



EXCHANGE CLUB OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley Takes 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony Virtual

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Danville, CA – In 2020, the Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley is turning its traditional ceremony at Oak Hill Park in Danville into a virtual event.

Who: Mayor Karen Stepper, Exchange Club President Tim White & Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley

What: Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley's Virtual 911 Ceremony

When: Friday, September 11, 2020 – 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Where: The event will be live streamed on the Exchange Club's Facebook page & YouTube channel.

[SRV Exchange Club Facebook Page](#)

[SRV Exchange Club YouTube Channel](#)

How: From your smart phone or computer

The ceremony will include a presentation of colors, a performance by soloist Lanisa Keith, and a keynote address by Captain Jay Comella of the Oakland Fire Department (ret.)

About Captain Jay Comella

Captain Jay Comella entered the Oakland Fire Dept (OFD) in December 1989 and retired November 2011. He has remained involved with fire service education and training as an author and instructor.

At the time of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (WTC), Captain Comella was a Member of the Oakland Fire Department and was on vacation in New York City. A phone call prompted him to turn on the television news.

Right after tuning in, the second plane hit the World Trade Center.





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Captain Comella arrived at the site approximately 45 minutes after the second collapse. For the next 3.5 weeks, he worked on "the pile", and was involved with the search for victims and the removal of the deceased.

Captain Comella lost a dear friend and mentor who he was scheduled to visit at his NYC firehouse on the 9-11. He also lost several acquaintances and attended numerous funerals for fallen first responders. Captain Comella participated in the removal of two live victims, both of whom recovered from their injuries.

Photo: The photo above was taken on the afternoon September 11, 2001, and memorializes the removal of First Deputy Commissioner William Feehan, the highest-ranking Member of the FDNY, who was killed on 911. Captain Comella is pictured in the center, with no fire gear.

About Lanisa Keith

Lanisa Lum Keith is a Christian singer who has performed locally at annual meetings of local non-profits, including the [100 Club of Contra Costa County](#), a non-profit that provides financial support for the spouses and children of police officers and firefighters who lost their lives in Contra Costa County in the line of duty.

Lanisa and her husband, artist [Brian Keith](#), grew up and went to school in San Ramon and currently reside there with their four children.



About the Exchange Club's 911 Essay Contest

Each year, the Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley provides essay awards up to \$500 for students in Elementary, Middle and High school through its 911 Essay Contest.

This year's theme is "**Letters of Appreciation to our First Responders**".

Essay contest applications will be available on September 11, 2020.

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