

# STEPHEN SILLER TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN & WALK SOUTH CAROLINA

2015

## ANNUAL REPORT



*Save the Date!*  
*Friday, September 16, 2016*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## CONTENTS

1. Message from the T2T SC Run & Walk Chairman.....	2
2. Foundation Summary.....	4
3. Organizational Chart.....	8
4. Organizational Goals and Objectives (2014).....	10
5. Our 2015 Achievements.....	11
6. Marketing Summary.....	144
7. Volunteers.....	16
8. Operational Summary.....	17
9. Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers, NYC, Support The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation.....	1818
10. Long Term Strategies/Initiatives.....	1818
11. List of Sponsors.....	19
12. Letter of Appreciation to Sponsors, Donors, and Committee Members.....	21
13. Appendix.....	22
Route Maps and Diagrams.....	23
News Release.....	26
2015 Christmas Card.....	27
Newspaper Articles.....	29



Major General Roger L. Cloutier, CG U.S. Training Center & Fort Jackson, with VA Dorn Hospital Navy Veteran Petty Officer E-4 Rodney Satore who hopes to be healthy enough to participate in the Friday, September 16, 2016 T2T SC Run & Walk. Mrs. Karen Scott, Dorn VA RN Executive next to CG has been instrumental in getting our Veterans involved in the T2T SC event.

## 1. MESSAGE FROM THE T2T SC RUN & WALK CHAIRMAN

**“We Will Never Forget”** our First Responders and our Military Service Members across South Carolina and our nation.

I want to thank each volunteer and supporter for caring and giving from their heart so much to make a positive difference in our Heroes’ lives! The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk in South Carolina is blessed to have over 400 volunteers who sacrifice their time to make sure they successfully deliver on every task that is asked of them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **Without all our volunteers and major supporters like:**

- Lexington Medical Center (LMC),
- University of South Carolina (USC),
- SYSCO Foods of Columbia,
- Pine Press Printing,
- Fort Jackson,
- The United States Army Drill Sargent Academy,
- Tin Roof Restaurant,
- The Music Farm,
- Liberty Tap Room Restaurant,
- Columbia Hilton,
- Columbia Hampton Inn,
- Southern Valet LLC Bus Service,
- Budweiser,
- Schroeder’s Towing,
- Sun Solutions,
- The Columbia Convention Center, and
- The SCNG...

### **We would not have been so successful to date.**

Another few key factors for our success is our commitment to strategic planning, recruiting community leaders that have the passion for the cause, getting our military and community involved, persistence, respect for one another in ensuring that each committee member has a voice in the process, and the team's belief that **listening is the “Breakfast of Champions”!**

Friday, September 16, 2016, will be our 4<sup>TH</sup> (fourth) T2T SC Run & Walk. Each year, we spend a lot of time improving and growing the event from the previous year. We learned so much from 2014, after having four-time Grammy Nominee and 2014 People’s Choice Award winner Hunter Hayes for our entertainment. **I must thank Christina Kerr, my Entertainment and After Party Director; John Griffen, General Manager Tin Roof Restaurant; Andrew Burge, Integrated Marketing Specialist, Clear Channel (now I-Heart Communications); and all of the support staff for making the 2014 T2T SC Run & Walk a total success.**

As we started our 2015 planning, we all knew it would a challenge to outdo 2014. Christina and her T2T SC volunteers went to work looking at every entertainment and After Party option that would allow us to exceed the 2014 performance. Christina and her volunteer team took on the 2015 challenge head-on and the end result was superior!! The Root Doctors entertainment for 2015 was outstanding! The Root Doctors, National Recording Artists of 7



**T2T SC Chairman Dan Hennigan  
celebrating with a  
Walter Reed Hospital Veteran Finisher.**



([www.theRootDoctors.com](http://www.theRootDoctors.com)) and moving the After-Party outside versus being inside like it was in 2014. The Friday, September 18, 2015 T2T SC Run & Walk was our best year yet!

None of this would have been possible without our T2T SC leadership team and the over 500 volunteers who committed to taking on monumental tasks of providing food, beverages, entertainment, water points, route monitors, parking management, security, trash pickup, and event marketing, just to name a few. The fact that our run & walk, only in its third year, ranked in the top 20 runs in South Carolina is a testament to the team's commitment, hard work, and dedicated service to the cause of honoring our fallen and catastrophically injured military service members and first responders.

**In the coming year, our organization has many goals to move this event forward. These goals include:**

- Increasing our military service members' participation (Active, Reserve, SCNG, and Veterans).
- Increasing our South Carolina First Responders participation.
- Increasing our T2T SC cash sponsorships and donations.
- Establishing a scholarship program for our SC First Responders and Military Service Members and their families.
- Improving our social media, TV, and news coverage and establish a process to measure our performance weekly.
- Continuing to support and raise funds to honor and provide for our "America's Bravest."
- Significantly improving our fundraising in 2016.
- Continuing to grow the 2015 participation of the Gold and Blue Star Mothers
- Continuing to grow the 2015 participation of our military veterans from the Dorn VA Hospital and our VA SC Regional Office.

The T2T SC team wants to single out Miss Monica Scott who has moved to Seattle, Washington; however, continues to put our annual report together and supports our 9/11 First Responders & Military Service Members Historic Remembrance Memorial since its unveiling on September 11, 2011.

**My personal thanks to each T2T SC volunteer for your "service above self," commitment, and generosity in your effort to improve the quality of life to those who are less fortunate than you and I.**

God Bless,



Daniel C. Hennigan, U.S. Army Retired  
Chairman



**CSM Charles Cook and U.S. Army Ret. Dan Hennigan, T2T SC Chairman. Dan thanks CSM Cook for making T2T SC happen in 2013.**



**Left to right: Colonel Richard Neiberding, SSI CDR; Colonel Mark Shade, Deputy Fort Jackson CDR; Dan Hennigan, Chairman T2T SC; Dorn VA Navy Veteran Petty Officer E-4 Rodney Satore (sitting down); Major General Roger L. Cloutier, CG U.S. Training Center & Fort Jackson; CSM William "Dan" Hain (far right).**



## 2. FOUNDATION SUMMARY

- a. **Mission Statement:** The mission of our foundation is to honor the sacrifice of Firefighter Stephen Siller who laid down his life to save others on September 11, 2001. We also honor our Military and First Responders who continue to make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country.
  
- b. **Vision:** Our vision for this run & walk is to create a statewide tradition of honoring all of our first responders and all Military service members with a 5K Run & Walk over the Blossom Street Bridge, the Gervais Street Bridge, and finish in front of the 9/11 First Responders & Military Service Members Historic Remembrance Memorial.
  
