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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Presents Summit First Aid Squad with Steel From The World Trade Center

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Trenton, NJ – Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Deputy Executive Director Bill Baroni visited Summit today to present a piece of original steel from the World Trade Center to the Summit First Aid Squad. The section of steel I-beam will honor the memory of the victims of September 11, 2001 attacks and will become a memorial to squad member Ian Thompson, who died in the attacks.

"Ian Thompson had been a volunteer EMT with the Squad for 6-1/2 years and worked in the World Trade Center. From what we've learned about Ian and his dedication to others, it is believed he was helping to save lives that day when he lost his own," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "This steel will be a visible and regular reminder of Ian and the many others who perished in the attacks on 9/11. As time passes, these monuments and tributes are important in keeping the memory alive for future generations, so that all can embrace how precious the freedom of this nation is and that we must always be vigilant to defend it."

The Summit First Aid Squad received the request for assistance from New York City just before 10 AM on September 11, 2001. Over 40 off duty members evaluated and treated over 600 people as they stepped off trains at the Summit station.

During the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center following the attacks of September 11, 2001, artifacts were identified among the wreckage and preserved for their historical significance. Stored at Hanger 17 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, these artifacts include various pieces that have been cataloged by a professional curator to ensure they were kept as close as possible to their original condition.

"Through the Port Authority's World Trade Center Steel Distribution program, communities in all 50 states and seven foreign countries now possess a physical manifestation of what happened on September 11," said Port Authority Deputy Executive Director Bill Baroni. "We are grateful to communities, like Summit, who are helping us honor the nearly 3000 people who didn't get to go home that day."

A piece of World Trade Center steel was also placed at the Empty Sky Memorial at Liberty State Park, which was dedicated on September 10, 2011 in honor and memory of the 746 New Jerseyans that lost their lives on 9/11. Last March, a piece of steel, along with an urn of Trade Center dust and an American flag, was put on display in the Statehouse Rotunda for visitors to view.

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