

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on March 9, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Hensley - excused
Senator O'Connor - excused
Senator Vratil - excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Connie Burns, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Teichman
Representative McKinney
Debbie Mangen

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions:

Senator Barnett appeared before the committee to request a bill introduction that would provided a tax credit on capitol investments.

Senator Vratil made the motion that the request should be introduces as a committee bill. Senator O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried..

HB 2595 - Kansas 9/11 memorial

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **HB 2595**.

Senator Ruth Teichman, appeared in support of the bill. (No written testimony provided) She asked for the support of the committee to pass the bill.

Debbie Mangen, spoke in support of the bill. (Attachment 1) The Anthony 9-11 committee feels that the memorial is a wonderful asset to the state of Kansas and the nation, and asked the committee to pass this bill and make the Anthony Sept. 11th Memorial the official and permanent 9-11 Memorial in the state of Kansas.

Representative Dennis McKinney, spoke in favor of the bill. (No written testimony provided) He felt that the rural community and county have worked very hard in a grass-roots effort to build the memorial. The memorial would be a highlight attraction for the state.

Representative Bill McCreary provided written testimony in support of the bill. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **HB 2595**.

Final action:

HB 2595 - Kansas 9/11 memorial

Senator Ostmeyer moved to pass HB 2595 out favorably. Senator Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am. The next scheduled meeting is March 10, 2006.

Good morning!

We'd like to thank this committee for giving the Anthony Sept. 11 Memorial the opportunity to share our story with you today and to ask for your support in passing House Bill 2595.

After 4 years, it is still hard to look at the pictures from that day. Like you, the community of Anthony was horrified with the events that transpired on Sept. 11th in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania. As a small farming community of 2,300, what could we possibly do to help those who were suffering, and really make a difference? Patriotic ribbons were made by a local store to be placed in the banks to promote donations; Victim's Relief Fund accounts were opened in both banks to be donated to the American Red Cross, and the Red Cross organized a blood drive for the victims and added 114 units to their supply. Our firefighters collected over \$5,000 in one day with a "boot drive" to help their firefighting brothers and sisters of New York. John Schott, our mayor at that time, asked that the community join the City of Anthony in flying their American Flags.

The mayor still felt more could be done. What little money we had gathered would be lost in the millions that the nation was donating to the larger charities. Instead, he wondered if we could help just one family. After making several phone calls, a connection was made with Ladder 38/Engine 88 in the Bronx and a firefighter, Lt. Joe Huber. He told Mayor Schott about his friend, Joseph Spor, a young firefighter with a beautiful wife and 4 small children. After the original contact was made, we learned that the home of Joseph Spor was in the middle of a remodeling stage when his life was cut short. The money raised from the citizens of Anthony went to the family of Joseph Spor, and his brothers from the firehouse furnished the labor to finish the remodeling job. The bond between the big city and the little town was forged.

Lt. Joe Huber came to Anthony in March 2002 to thank the citizens for their generosity to his friend's family. While he was there, he visited the grade school and thanked the children for their Christmas cards, Valentines and emails sent to the firehouse. The school had "adopted" the firehouse and the connection between NYC and Anthony grew. A special ceremony

was held at the school to show the Anthony Fire Dept. and Lt. Joe Huber how important they are and how they respect what they do. Lt. Huber also visited the Senior Citizens' Friendship Meals as well as many of the businesses on Main Street.

John Schott asked Lt. Joe Huber for his help to arrange for our community to receive sections of WTC steel beams. A committee of 7 people, who had a variety of talents to call on, was appointed to build a lasting memorial and a tribute to the real heroes of Sept.11th. Committee members are: Shirley Barrett; Sam Beam; Cynda Carr; Donna Crowe, who is the committee chairperson; Howard Hatfield; Debbie Mangen; and Pam Schott.