- c. **Stephen Siller's Story:** On September 11, 2001, New York City firefighter and father of five Stephen Siller was off-duty and on his way to play golf. When he heard what was happening at the World Trade Center, he called his wife to tell her that he had to help those in need. He strapped on 60 pounds of gear and ran from the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the World Trade Center to meet up with his company. **Stephen was last seen saving lives with his brothers of Squad 1.** The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk takes place in cities around the country and honors local first responders and military service members. Lexington Medical Center is proud to support the only Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk in South Carolina. **The Tunnel to Towers Foundation supports military members who have been catastrophically injured in the line of duty through the Building for America's Bravest program.** Proceeds from each Tunnel to Towers event go to building smart homes for quadruple and triple amputees who were injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In fact, \$0.88 of every \$1 donated to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation supports this program. **Our Building for America's Bravest program has completed smart homes, started construction on, or is in the design stage of 46 smart homes. We are committed to build, at a minimum, 200 smart homes for our nation's most catastrophically injured service members.** This foundation was started in 2002. **The Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk series serves as a living memorial to honor the life and legacy of Stephen Siller and to champion the heroism of all first responders and military service members who serve, save and sacrifice every day.**
  
- d. **History of SC's Run & Walk:** On March 7, 2013 while Dan Hennigan, U.S. Army retired was in NYC receiving his NYC Honorary FDNY Battalion Chief credentials from the Commissioner and FDNY Chief of the Department, Dan was asked by Battalion Chief Jack Oehm if he wanted to be the Chairman and begin the work of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk in South Carolina. Dan wholeheartedly agreed and that was the origin of this event. Dan approached Lexington Medical Center for their support and sponsorship, who agreed to partner with the foundation as a title South Carolina Sponsor. Dan quickly started to build



Committee Member Tim Goldman honoring Stephen Siller

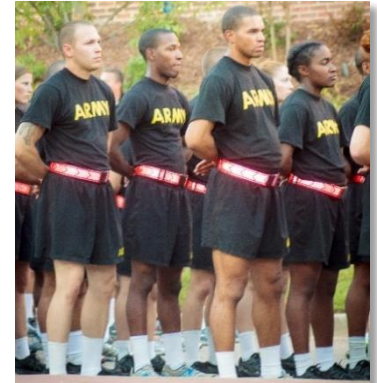


T2T SC Coin Monument



the SC Statewide team and the organizational chart today reflects over 100 volunteers, community leaders, and advisors. **Below is a summary of our 2013 – 2015 run & walks:**

- **2013:** The first Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk was held on Friday, September 6, 2013 at 7:30 PM and included over 2,100 runners in first year! 900 Military Service Members from Fort Jackson Command & Drill Sergeant Academy participated and were led by the Fort Jackson Commanding General & Command Sergeant Major.



**Ft. Jackson Soldiers**

- **2014:** Our second Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk, which was held on Friday, September 19, 2014, was mirrored after the main run & walk held in New York City, which boasts over 35,000 participants each year. Our 2014 event included for the first time an After Celebration with food and entertainment, which included four-time Grammy Nominee and 2014 People's Choice Award winner Hunter Hayes.

- **2015:** Our third Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk was held on September 18, 2015. For entertainment this year, we chose to go "local" and focus on a band with a significant fan base in South Carolina. We selected The Root Doctors, National Recording Artists, as our entertainment and they delivered an energizing performance. New this year, we included a large number of local merchant booths, a "live" ice carving demonstration, as well as youth friendly activities brought together by RWB, such as face painting, photo booths, and games. Additionally, two drawings were added to this year's After Celebration both brought together by the Columbia Area Sports Council. Our Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk, in only its third year, ranked in the top 20 runs in South Carolina.

- **The certified Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk:** started at the East end of the Columbia Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln Street, and ended in front of the 9/11 First Responders & Military Service Members Historic Remembrance Memorial located at the western end of the Columbia Convention Center. The Run & Walk continued past University of South Carolina Fraternity Houses, crossed the Blossom Street Bridge into the City of Cayce, then turned and moved through a West Columbia suburb, then crossed the Gervais Street Bridge back through the heart of the City of Columbia. All throughout the route there were representatives from many civic and veteran groups, including the Patriot Riders, waving American flags and cheering on the runners.

- **Moving and Patriotic Event:** The Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk participants included world class runners, adults and children. Many moms and dads ran or walked pushing children in baby carriages. There were hundreds of First Responders, including: Fire, EMS, Police and 911 dispatcher personnel, who participated in the event. Some Firefighters ran in 60 - 70 pound bunker gear with FDNY Retired Battalion Chief Jack Oehm. Several of the runners ran carrying the American Flag. The majority of the 1,500 military service members ran with their units in formation carrying their units' colors and singing military cadence through the streets of Columbia, Cayce and West Columbia.



**Veterans being honored before opening ceremony!**  
Seated left to right: Benjamin Alston, Marine E-4 Corporal; Ernest Abney, Army E-8 Master Sgt.; Rodney Satore, Navy E-4 Petty Officer; and Scott Nickison, Army Airborne Infantryman. Staff led by Mrs. Karen Scott, Dorn VA Executive RN (middle); SSG Erick Avalos, U.S. Drill Sergeant Academy (far right).



- Medals:** were awarded to the first, second & third place runners in their age groups. **In 2015, our organization introduced The Stephen G. Siller Steel Award.** This stately award will display a piece of the Twin Towers steel and can be won by the fire department which has a team of 5 participants who run in turnout gear jacket (no liner), pants, helmet, and running shoes. No tank or boots are required. **The four fastest times of their team members are combined for the team's total.** The team with the fastest combined time wins the award and will have the trophy to display in their station until the next year's run & walk, at which time the award will be transferred to the next winning team. Win it again, and the team keeps it for another year! **The winner of this year's 2015 Stephen Siller Steel Award was the Bluffton, SC Fire Department.**



FDNY Retired Battalion Chief Jack Oehm (far left) and FDNY Honorary Battalion Chief and T2T SC Chairman (third from the right) holding the award to Bluffton, SC Fire Department.

- Volunteers:** came from all over the Midlands of South Carolina to support this event. Many came from Lexington Medical Center whose support was led by the LMC Marketing Group; University of South Carolina led by the University's athletic programs, including: Over 500 volunteers coming from Lexington High School JROTC, USC Army ROTC, Indian Waters Council Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, RunHard Columbia, RWB Team, Sysco, Fort Jackson Victory Spouses Club, South Carolina National Guard, USC Hospitality and Retail Management classes, USC 101 classes, Gamecocks beach volleyball, women's volleyball, softball, track and field, swimming and diving, baseball, men's and women's basketball and multiple fraternity and sorority organizations.

