 9/11 memorial to use steel from World Trade Center

Project won't be done in time for 10th anniversary in September.

By Deanna Rippy, Contributing Writer Updated 10:05 PM Sunday, May 15, 2011

LEBANON— A steel remnant from one of the destroyed World Trade Center towers will be used as part of a proposed 9/11 memorial in Warren County.

Tim Kleink, a volunteer firefighter representing the Warren County Fire Chief's Association, and another Turtlecreek Twp. firefighter recently drove to New York City and retrieved the piece.

"We watched them actually cut our piece," Kleink said. "This is a tremendous honor."

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey denied an initial request by the county for a piece of steel from the building. There were 1,500 requests for steel remnants and only 1,100 were approved from governments all over the United States, according the Port Authority of New York City and New Jersey.

Kleink, who organized the efforts to obtain a piece, said the denial did stop the county from trying other avenues.

The 3-foot long, 1 1/2-foot wide, 150-pound steel remnant was given by the New York City fire department. The FDNY keeps a collection of steel beams at Randall Island. The Port Authority holds its collection at a hanger in John F. Kennedy International Airport.

"I think it's fabulous," Warren County Commissioner Pat South said. "We are very lucky and the remnant will work well for the 10th anniversary in September."

The proposed memorial will be built near the Fire/EMS Memorial near the Warren County Courts Building on Justice Drive in Lebanon, South said.

The Warren County Fire Chief's and the Police Chief's association have plans to set up a bank account for the public to donate funds for the memorial. A memorial service is expected to be held Sept. 11 at the memorial site.

Kleink said he hopes progress on the memorial will begin immediately, but he knows the project will not be complete by September due to the extensive process of cutting the granite. He said they will display a picture of what the final project will look like at the memorial site. The memorial will not be paid with county funds.