

**Background**

After the tragic events of 9/11/01 brought on by terrorist attacks, the people of the United States of America were in shock. As rescuers from across the nation worked to save those who were still alive amidst the wreckage of the World Trade Center, a flag was raised by three firemen. They did it as a symbol of hope to help themselves and their fellow rescuers go on amidst the destruction. They did not realize they were being photographed at the time. But Thomas E. Franklin, a photographer for the New Jersey Record saw and captured an image of that flag being raised which went on to remind the people of the entire country that we are united.



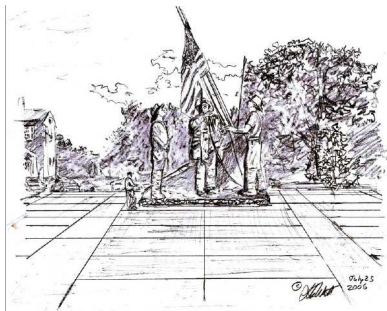
3 times life-size colossal monument in clay



Original photograph of Firefighters on 911

Copyright permission to create this monument in the likeness of the photo "Three Firefighters Raising the American Flag on 9/11" U.S. Copyright Registration No. VA-1-014-297 granted by North Jersey Media Group Inc. and The Bravest Fund.

Brick Pavers \$200.00 each 3 lines X-20



Sketch of memorial plaza



**In the words of The New Jersey record about the photo:**

Sept. 11, 2001 –the end of the world as we knew it. But in the chaos and rubble where the World Trade Center no longer stood, Record photographer Thomas E. Franklin captured an unforgettable image of hope –three firefighters raising the American flag. Standing defiantly against the gray and white landscape of devastation, these dust - covered men and the vivid red, white, and blue of Old Glory instantly became a symbol of American patriotism. The Record’s photo of these three heroic rescuers -Brooklyn-based firefighters George Johnson of Rockaway Beach, Dan McWilliams of Long Island (both from Ladder 157), and Billy Eisengrein of Staten Island (Rescue 2) -also became a global message that life, and America, would go on.

The photo, which appeared Sept. 12 in The Record, has since graced the pages of many other newspapers as well as national newsmagazines. Network television has repeatedly displayed the photo during its round-the-clock disaster coverage, comparing it to the famous image of Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima during World War II. Franklin, an eight year veteran of The Record, took the photo late in the afternoon of Sept. 11, after spending many hours at the scene. He was walking toward the debris of the World Trade Center when he spotted the firefighters.

“The shot immediately felt important to me,” Franklin said. “It said something to me about the strength of the American people and about the courage of all the firefighters who, in the face of this horrible disaster, had a job to do in battling the unimaginable.”

**"TO LIFT A NATION" Memorial Plaza**

The site for the monument in Emmitsberg, Maryland. The plaza area around the monument will be paved with personalized engraved brick pavers from the donors who help to build this monument to freedom. Visit [ToLiftANation.com](http://ToLiftANation.com) for more information.

**Why This Monument?**

The Main Focus of this monument is the American Flag and what it represents to us as Americans.

It will stand as a visual reminder that the strength of the United States Of America is found in the unity of its citizens. It will also be a tangible symbol of freedom and what freedom is worth.

It will meet a need that this country has for a memorial to those who were lost to the senseless acts of terror. It will stand as a reminder of the strength of the American spirit and the necessity that we must stand united as a country.

**Who will be Involved?**

Stan Watts Owner, Project Director and sculptor.

Robert Talbot of [ICONBronze.com](http://ICONBronze.com) for the sale of the brick pavers that will surround the monument.

Thomas E. Franklin who is the photographer of the original photograph has granted license to Stan Watts to use the photograph in creating the To Lift A Nation monument. The North Jersey Media Group Disaster Relief Fund along with George Johnson, Daniel McWilliams and Billy Eisengrein who are the three fire fighters in the original photograph and co-founders of The Bravest Fund have granted license through their charitable organizations. In return both charitable organizations will share 25% of the proceeds for this monument.



3 times life-size colossal monument in clay

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Overlay photo of memorial plaza



## TO LIFT A NATION The Monument

The Monument will be a 3 times life-size (colossal size) bronze sculpture depicting three American firefighters raising the flag of the United States of America amid the destruction of 9/11/01. It will be located at the National Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial in Emmitsberg, Maryland.



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## ToLiftANation.com

On behalf of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation memorial in Emmitsberg, Maryland

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© 2001 The Historic Hagerman County, N.J. Photo by Thomas E. Franklin

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