

## TUNNEL TO TOWERS 'NEVER FORGET' 9/11 MOBILE EXHIBIT



At 8:46 am on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, our world changed forever. A series of four coordinated terrorist attacks happened. Four passenger airlines were hijacked. One crashed into the Pentagon located in Virginia, one steered towards Washington D.C., but crashed into a field near Pennsylvania after its passengers tried to overcome the hijackers and the remaining two planes each crashed into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center located in New York. It took an hour and 42 minutes for both of the 100-story towers to collapse. There were 2,977 victims including 246 on the four planes, 2,606 in the World Trade Center area and 125 at the Pentagon. Nearly all who perished were civilians with the exception of 72 law enforcement officers, 343 firefighters and 55 military personnel who also lost their lives responding to the attacks.

Firefighter Stephen Siller was the youngest of seven children. At the age of eight, his father died and a year and a half later his mother also passed away. He was raised by his older siblings. Because of the love of his siblings and the values instilled in him by his parents, he grew up to be an extraordinary individual and dedicated firefighter.

On September 11, 2001, Stephen had just gotten off the late shift and was on his way to play golf with his brothers when his scanner told of the first plane hitting the Twin Towers. He drove his truck to the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, which was already closed. Stephen strapped 60 lbs. of gear to his back and ran from the Tunnel to the Towers where he ended up giving up his life while he saved others.

The mobile exhibit is a high tech 53-foot tractor-trailer which unfolds into a 1,000 square foot trailer that features documentary audios, artifacts, pieces of the World Trade Center. The exhibit is manned by FDNY firefighters that were involved on 9/11.

The exhibit will be open to the public during the 2016 Benton County Fair from Tuesday, August 3rd through Saturday, August 6th from 10am to 9pm and Sunday, August 7th from 10am to 5pm.

Thank you to the volunteers and community groups that volunteered their time to help with the Tunnel to Towers exhibit and to those that gave donations to help make this exhibit a reality. .