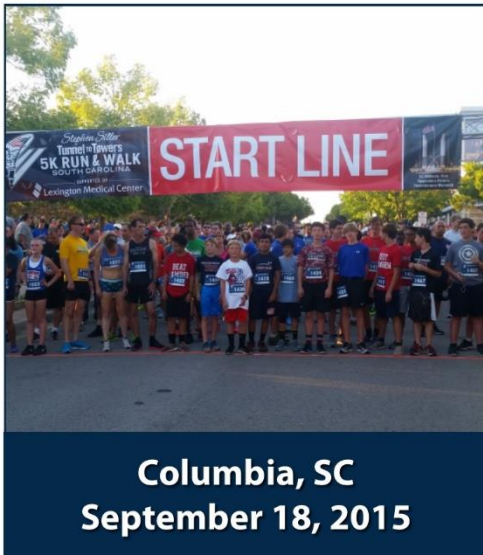


Volunteers at Packet Pickup from USC ROTC

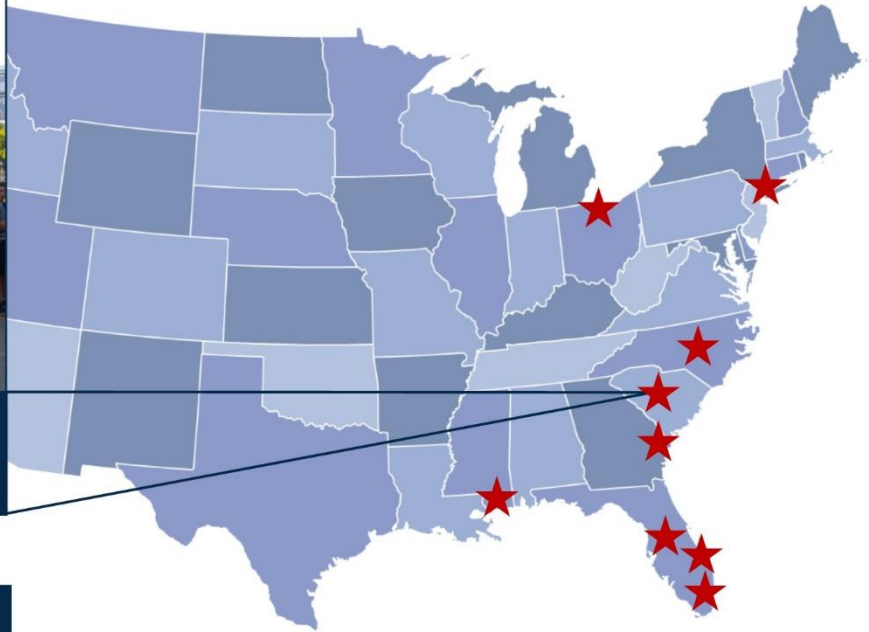




**e. Locations of Other Run & Walks:**



**Columbia, SC**  
**September 18, 2015**



**LOCATIONS OF OTHER RUNS**



**New York, NY**  
**September 27, 2015**



**Raleigh/Durham, NC**  
**September 12, 2015**



**Vero Beach, FL**  
**September 12, 2015**



**Orlando, FL**  
**September 12, 2015**



**Biloxi, MS**  
**September 12, 2015**



**Ft. Lauderdale, FL**  
**September 13, 2015**



**Savannah, GA**  
**September 12, 2015**

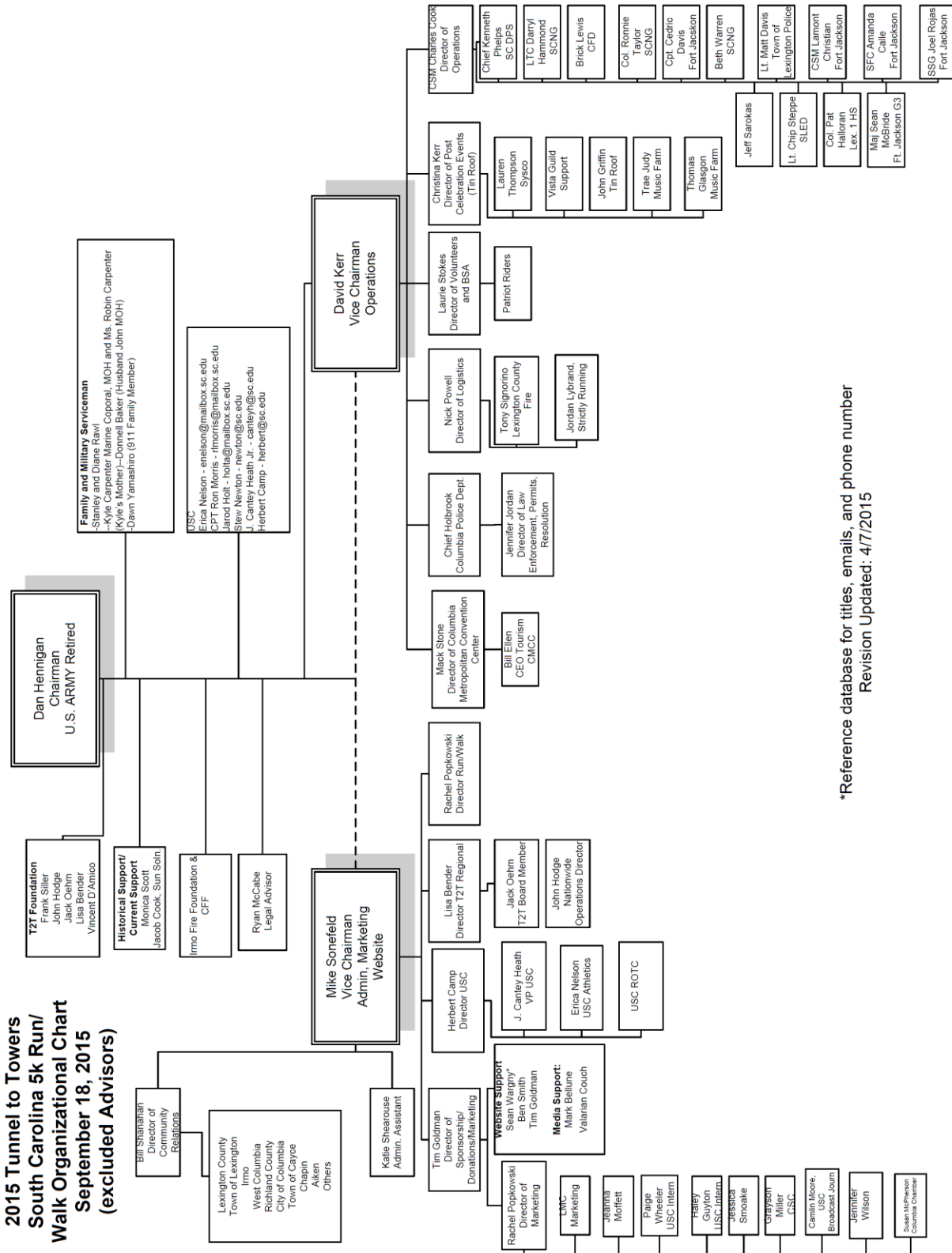


**Medina, OH**  
**September 20, 2015**





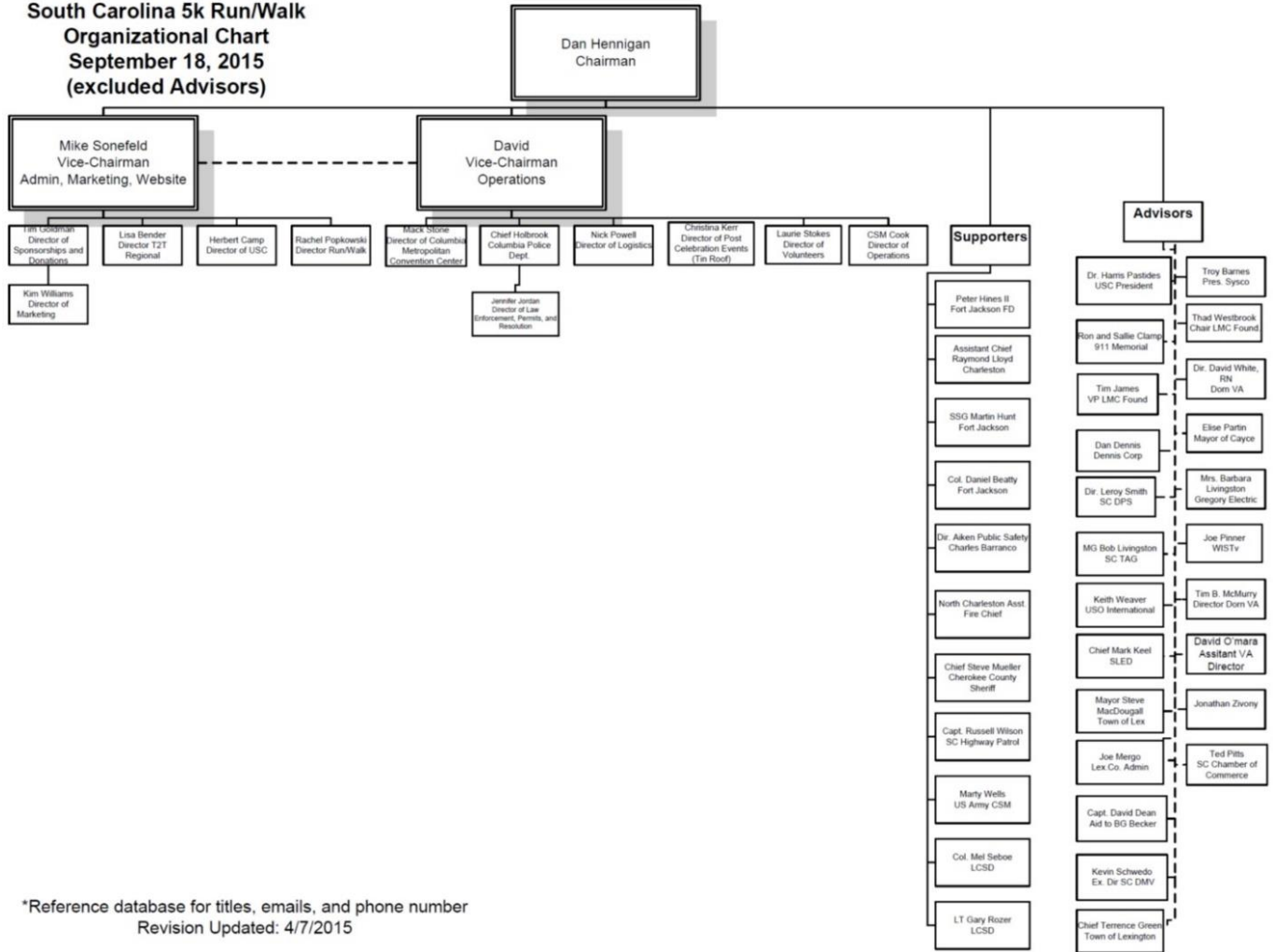
### 3. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



