

Lehigh Northeast Cement Company Sponsors Largest Red Cross Regional Blood Drive Ever



A ceremony held in conjunction with the major September 11 blood drive in Glens Falls honored local first responders as well as those killed during the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001.

Lehigh Northeast sponsored the largest blood drive ever coordinated by the Red Cross in the upstate New York region. The event took place as part of a special September 11, 2001 memorial program at the Glens Falls Armory on Monday, September 11, which included a ceremony to honor the memories of the 3,000 people killed during the 2001 terrorist attacks and to honor the work of the region's police officers, firefighters, EMTs and soldiers.

Glens Falls Mayor Roy Akins Jr., Queensbury Supervisor Dan Stec, LTC Dennis Deeley from the Army National Guard, Father James Mackey from St. Mary's Church, and Glens Falls Cement Plant Manager Stuart Guinther addressed the crowd during the opening ceremony. Also present was Moreau, NY Supervisor Harry Gutheil.

Peter Benoit, Human Resources Manager and a long-time blood donor, and Lori Washburn, a local blood recipient and wife of Glens Falls Plant Production Supervisor, Alan Washburn, offered personal stories about the profound impact of blood donations. Local television stations and a radio station conducted interviews during the blood drive.

"September 11, 2001, is still very much a fresh memory for people," said Eileen Reardon, executive director of the Adirondack-Saratoga Chapter of the American Red Cross. "Hosting a regional blood drive offers people an opportunity to save lives while providing a strong sense of community. Not everyone can be a firefighter, police officer or soldier, but everyone can play an important role in helping those in need," she said.

"This is a unique and meaningful way to honor the victims of September 11 and express our sincere appreciation to the men and women of the area who protect us every day," said Glens Falls Mayor Roy Akins Jr., who was among the dignitaries addressing the crowd.

Lehigh Northeast Cement Co. quickly decided to sponsor the blood drive after discussing ways to support the local Red Cross chapter, said Karen Toth, Environmental Manager. "We wanted to support the Red Cross, and when we were asked to sponsor a September 11 special blood drive, it was an honor that we humbly accepted," Toth said. "So many of our employees already donate blood regularly, and many also volunteer for the fire companies and rescue squads in their communities."

The largest blood drive ever coordinated by the Red Cross in this region was a huge success. The goal was to obtain 73 pints, and donors exceeded that by contributing 97 pints. Every pint of blood can save three people. This blood drive will save close to 300 people!