

Jacksonville Fire Fighters Present U.S. Flag to Congressman Ander Crenshaw

Flag to Fly Over Ground Zero

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The Riverside Avenue office of United States Congressman Ander Crenshaw was the scene of a very special event this past Tuesday.

Local Jacksonville Fire Fighter Skip Smith was on hand to present the distinguished Congressman a large United States flag. What makes this flag special is that it will be heading to New York City, where it will be flown with pride over Ground Zero, the site of the horrific terror attacks at The World Trade Center.



Congressman Crenshaw's office first learned of the flag after hearing about Smith, who created a unique landmark out of a dirt pile in Jacksonville's Intracoastal Waterway. Smith had erected a flag pole on the island and renamed it "Hill 343" in honor of the fallen fire fighters from 9/11.

Crenshaw then contacted Ground Zero representatives in New York and arranged to have the flag flown.

After a brief stay over Ground Zero, the flag will return to Jacksonville and fly over Hill 343, located on the Intracoastal Waterway 200 yards south of Atlantic Blvd.

The Story of Hill 343



In the early morning hours of September 11th, 2009, Skip Smith and several Jacksonville Fire Fighters made their way out to this dirt pile and, under the cover of darkness, dropped a flagpole in the ground and raised an American Flag. The pile was renamed "Hill 343" in honor of the 343 New York City Fire Fighters who died while safely evacuating thousands of workers from the Twin Towers on September 11th 2001.

Unbeknownst to Smith, the pile was actually owned by the Jacksonville Transit Authority. Upon learning of the new flag on their pile, the JTA proudly threw their support behind the effort and have been 100% supportive of the effort.

They are currently working on a plan to provide solar powered lighting to the island. A larger flagpole will soon be installed to hold the 8" X 12" flag coming home from New York City.

Hill 343 is visible from Atlantic Boulevard as you drive over the Intracoastal Waterway.