\*Reference database for titles, emails, and phone number  
Revision Updated: 4/7/2015



**2015 Tunnel to Towers  
South Carolina 5k Run/Walk  
Organizational Chart  
September 18, 2015  
(excluded Advisors)**



\*Reference database for titles, emails, and phone number  
Revision Updated: 4/7/2015



WIS/10 Anchor Judi Gatson interviews Gold STAR Mother Mrs. Diane Rawl and local children.



T2T SC Chairman Dan Hennigan addresses the crowd as Dorn VA Veterans look on.



## 4. ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (2015)

### Goal 1: Honor the Fallen

**Objective #1:** Honor the 416 First Responders lost in NYC during 9/11/2001.

**Objective #2:** Honor Local (SC) Heroes lost in the line of duty (FR/LE/Military).

**Objective #3:** Raise awareness of the 9/11 First Responders & Military Service Members Historic Remembrance Memorial.

### Goal 2: Raise Awareness of the SC Run & Walk in order to grow participation to honor and support our first responders and military personnel in our state.

**Objective #1:** Contact all Running Groups and other Organized run & walks across SC and in neighboring communities.

**Objective #2:** Analyze and contact businesses and potential sponsors in order to raise awareness of the Foundation and provide opportunities for support.

**Objective #3:** Promote community, first responder, and military interaction to build strong and cohesive community.

**Objective #4:** Use established Educational Organizations, Associations and Events to promote T2T Run & Walk.

### Goal 3: Raise money to support the programs of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation and support of SC First Responders and Military Service Members.

**Objective #1:** Increase corporate sponsorship by 25% over prior year.

**Objective #2:** Increase race participant registrations by 25%.

**Objective #3:** Reduce operating costs and expenses and maintain in-kind donations

### Goal 4: Build strong, positive, community relationships

**Objective #1:** Increase Military support and participation in the event.

**Objective #2:** Bring the Midlands together.

**Objective #3:** Maintain and grow the relationship with FDNY and New York City, which was established in 1864.



SC Midlands Cub Scouts stand by their assigned Veteran to take care of them if they need anything during the T2T SC Run & Walk Event.



Bluffton Firemen celebrating after winning The Stephen G. Siller Steel Award



## 5. OUR 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS -

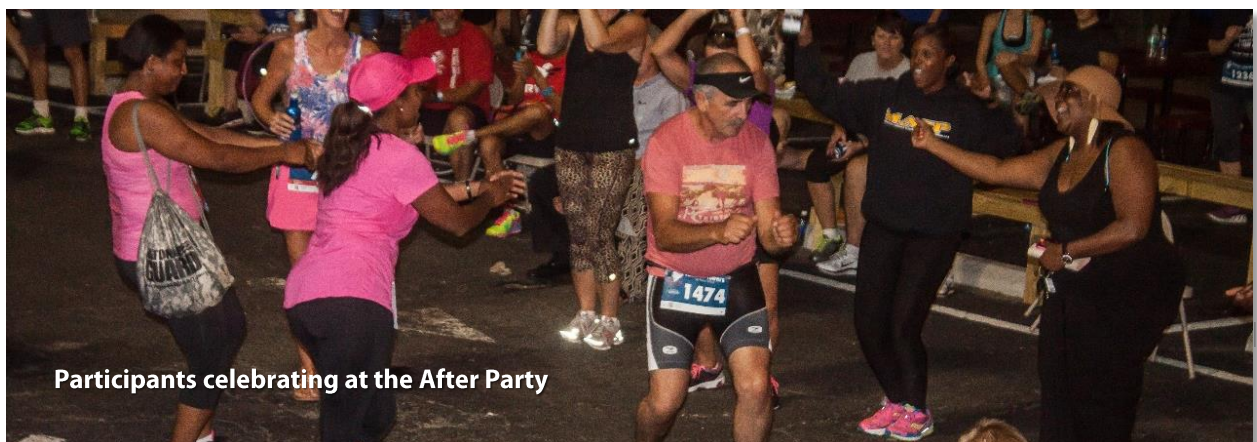
	2013	2014	2015
Participation - Registered	900 (total)	2,087 (total)	1730 (Total)
Participation - First Responder	Uncounted	430	306
Participation - Youth	Uncounted	251	126
Participation - Military	900	1,217	1,500
Sponsors – Monetary (#)		10	10
Sponsors – In-kind (#)		14	13
Financial - Monetary Donation	\$29,876.66	\$35,531.00	\$40,970.88
Financial - In-kind Donation		\$112,500	\$59,751.00
Volunteers		Approx. 424	Approx. 500
Social Media - Followers	0	1,187	1,895
Media Coverage (# of Spots)		5	135+

- a. **After Celebration:** This was the second year of the After Celebration.... Tin Roof & Music Farm’s General Management were excellent partners in the organization and success of this race celebration event. For entertainment this year, we chose to go “local” and focus on a band with a significant fan base in South Carolina. We selected **The Root Doctors, National Recording Artists, as our entertainment and they delivered an energizing performance.** New this year, we included a large number of local merchant booths, a “live” ice carving demonstration, as well as youth friendly activities brought together by RWB, such as face painting, photo booths, and games. **Additionally, two drawings were added to this year’s After Celebration both brought together by the Columbia Area Sports Council.** First drawing was a 2 day trip to Myrtle Beach for 2, and a second drawing was a 1 night Famously Hot Stay-cation for 2, both complete with dinner, massages, a show in MB and Zoo trip. Sysco, our major contributor to the After Celebration, surpassed last year’s efforts with organization, food and their volunteer efforts. Further sponsorship from Pepsi, and Budweiser enhanced the success of the celebration and established the framework for future Tunnel to Towers celebrations as all have professed continued support. This After Celebration gave the race participants, volunteers, and organizers an opportunity to come together and honor first responders, race winners, honored sponsors and guests in a safe family friendly environment.

