

Prayer service, flag ceremony an effort to keep peace, remember

Written by Chris Lee

In an effort to keep peace and remember those lost 11 years ago on 9/11, an impromptu prayer service was organized with the hope of continuing it in the future.

Linda Langelo of Colorado State University Extension office partnered with Gary Krumm of Bank of Colorado and Mary Tomky of Holyoke Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a prayer ceremony.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, about 20 community members gathered at Bank of Colorado for a short prayer service and flag ceremony.



Community members gathered at Bank of Colorado for a short flag ceremony and prayer service Tuesday, Sept. 11 to remember those lost in the terrorist attacks 11 years ago.□□

—Enterprise photo

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With flags lining the lawn at Bank of Colorado and flags lining the main streets of Holyoke, community members gathered for prayer 11 years to the day after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Jerry Kingman led the crowd in prayer on the cool and crisp morning. With so many flags waving in the slight breeze, Krumm led the crowd with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Krumm then asked Langelo to share her story with the crowd.

Langelo was in New York State 11 years ago just outside of Syracuse (nearly four hours north of NYC). She was waiting to start a new job at Turning Stone Casinos but her beginning date was pushed back a week due to canceled flights and having air space closed throughout the country.

She remembers her first day. Everyone was displaying American flags. She said they put out a bunch of candles every night for a week or so as recovery efforts continued.

Even though she was nowhere near the devastation in lower Manhattan, Langelo, like many, was touched. She said the candles represented hope—hope of finding people alive in the rubble. As time went on and the search efforts became less and less likely, Langelo said the hope never went away.

The prayer service was organized to keep that hope alive. Langelo said she and Krumm have thought about something like this in the past and it has just now come to be.

Langelo said the idea was for everyone to come together to “pray for the peace that we have and thanking God that there’s peace in Holyoke and Phillips County and for continued peace.”

Langelo said she has a minister friend who once told her “someone always has to pray for you.”

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“I never forgot that,” Langelo said.



Linda Langelo was in New York State on 9/11 and shared her story Tuesday morning. She also asked the crowd to pray for peace.□□

—Enterprise photo

She also shared a scary moment in her life from when she was a youngster. She was given a flu shot but later found out she was allergic. Her fever rose to just over 104 F. She said she remembers standing in a white light and thanking God for her parents and her life. Fortunately, her parents didn't lose her.

“Be the peace in the world,” Langelo told the crowd Tuesday morning.

After the mass shooting in Aurora, it really hit home that the community should come together and pray.

“I just think prayer is important for peace and safety of our community,” Langelo said.

The service this Tuesday, was held at 7:30 a.m. The time was chosen because that is when the first reports were circulating about the worst attack ever on American soil.

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Krumm along with a few others shared their stories of that fateful morning.

Tomky remembered working at the Welcome Center in Julesburg and seeing numerous people in rental cars heading east from Denver International Airport who were unable to fly. Many of those families were carpooling and came together as strangers to help each other out.

Krumm's wife, Carol, was attending a business meeting in Baltimore, Md. and it wasn't until the next Saturday night she was able to fly home and be reunited with her family. Krumm also voiced his appreciation for the veterans and asked those gathered to remember those who have been lost since 9/11.

People were waking up 11 years ago to reports of planes crashing into the World Trade Center, Pentagon and another in a field in Pennsylvania. When the dust settled, there was a total of 2,996 deaths.

That number included the 19 hijackers and 2,977 victims. There were 246 victims on the four planes—all of whom died. There were 2,606 in the towers and on the ground in New York and 125 at the Pentagon. All of the deaths in the attacks were civilians except for 55 military personnel at the Pentagon.

Following Tuesday's ceremony, coffee and donuts were served.

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