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Solemn event marks anniversary

By [Greta Mart](#)
Staff Reporter
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A retired New York Fire Department firefighter served as a special guest of honor at this weekend's Martinez commemorative ceremony marking the ten-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Sean Hickey, who was among the first responders to the World Trade Center, joined the local observance by presenting an American flag to the MPD Honor Guard for raising.

Martinez Police Chief Gary Peterson said Monday that after Hickey retired, he moved to Martinez.

"It was a very solemn event," said Peterson of the 40-minute ceremony on Sunday morning. Another touching moment occurred when Desert Storm veteran Gary Jones sang Amazing Grace, said Peterson. "It was heartfelt, we were all tearing up."

Rep. George Miller gave a speech and buglers

played Taps.

Martinez's new representative to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, Federal Glover, made a surprise appearance at the ceremony and was warmly received, said his spokesperson Ed Diokno on Monday.

"As we guard against our enemies from without, we must also guard against the zealots from within because we must recognize they are cut from the same cloth of extremism ... we can't let extremists change us in such a way that we no longer can be that city on the hill ... the beacon of freedom and the hope of humanity ... we can't allow ourselves to forget that all of us together make up the patchwork of this country ... all of us ... no matter if your ancestors came over on the Mayflower or came last week, ... no matter if you came fleeing religious or political persecution or if your ancestors came in chains ... no matter if you are Democrat, Republican, Green or whatever ... if you believe in this country and what it stands for ... all of us ... we are all Americans," emphasized Glover in a prepared speech.

Peterson said Martinez's 9/11 Memorial, which features two pieces of steel from the collapsed World Trade Center buildings, provides a venue for the community to come together for reflection.

"The 10-year anniversary remembrance ceremony honored the memory of the civilians, military personnel, police officers, firefighters and other EMS personnel who died in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The 9/11 memorial at the Intermodal Station will ensure this community remembers the attacks; and ceremonies like this one will keep the memory of the events fresh in our minds. I believe we have memorial events like this one, not only to honor those who were lost, but also act as a reminder for us to stay vigilant in our collective efforts to prevent something like 9/11 from happening again," said Peterson.

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development?

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