**THE PRE- AND POST-EVENT BLOCK PARTY AND AWARDS CEREMONY WILL FEATURE:**

- ★ Live Music from The Root Doctors
- ★ Food
- ★ Family-Friendly Activities
- ★ Vendor Booths

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. • 1022 Senate Street

Participants celebrating at the After Party



**b. University of South Carolina (USC) Support:**

The support received from the USC was invaluable to the success of this year's event. Many sports programs and student organizations volunteered a great deal of time to support the run & walk and the after celebration. **A critical aspect of this run& walk each year is the participation of the Soldiers from the United States Army stationed at Fort Jackson, SC.** This year, when bus transportation to transport over 1500 Soldiers to and from the event was in question, USC stepped



USC Transportation Team

up to make the event a reality. **The USC Transportation Division Director Mr. Roosevelt Barnwell, Mr. Nelson Neville, Supervisor (U.S. Army SFC Ret.), and at the direction of USC President, Dr. Harris Pastedes and Mr. Cantey Heath, USC Chief of Staff, provided bus transportation for the Ft. Jackson Soldiers.** This was a major undertaking for the University and at one point included up to 12 busses, with drivers making multiple round trips to Fort Jackson. Additionally, through a partnership with the USC College of Hospitality, Retail and Sports Management, Dr. Marianne Bickle sent an invitation to all University 101 (UNIV 101) instructors – inviting them to incorporate the T2T Run & Walk into their course and/or encourage students to participate. 99% of all incoming freshman take UNIV 101 in their first fall semester, which equates to over 4400 students. **Dr. Marianne Bickle was also one of the top individual financial earners of this year's event.**

**c. First Responder Support:**

This year we experienced a significant increase in First Responder Volunteers and Run & Walk Participants over the previous year. This increase was the result of a significant outreach to First Responder Groups and professional associations throughout the State. These groups included SC Firefighter's, SC Law Enforcement Organizations, Emergency Medical Services Associations, the Association of Public Safety Communications just to name a few. **The SC Law Enforcement Network (LEN) and Chief Ken Phelps, SC DPS,**



Junior Firefighters

**played an integral part in getting the message of the event out to Law Enforcement Statewide.** As a result of the association and committee outreach to individual departments the following departments supported this year's race: City of Columbia Police and Fire Departments, Lexington County Public Safety, Irmo Fire District, Town of Lexington Police Department, West Columbia Police and Fire Departments, Cayce Public Safety, State Law Enforcement Division, South Carolina Department of Public Safety, and the Town of Batesburg-Leesville Sumter County Fire Department, Bluffton Fire & Rescue, Kershaw County. **A key goal of our organization is to continue expanding this outreach and partnership in 2016.**

**d. T2T SC 5K Run & Walk Management Committee:**

This year's Executive Committee, staffs and advisors were comprised of a very diverse group of dedicated professionals and volunteers from around the Midlands. This group combined to put in over 750 hours of selfless work to make the 2015 Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk South Carolina a resounding success!



**e. Testimonials:**

*"As a 22 year first responder veteran for the Forest Acres Police Department, I was moved to be part of this run and event. Thanks for putting it together."*

*"Great, great, great event!"*

*"This was by FAR the best race experience I have ever had! So inspiring and for such a great cause! I will definitely make this an annual run!"*

*"I am glad I participated in this event. I was inspired, encouraged, and blessed."*

*"Thank you to all of the students that held the signs. I found my friend's picture and posted it for his family."*

*"This was great. I saw the relative that I was running for and stopped to take a photo. Thank you students!"*



Gold STAR Mothers - Mrs. Diane Rawl speaking to T2T SC Participants as Mrs. Jane Caughman looks on



FDNY Retired Battalion Chief Jack Oehm addresses T2T SC Run & Walk participants



We are honored to have Team RWB participating. Team RWB's mission is to enrich the lives of veterans by connecting them in their community through physical and social activity.



## 6. MARKETING SUMMARY

- a. **Lexington Medical Center Partner:** The Title Sponsor for this year's Tunnel to Towers South Carolina was Lexington Medical Center. **This exceptional partnership has been instrumental in the success of this run & walk each and every year.** This year, not only did Lexington Medical Center support the run & walk with a significant cash contribution, but their marketing department, also provided a very large portion of the marketing support for this event on an in-kind basis. This included all design work and printing of signs, race literature and flyers, sponsorship packets, and banners. Additionally, the marketing department coordinated with local media outlets to provide event coverage and promotional spots throughout the weeks leading up to the September 18<sup>th</sup> event.
- b. **Sponsor Tracking:** Since the Foundation was partnering with Lexington Medical Center for the third straight year, we were able to get a good head start on the printed materials that needed to be updated for the 2015 event. Internally our Foundation maintained a spreadsheet accounting of all sponsors so that we could keep track of information such as payment and logo receipt all in one place.

- c. **Radio & Television:** Lexington Medical Center also used their existing contracts with newspapers, magazines and WIS News Station to promote the Tunnel to Towers event. **WIS News ran 135 spots television advertising spots for this year's event with a calculated TV schedule value of \$30,000.** With an additional 1100 Live Streams during the event.



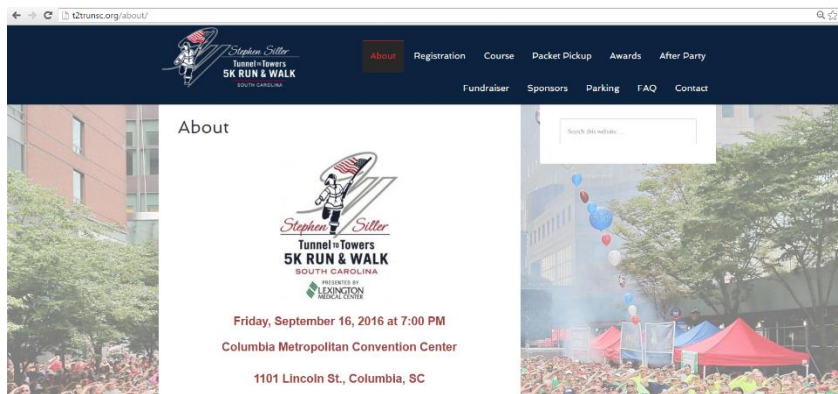
Hometown Radio and Linc, Inc. were great media partners and promoted the event through regular radio spots on their stations. In addition to planned radio and television spots ahead of the event, many media outlets provided extensive coverage on the day of the event, to include interviews of organizers and race participants.

**CSM Lamont Christian, Commandant U.S Army Drill Sergeant Academy leads his Drill Sergeants in the run.**





d. **Website:** The main Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation website was constantly updated as new event details became available. **A local event website was created to streamline information for participants as well as provide a more user friendly experience.** The database of race registrants was also used to send updated information to everyone who had registered for the race.



e. **Billboards and Print Media:** Through our partnership with Lexington Medical Center Marketing, we were able to advertise our event on five separate digital billboards and two vinyl billboards around Columbia, Richland and Lexington County over the month leading up to the run & walk. Additionally, with our organizations relationship with many newspaper and other print media companies our event was included in periodicals such as The State Paper, Lexington Chronical, Columbia Living and Editorial, just to name a few.

f. **Social Media:** The social media team updated all social media channels constantly during the event and the opening and closing ceremonies. This form of communication will be used more extensively in 2016 with a focus and emphasis on reposts on more well-known sponsor and partner sites. **The**



**Foundation's Executive Committee this year partnered with The USC Department of Sports and Entertainment Management, Dr. Khalid Ballouli, to create a class project for a Masters level social media course with the objective of analyzing the event's Social Media presence and developing a plan/strategy to increase Social Media presence.** Though not fully implemented this year, the recommendations made by these **USC Master's students will help our foundation expand this area of focus in 2016.**

### Social Media Statistics

Social Media Medium	Number of Likes/Followers	Number of Posts Made during Campaign
Twitter	187	82 posts (in 4 months)
Facebook	1526	72 posts (in 4 months)
Instagram	183	30 posts





