



American Journey: Barrington Native to Bring 9/11 Museum to BHS

GARY MARLON SUSON, OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER AT GROUND ZERO, IS BRINGING HIS REMARKABLE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION TO CREATE A HOMETOWN MUSEUM

A 9/11 MUSEUM will be opening in Barrington at Barrington High School on September 11, 2021, marking the 20-year-anniversary of the September 11 attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City. Perhaps this sounds unorthodox, since the attacks happened in New York City. As it turns out, the Official Photographer at Ground Zero for the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) is a former Barrington Hills native (Bateman Road) and a 2019 BHS Distinguished Graduate Award Winner.

Gary Marlon Suson, who founded the Trip Advisor 5-star rated "9/11 Museum Workshop" in New York City, wanted to give back to his homestate of Illinois and to his hometown of Barrington. So, in 2019, BHS Principal Steve McWilliams, Barrington School District 220 then-Superintendent Brian Harris, BHS Alumni President Chuck Thyfault, Barrington 220 Board President



FDNY Chief Joseph Pfeifer cradles the flag used to cover fallen Firefighter Kevin Pfeifer, his brother, at Ground Zero. Image Courtesy © Gary Marlon Suson and the 9/11 Museum Workshop in New York.

Penny Kazmier, and Suson's sister Jodi Suson all convened to see if it was possible to re-create the New York Museum in Barrington so that District 220 students and those from all the surrounding suburban schools could have a historical museum. The wheels were in motion until the pandemic hit, which slowed the project down. However, after garnering support from the Board of Directors, the project went into full swing earlier this summer.

Suson assembled an all-star team out of New York and Texas to create a 5-star exhibit in Barrington. We've heard that this exhibit will be breathtaking, emotional, respectful, and jaw-dropping in aesthetics and presentation. It features 100 images and artifacts from Ground Zero with BOSE audio stories behind each display. Suson's photography collection was called "Rare Photos" by the New York Times and Barnes & Noble Publishing produced his photography coffee table book, "Requiem: Images of Ground Zero".

Suson also called in some favors with a hometown Illinois company, Tru Vue, which donated the finest museum-quality plexiglass in the world for framing the rare artifacts that were loaned from 9/11 families and first responders. The Museum won't be open immediately to the public, but that doesn't mean we won't try to sneak a peek! Suson has had post-9/11 health issues from working for seven months at Ground Zero. Our thanks go to Mr. Suson for remembering his hometown of Barrington despite his challenges. Learn more at groundzeromuseumworkshop.org. U