The committee immediately began to work on the design of the memorial. We wanted it to be dignified and accessible. We wanted people to be able to touch the steel and to be able to realize the power it took to bring those buildings down. It was important to us that the memorial be educational, to teach the future generations not only about the attacks on 9-11, but how Anthony and the rest of the country reacted to those attacks. The memorial also had to be a tribute to the heroes who gave their lives and those who carried on after, including their families and friends. It had to be attractive but meaningful. The committee feels we have accomplished those goals.

The fundraising began immediately, and, like most projects before it was completed, the cost had doubled from \$40,000 to \$80,000. I might add that this was all accomplished with no tax dollars. The money came from corporate donations, concession stands, engraved brick sales, 9-11 Memorial T-shirts and private donations. And we could have not completed it without the donation of time, labor and materials from various people and businesses.

A lawyer from Shawnee, Ks came for our ground-breaking ceremony. He had been at the WTC when it was hit. With him he brought a small packet of ash and soil that he had removed from his clothing and mixed it with the soil broken loose for the memorial. That prompted the idea to request items from the other crash sites. Limestone was acquired from the wall of the Pentagon as was soil from the crash site in Pennsylvania. As far as we know, we are the only 9-11 Memorial to represent all three

tragedies in America.

When the memorial was complete, it was exactly what we had dreamed it to be. The WTC steel rises above a circular pedestal which also serves as a bench, where visitors can sit and read the 3 story boards. The Pentagon stone and the Pennsylvania soil are located in the front of the center pedestal. The walkway is filled with paver bricks, engraved with the names of lost firefighters and police officers; families and friends of the heroes, local supporters and even tourists and travelers who have stopped their journeys to visit the memorial. Three flag poles rise above the wall flying the Kansas, New York and American flags. At night, 2 pillars of light illuminate the sky replicating the "towers of light" seen in NYC after 9-11. The steel and the story boards are illuminated as well and it is very impressive at night.

Travelers from all over the world have stopped to see our memorial. They were from Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Mexico, Canada and England to name a few. Visitors from many states have stopped on their travels to see the memorial they have heard or read about. Several of the FDNY firefighters have personally made the trip to Kansas. They feel our memorial has it right, something from the heart. They have wondered why a small town in Kansas can accomplish such a feat and New York can't even agree on a design. One group of firefighters liked Kansas so well on their visit, they are planning an annual hunting trip to our area.

Over 550 engraved paver bricks have been sold to supporters from all over the U.S. Six sections of the walkway hold the engraved paver bricks for emergency workers in NY, Anthony, as well as other fire departments throughout the country. Another section contains bricks donated by families and friends of those lost on September 11. Others have come from local families, businesses, old Anthony High School classes and from anonymous supporters.

Major papers from New York City, Kansas City, Wichita and Hutchinson have written extensive stories about the memorial. All 3 TV stations from Wichita have done stories on the memorial and KWCH and KSN covered the dedication. When the committee traveled to Kansas City with our local firefighters for their annual

St. Patrick's Day parade, several of the TV stations in KC did interviews with Lt. Joe Huber and Pam Schott. And the national FOX News Channel came to Anthony a few days before the dedication to give us national attention. A recent LIFE supplement in national newspapers included a photograph of our memorial, along with other memorial sites from around the country.

In summation:

The Anthony 9-11 Committee feels that our memorial is a wonderful asset to the state of Kansas as well as the nation. Its location is in a park that borders one of the busiest 2-lane roads in the state, at the intersection of state highways 2 and 14. Its easy accessibility makes it a wonderful place for travelers to stop and rest, and it has been built with handicap-accessibility in mind.

As an educational tool, children and adults alike can see and touch the steel, limestone and soil and experience the emotional story written on the 3 story boards located in the wall.

The memorial has a very healing affect, especially to those personally involved with Sept. 11th, 2001.

We ask you to pass House Bill 2595 making the Anthony Sept. 11th Memorial the official and permanent 9-11 Memorial in the state of Kansas.





TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

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MEMBER HOUSE COMMITTEES

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LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE
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March 09, 2006

Subject: Official State of Kansas 911 Memorial

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

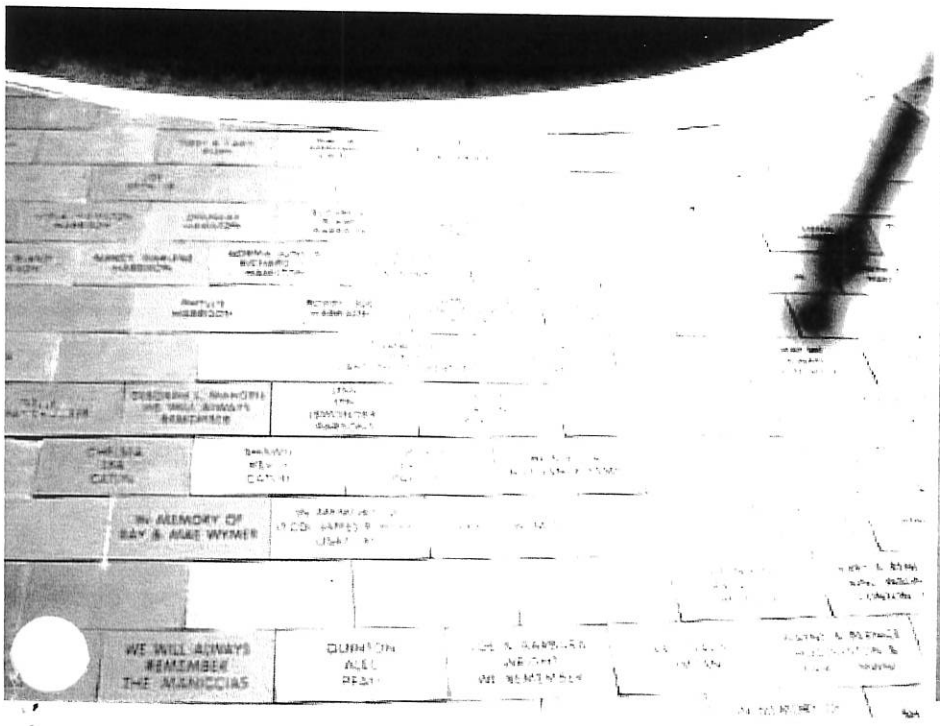
Last year because of time restraint to accomplish a bill to make The Anthony 911 Memorial a permanent State of Kansas 911 Memorial, the House passed a resolution which gave it a temporary status of that designation.

HB 2595 would make the Anthony 911 Memorial the Official State of Kansas 911 Memorial. I am here to advocate that the committee will in recognition of the great job that Anthony has done to build the memorial which keeps the memory alive of all those who were lost that day. Also in recognition of the relationship with the family of Joe Spor, a young firefighter assigned to Ladder 38, Rescue 3 in the Bronx who gave his life that day in his efforts to rescue others. His family consists of his wife, Colleen and four children and the entire family has been adopted by the Anthony community. This special relationship has given rise to a bond between Anthony and New York City that will last forever.

It is with pride that I recommend that the Anthony 911 Memorial be designated as the Official State of Kansas 911 Memorial.

Sincerely,

Bill McCreary
Representative, 80th District



TO THE PEOPLE OF ANTHONY, KANSAS:
WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR US IN THE AFTERMATH OF 9-11-01. OUR LIVES DRASTICALLY CHANGED FOREVER ON THAT TRAGIC DAY AND OUR LIVES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME WITHOUT OUR ONE AND ONLY HERO.
IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT WONDERFUL PEOPLE SO FAR REMOVED FROM OUR SITUATION HAVE "NOT FORGOTTEN" THE IMPACT THAT 9-11 HAS HAD ON OUR LIVES.
WE WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR THE INCREDIBLE OUTPOURING OF LOVE AND SUPPORT THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US.
"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"
WITH DEEPEST APPRECIATION,
COLLEEN, CASEY, JOE III, SHANNON, & CAITLIN SPOR