## 7. VOLUNTEERS

a. **The key factor to the success of this 2015 event was the selfless support of our more than 500 volunteers.** As stated previously, our volunteers were a significant strength for this year's event. The committee assigned a Volunteer Coordinator who was responsible for communicating with various groups and individuals to provide them with the training and information they needed to safely support our event. Volunteers were asked to register at the Foundations main website to assist with accountability of volunteers and ensure that the coordinator could communicate with them. **Additionally, communication was facilitated by email, telephone, volunteer training sessions and personal contact.** In the coming years, volunteer support will continue to be the key to our success. The following were the main organizations volunteering to support this year's event: Sysco Food Services of Columbia, Lexington High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC), University of South Carolina (USC) Army ROTC, Indian Waters Council Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, SCNG, RunHard Columbia, RWB Team, Fort Jackson Victory Spouses Club and Drill Sergeants Academy, USC HRTM and 101 classes, Gamecocks sports to include: beach volleyball, women's volleyball, softball, track and field, swimming and diving, baseball, men's and women's basketball and multiple fraternity and sorority organizations.

b. Most volunteers worked shifts averaging approximately 4 hours. **This equates to 2,000 hours of service, not counting executive committee members who were onsite for much longer (10-15+ hour on average).** This 2000+ hours total increases when you include the over 750 volunteer hours spent in planning meetings leading up to the actual event. If you equate this to a minimum wage rate of pay the personnel support cost to put on this run & walk each year would exceed \$20,000.



**David and Christina Kerr, outstanding leadership and performance in support of T2T SC.**



**USC Volunteers filling coolers for water stations**



**T2T SC Leadership: David Kerr, Mike Sonefeld, Jack Oehm, Tim Goldman, and Dawn Yamashiro**



**Fort Jackson soldiers boarding over 10 USC buses**



**Volunteers providing food for runners after event**



## 8. SUMMARY

**a. Event Tracking/Management:** This year we continued to build on the successes of 2014 with regard to event management and resource tracking. **This event was managed through a very large cooperative group of professionals who volunteer their time to make the event a success each year. The event is managed through a central operations manager who reports to the Vice-Chairman of Operations ensuring that the many different pieces are brought together and executed on schedule on the day of the event.** The overall event process was managed through the use of monthly committee meetings through July 2015 and then biweekly meetings in the month of August and weekly meetings in September. These committee meetings provided for the coordination and oversight of the event and identified critical tasks that needed to be accomplished. Most importantly these meetings assigned responsibility and deadlines for the accomplishment of each task associated with the successful execution of the event. However, each Committee group also held meetings within their own area of responsibility outside of the regular scheduled meetings.



**A thank you lunch hosted by the Liberty Tap Room Restaurant for the USC Transportation Department. Outstanding support and could not have been successful without their positive leadership.**

**b. Run & Walk Event Management Support:** This year Eggplant Events Production became a part of the Tunnels to Towers South Carolina Team. For more than 15 years Eggplant Events has proudly worked with numerous Community Events, both large and small. What started off as a smaller role of logistics for planning the Start and Finish line management has blossomed into a leadership role for 2016. **Eggplant Events will support the Tunnels to Towers Planning Team in many areas with a goal to enhance the planning procedures while streamlining the Team's efforts.** With their knowledge of working on Large Community Events, we will increase the event's overall impact on our Community.

**c. City of Columbia Support:** Prior coordination with the City of Columbia Police and Fire Departments was critical to the safe execution of this event and could not have been successful without the untiring support of **Chief Holbrook of Columbia Police Department and Chief Jenkins of the Columbia Fire Department.** Both Departments had a staff member assigned to the committee who were authorized to participate and make recommendations and decisions for their Departments' support. These decisions included, but were not limited to: road closings, resource requests, display vehicles, security procedures and impacts of the run & walk on local businesses. **The Columbia Police Department was also able to enlist other responder agencies to support.**

**d. Execution Matrix:** A project timeline and event diagrams (attached) were published to ensure that all tasks were tracked and completion of the task was documented. **With the inclusion of the After Celebration, this timeline/tracker is critically important during the week leading up to the race (September 13-18, 2015) and served as the execution matrix for the entire event.** Also as the Event Celebration was not located in close proximity to the run & walk start/finish, it was critical to assign responsibility under operations to a single coordinator at each location, which allowed the



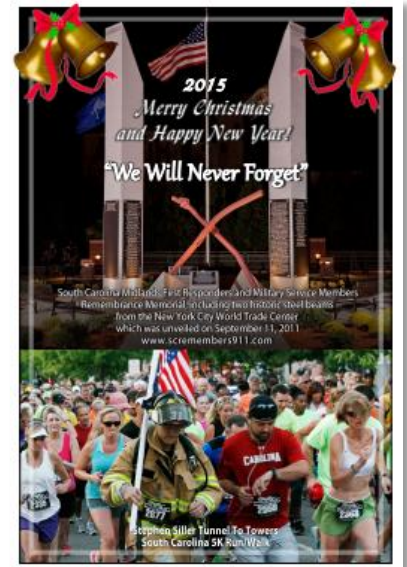
Operations Manager to maintain a **general focus on the “Big Picture”** to keep the overall event on schedule. This approach was very successful!

## 9. STEPHEN SILLER TUNNEL TO TOWERS, NYC, SUPPORT - THE STEPHEN SILLER TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION

New York assigned a single point of contact for coordination of South Carolina’s requirements. Their support included many varied tasks and support functions. **Some of these tasks included registration website updates, coordination and reporting of registration, sending out of e-blasts to race participants, acquiring volunteer and race T-shirts, processing of all donations, and invoice payments.** This team member was based out of Charlotte, North Carolina, but attended all of the Committee meetings held in South Carolina either in person or via conference call. This support was critical to ensuring that all the proper insurance for the event was available and addressed any legal or Foundation by-law questions or concerns with the parent foundation. This relationship and this representative is critically important to the continued success of future events here in South Carolina!

## 10. LONG TERM STRATEGIES/INITIATIVES

a. **Sponsor Outreach:** Our committee has already begun engaging our sponsors from last year and will continue to grow our sponsorship base. This year our Foundation sent out over 600 holiday cards to everyone that had a piece in planning, executing or sponsoring the 2015 event. This card thanked them for their support of our efforts and announced the date of next year’s event. Our committee’s sponsorship chairman, Dan Hennigan, continues to meet with and reach out to potential sponsors for 2016. **Additionally, this annual report will also be used to tell the story of our event, while helping potential future sponsors see the value to those sponsors and their customers.**



2015 Christmas Card

b. **Participant Engagement:** Using the race participant database the committee will begin sending out e-blast announcements to 2016 race participants to promote and increase early registration and word of mouth interest. **We also continue to work to improve our Social Media exposure across the State.** One tool that the committee will continue to use and expand on is the publication of e-newsletter to update those interested on the progress towards the 2016 event. Lastly, we continue to engage the First Responder and Military communities to increase interest and participation in the 2016 event.

c. **State Run Ranking:** The 2014 run made it into the top 20 runs in all of South Carolina in only its second year. Through our committee’s efforts and the efforts of all of our volunteers, the 2015 run was again ranked in the top 20. This again was without officially registering and counting our military participants who ran in formation in our overall participant numbers. **In the coming year, we intend to strive to include 1,500 +/- military runners in our official registration numbers.** With this and by growing our overall participant base we can meet our goal of someday being the number one largest race in South Carolina!



