

Welcome everyone. I'd like to thank you all for coming out today to commemorate this monument on the 25th anniversary of 9/11. A special thank you to the first responders and veterans who have honored us with your presence this morning.

My name is Lachlan McLean and I have been involved with Apex Geotech for about 5 years. As many of you know, I worked closely with the founders of the company, Jim and Jacki Rupert and Mark Kuenning, on an ownership transition a few years back. In many early morning and late evening meetings with Jim, he often told stories about the early days of the company and the work that had done after 9/11 in lower Manhattan, and the steel plates from the WTC that had been stored in the yard ever since.

Jim encouraged me to do something with that WTC steel. So today, with the help from many here at Apex, including Gerald and Brandon, we finally deliver on that promise.

We had a few goals when we began this monument project. We have this incredibly unique piece of history here, and wanted to ensure its preservation and recognition for generations to come. We wanted to honor the 2,977 lives tragically lost 25 years ago today, including so many first responders who rushed to lower Manhattan, and the 40 lives lost close by on Flight 93. And also to honor the bravery of so many in the military who were called to combat in the years and decades that followed.

We also wanted this monument to recognize the rebuilding effort in the weeks, months, and years following the devastation in lower Manhattan. It was a very unique moment, if you recall. So many people selflessly dropped everything to do whatever they could to help the country get back on her feet. That included a great deal of work right here. This company and community had a critical role in designing and manufacturing materials that then and now ensure the stability of the foundations in lower Manhattan so that it could be rebuilt, and that role also deserves recognition.

I'll close by thanking everyone again for coming out. I encourage you to tell your friends, neighbors, and family about this monument; we welcome visitors and want to share this unique piece of history that we were able to preserve.

I think it's pretty amazing that this small community had meaningful role in rebuilding after 9/11, a day that changed the world forever. And that shouldn't be forgotten. God bless you all and God Bless America.