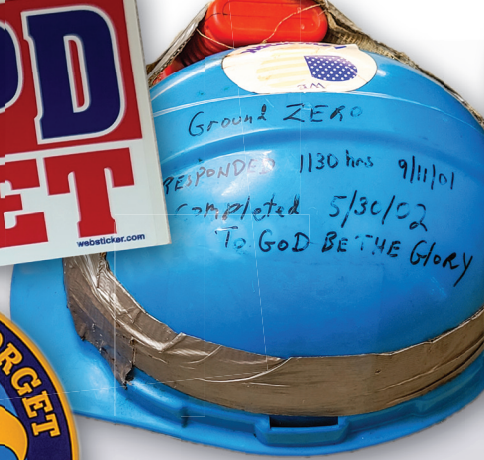


**FDNY 9-11 NYPD
NEVER FORGET**



Remembering Sept. 11

BY JIMMY LAROU
STAFF WRITER

Twenty-one-year-old memories can still be fresh.

For Richard Lewis, his memories of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center are still indelible, choking up when recalling specific memories of being at Ground Zero.

Lewis, a retired New York Police Department officer, who now resides in Suffolk, went there within about three hours to help in the initial search and rescue effort. The former detective returned, day after day, ministering to those involved in the recovery and clean-up efforts.

Living in the Jamaica, Queens area of New York City, Lewis learned of the attack in a phone call from his daughter.

“Daddy, she said, a plane ran into the World Trade Center,” Lewis, 79, recalling what she said to him.

See 9/11, 7



JEN JAQUA/SUFFOLK NEWS-HERALD

Richard Lewis, shown holding a cross welded from steel recovered from ground zero, collects and displays many items connected to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He has also written several books about his experiences at Ground Zero and as a NYPD officer.