## NATIONAL SPONSORS & PARTNERS



A PROUD PROGRAM OF

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON 1962 CHARITABLE TRUST



Fort Jackson 282<sup>nd</sup> Army Band plays for T2T SC Run & Walk Event



Opening Ceremony while Veterans and Band Members look on



## SOUTH CAROLINA STEPHEN SILLER TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN & WALK LOCAL SPONSORS & PARTNERS

97.5 WCOS

Good things  
come from  
**Sysco**



We Are Columbia

**LIVINGSTON**  
INSURANCE AGENCY

**Michelob  
ULTRA**

MIDLANDS  
**orthopaedics, p.a.**  
*Advanced Options. Skilled Specialists.*

South Carolina  
**BLUE**  
Here For You

**92.1 FM  
The Palm**

MUSIC  
FARM

COLUMBIA SC  
FAMOUSLY HOT

**WISIO**

**GATTIS**  
PROFESSIONAL AUDIO

**LEXINGTON  
COUNTY**  
**BLOW FISH**

**KSS**  
KEY SAFETY SYSTEMS

**Walgreens**

**FritoLay**  
Good fun!

**Tin Roof**  
A LIVE MUSIC JOINT

**Hilton**  
COLUMBIA CENTER

**Hampton Inn**  
DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

**line, inc**  
*Old Fashioned Community Newspapers*

**GREGORY  
ELECTRIC  
COMPANY, INC**

**optec**  
DISPLAYS, INC.

**WHEELER**  
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST

**BORN IN  
THE CAROLINAS**  
SINCE 1898

94.3 FM  
**THE DUDE**



# Letter of Appreciation

The 2015 Tunnel To Towers South Carolina 5K Run & Walk Committee members are very appreciative of your support for our event that took place on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Your significant contribution and generosity will help support our First Responders & Military Service Members, both in South Carolina and throughout our nation. Also, we want to thank the many volunteers that sacrificed their time to make our event a total success.

**Save The Date:** Our next event will be on Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7pm. We look forward to your participation while we continuing to strengthen our relationship for years to come.

*"We Must Never Forget"*



*Mike*  
**Mike Sonefeld**  
Irmo Fire Chief  
Vice Chairman  
17thCav@irmofire.org  
(803) 513-8148

*Don*  
**Daniel C. Hennigan**  
U.S. Army Retired  
Memorial Founder and Chairman  
danielchennigan@gmail.com  
(803) 834-1331

*David*  
**David Kerr**  
Lexington County  
Public Safety Director  
Vice Chairman  
kerrt2tscrun@gmail.com  
(803) 479-5095

If you have any sponsorships questions please contact Jamie Lomas:

Jamie@EggplantEvents.com

# STEPHEN SILLER TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN & WALK SOUTH CAROLINA

5  
1  
0  
2

## APPENDIX



Participants say the Pledge of Allegiance before the Run & Walk

***Save the Date!***  
***Friday, September 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.***





The USA Track and Field certified race route begins near the SC Midlands First Responders and Military Service Members Historic Remembrance Memorial next to the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

on Lincoln Street. It will travel down Blossom Street, across the Blossom Street Bridge, into Cayce, up the Gervais Street Bridge and back to The Vista.



- **Race Starts** just past the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center at the intersection of Lincoln St. and Pendleton St., continue on Lincoln St. to Blossom St.
- Turn right on Blossom St., continue on Blossom St. over the bridge to Alexander Rd.
- Turn right on Alexander Rd., continue on Alexander Rd. to Gervais St.
- Turn right on Gervais St., continue on Gervais St. over the bridge to Lincoln St.
- Turn right on Lincoln St.
- **Race Finishes** at the First Responders and Military Service Members Historic Remembrance Memorial at the intersection of Senate St. and Lincoln St.



**VIP Area at the Tin Roof Restaurant**



**SYSCO of Columbia provides food, grills, equipment, and employee support.**

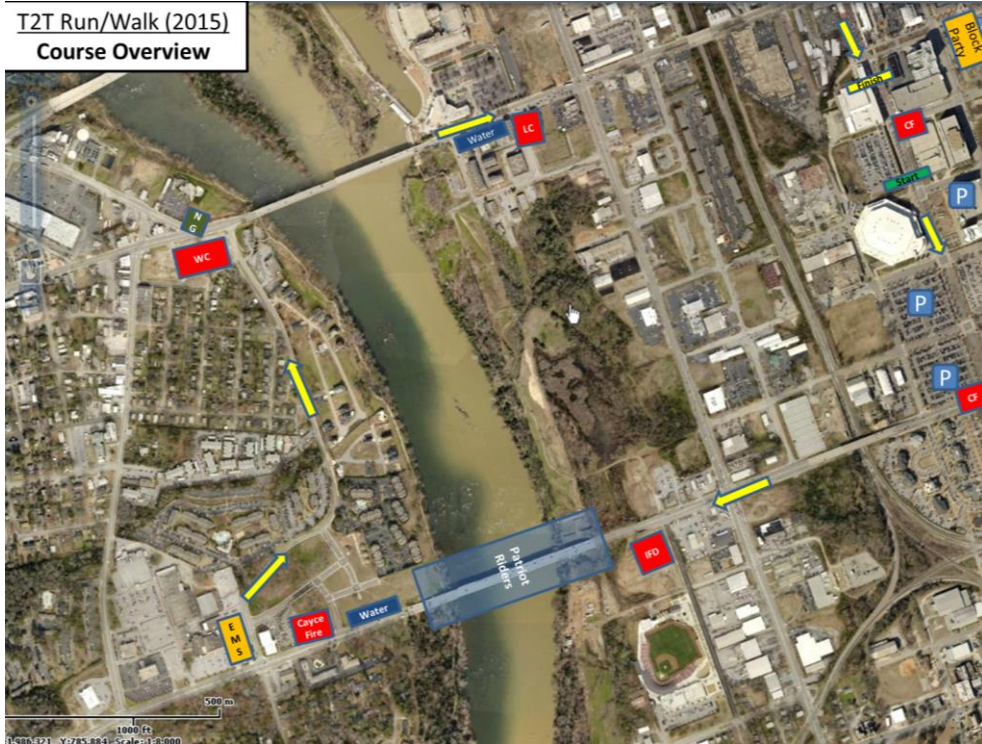


**After Celebration with Hilton Columbia Center and its logo in the background.**



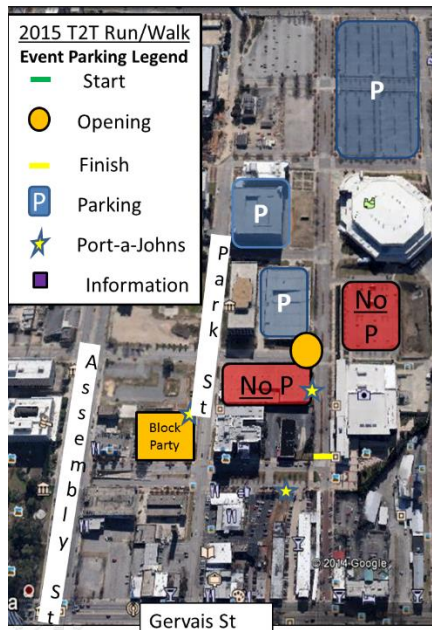


**T2T Run/Walk (2015)  
Course Overview**



**Tunnel to Towers Run/Walk  
Sept 18, 2015  
Finish Line Overview**





**Tunnel to Tower 2015 - Parking**  
(Free of Charge)

**SCDOT Garage (T2T Only)**  
On Pendleton & Lincoln Street across from Park St Garage (Access on Green St.) - **Opens at 6:00 pm**

**Discovery Garage (USC) (T2T Only)**  
Located on Green & Lincoln Streets across from SCDOT Garage (Access on Green St.) - **Opens at 5:00 pm**

**Colonial Life Outdoor Lots**  
Located on the corner of Lincoln and Blossom Streets adjacent to the Colonial Life Arena

**Note:** *Parking will be unavailable for this event in the Park St Garage and the Columbia Convention Center Parking lots.*



## News Release

TO: Reporters and Editors

September, 15 2015

RE: Event Parking

CONTACT: Jennifer Wilson, Lexington Medical Center Public  
Relations Manager 803-939-4512

Jawilson2@lexhealth.org

**Road Closures and Parking for the 2015 Tunnel to Towers South Carolina 5K Run & Walk Columbia, S.C.** – Please see the attached parking graphic for the upcoming Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers South Carolina 5K Run & Walk on the evening of Friday, September 18 in Columbia's Vista. This event will result in the closing of the following streets:

- Lincoln Street will be closed from Gervais to Green Street from 5:00 pm until 9:30 pm.
- Senate Street will be closed from Lincoln Street to Park Street from 5:00 pm until 10:00 pm.
- The outbound lane of Blossom Street, from Lincoln Street to Alexander Street in the City of Cayce, will be closed from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm.
- Alexander Street in the cities of Cayce and West Columbia will be closed from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm.
- The Gervais Street Bridge coming into the City of Columbia will be closed to vehicle traffic from 7:00pm until 8:00 pm.

