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### DAVIES HIGH SCHOOL

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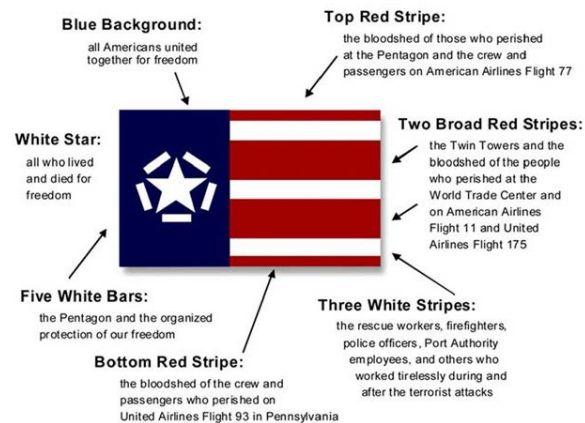
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

## Meaning of Freedom Flag



## Freedom Flag Foundation Partners with Davies High School (Fargo, North Dakota) in National Freedom Flag Raising & World Trade Center Steel Education Program

*Partnership to strengthen 9/11 education and remembrance.*

**Richmond, Virginia and Fargo, North Dakota** – The Freedom Flag Foundation’s National Freedom Flag and World Trade Center Steel Education Program (“Program”) is establishing partnerships in all 50 states to educate the next generation about 9/11 using the Freedom Flag and World Trade Center (WTC) Steel artifacts from the 92<sup>nd</sup> through 95<sup>th</sup> floors of Tower 1. Davies High School, Fargo Public School District #1 in Fargo, North Dakota, has agreed to be North Dakota’s Program representative for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11.

As part of the Program, Davies High School will receive a 9/11 Freedom Flag to be flown annually on Patriot Day below the US Flag through the month of September. The Freedom Flag Foundation will also loan Davies High School a piece of WTC Steel recovered from Ground Zero for its use in educational outreach and display over the next year. Davies High School will also receive a copy of *Unfurling the Freedom Flag – A 9/11 Story*, which describes how the Freedom Flag went from a sketch on a napkin to become Virginia’s Official Flag of Remembrance for 9/11 (VAC §1-510). Today, the Freedom Flag is our nation’s only codified 9/11 flag of remembrance, and it has been flown or displayed in over 1,000 schools and in nearly every state in the US.

Loretta Wellentin, Social Studies instructor at Davies High School, said, “What a feeling I had touching the World Trade Center steel. It was overwhelming, and I am so appreciative to be able to share this history, knowledge, and humanity with the students of Davies. I was very honored on behalf of Davies High School to be asked to partner

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## **Freedom Flag Foundation Partners with Davies High School in National Freedom Flag Raising (continued)**

with this wonderful organization's mission to teach students about the magnitude of 9/11, but most importantly, I'm grateful for the opportunity to ensure that we will never forget those who lost their lives and those who responded heroically that day." Wellentin, along with fellow Davies Social Studies instructor Bart Manson, have organized the Davies Freedom Flag Raising Ceremony.

### **DAVIES HIGH SCHOOL FREEDOM FLAG RAISING CEREMONY on Friday, September 10 starting at 9:00 a.m.:**

- Freedom Flag Raising by the Fargo Police Honor Guard outside in front of the school followed by a moment of silence to commemorate all the victims and heroes of 9/11.
- Davies students Kya Benson, Emma and Lauren Lamp, and Jenezio Lagobey will recite the *Ten Elements of the Freedom Flag*.
- Davies Band will play the National Anthem, under the direction of Davies Band Director and recent Army Basic Training graduate Darcy Brandenburg.
- Davies students Owen Beller and Aidan Hansen will play a commemorative piece on the bagpipes.
- Presentation of Freedom Flags to various community organizations in remembrance of their heroic contributions. Representatives from the Fargo Police Department, Fargo Fire Department, Army National Guard, and Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans from the West Fargo VFW are expected to be on hand for the ceremony.

The WTC Steel (a section of the exterior column that supported floors 92 through 95 on the east face of the WTC Tower 1) is on loan from the Freedom Flag Foundation for one year; the artifact will be used as a primary source in the classroom and then be placed in a display case at Davies High School for all to view.

Davies High School Social Studies department will promote students' understanding and appreciation of the unique heroes from the 9/11 attacks as represented by the American Freedom Flag throughout the school year.

September 11, 2001 was the deadliest attack on US soil since the Civil War and the deadliest terrorist attack in world history. In total, 2,977 lives were lost in New York City, at the Pentagon (Arlington Co., VA) and on Flight 93 (near Shanksville, PA), including citizens from 90 foreign nations. Since 9/11, thousands of first responders have perished from 9/11-related illnesses (a toll that is still rising), and over 70 million children have been born in the US, meaning that *over 20% of our population has no living memory of 9/11*.

Through this partnership, the Freedom Flag Foundation and Davies High School share a commitment to uphold America's promise to "Never Forget" using the symbolism of the Freedom Flag, the powerful, hands-on learning opportunity offered by the WTC Steel, and the story of the Freedom Flag in book form: *Unfurling the Freedom Flag – A 9/11 Story*.

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The mission of the Freedom Flag Foundation is to establish the Freedom Flag as a National Symbol of Remembrance for the events of September 11, 2001.