Please see the attached map for parking instructions.

For more information about the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers South Carolina 5K Run & Walk, call Katie Shearouse at (803) 798-4979.

Follow news and information about September's Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers South Carolina 5K Run & Walk on social media:

Facebook: Tunnel to Towers South Carolina  
Twitter: @T2TSC  
Instagram: T2TSC

For more information on Tunnel to Towers and Stephen Siller, visit [Tunnel2Towers.org](http://Tunnel2Towers.org).

####



**Our Memorial Seal Story**

SC Midlands First Responder and Service Member Remembrance Memorial Unveiled on September 11, 2011  
Symbolism represents something larger, deeper than itself. It encourages introspection and interpretation, forging a bond between the idea and the individual.

The foundation of the First Responders seal is a circle, the universally recognized symbol of eternity and continuity. The flag and eagle wing on the seal momentarily break the circle as the eagle wing overtakes the circle as it descends to lift the fallen from the carnage. The beams transposed into upward turned, crossed swords which represent readiness for battle or conflict and military mightiness.

The eagle was a symbol born from men of action. It was given to those of lofty spirit, ingenuously, speed in comprehension and discrimination in matters of ambiguity. The eagle's wings are spread ("displayed") to symbolize the bearer's protector role as the gripping talons symbolize ruin to evildoers. An eagle leg borne on a seal signifies the "prayer upon others has been prayed upon."

The eagle and crossed swords on the First Responders Memorial Seal honor our nation's military. The thin blue line on Tower 2 represents law enforcement officers and the courage they find deep inside when facing insurmountable odds. The black background around the line was designed as a constant reminder of their fallen brother and sister officers.

The "Line" is what law enforcement officers protect, the barrier between anomic and a civilized society, order and chaos, respect for decency and lawlessness. Together they symbolize the camaraderie law enforcement officers share.

The "343" found on Tower One serves as a reminder of the 343 firefighters who gave their lives on 9/11. On September 11, 2010, Fireboat 343 went into service and was proudly named in honor of those 343 NYC firefighters who sacrificed their lives in service to their fellow citizens on September 11, 2001. Since then, firefighters and fire departments across the country and around the world proudly display "343" on their uniforms and equipment. It serves to affirm that their sacrifice will never be forgotten by fellow firefighters. It also symbolically challenges others to remember that firefighters knowingly risk their lives every day to protect their fellow citizens.

The blue "Star of Life" on the bottom of Tower One internationally represents all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) units and personnel.

The six branches of the star are symbols of the six main tasks executed by rescuers throughout the emergency chain: detection, reporting, response, on-scene care, care in transit and transfer to definitive care.

The area behind the towers is recessed with an American flag blowing in the breeze to represent that America is still the envy of the world and that our future remains strong, even after attack, on all that we stand for. By placing the flag at the back of the seal, we symbolically predict that the greatness of America continues to be in the future beyond 9/11.

The symbolism of the two broken pieces of the towers lying beneath the swords represents the wounds inflicted by our enemies on 9/11. The towers remain standing on the seal to represent that while wounded, America still stands tall, proud and strong, and will rise again.

The fallen portion of Tower 2 is the shape of the State of Pennsylvania with a dot marking the location where the people on Flight 93 thwarted the hijackers' plans on 9/11.

The fallen portion of Tower 1 is a pentagon shape inscribed with a 41 to honor the victims from the Pentagon. On the northeast corner of the Pentagon is the building's cornerstone. It was laid on September 11, 1941.

On the bottom left hand corner of Tower 2 is the number 66. The World Trade Center cornerstone was laid on September 11, 1966.

Many other symbols can be found within the Seal of the First Responders Memorial, but there is much more to be found within the memorial itself. As you honor the men and women of this memorial by visiting this new historic site, search for the hidden symbolism and messages that are there "in plain sight."

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

from  
your South Carolina Midlands First Responders & Military Service Members Remembrance Memorial & Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers South Carolina 5K Run/Walk Committee Members

Thank you for your time and generosity in support of our First Responders & Military Service Members 9/11 Historic Memorial & our Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers South Carolina 5K Run & Walk. We hope you will continue to participate and support our First Responders and Military Service Members in years to come.

**Please save the dates for our events in 2016!**

- **September 11, 2016:** Our 9/11 Annual Evening of Remembrance planned for 5:00 p.m. at the 9/11 Remembrance Memorial.
- **September 16, 2016:** Our Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers South Carolina 5K Run & Walk planned for 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to become a committee member, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

**Mike Sonefeld**  
U.S. Army Retired  
17th Cav/irmofire.org  
(803) 513-8148  
kshearouse@irmofire.org

**David Kerr**  
Lexington County  
Public Safety Director  
Vice Chairman  
kerrt2scrun@gmail.com  
(803) 479-5095

**Daniel C. Hennigan**  
Memorial Founder and Chairman  
danielchenhigan@gmail.com  
(803) 834-1331  
monicaekscott@gmail.com

**Please view our September 9/11 website, video, and our Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers South Carolina 5K Run & Walk website.**

[www.scremembers911.com](http://www.scremembers911.com)  
[www.T2TRunSC.org](http://www.T2TRunSC.org)



### South Carolina Tunnel To Towers 5K Run and Walk Challenge Coin

The Symbolism Behind the Tunnel To Towers 5K Run and Walk Challenge Coin  
 Through the use of symbolism, this challenge coin serves as visual representation of a more in-depth meaning than the pictures on the surface alone can tell. The images displayed on this coin capture the important elements of the Stephen Siller story combined with the determined, unwavering spirit of the people of South Carolina.

The foundation of the Tunnel To Towers 5K Run and Walk Challenge Coin is a circle, the universally recognized symbol of eternity and continuity. The American flag momentarily breaks the circle as a sign that the flag represents all Americans and always rises in a cross. The beams transposed into upward turned, crossed swords which signify readiness for battle or conflict and military mightiness. These swords also honor our nation's military.

Lady Columbia stands in the center of the towers to represent liberty, the spirit of our country and our American ideals. Lady Columbia originated as the female personification of the United States of America and her name was derived from Christopher Columbus. Many American geographical locations have been named after this majestic lady including our own capital city of Columbia, South Carolina.

The Tunnel To Towers 5K Run and Walk begins and ends in the city of Columbia near the First Responder's Memorial which honors the fallen men, women, and animals who were the first to serve our community.

Lady Columbia is advancing between the towers carrying the American flag high and reminding each of us to take the tragedies of 9/11 and move on toward triumph. Each of us should find a way to make a positive change in ourselves and our communities to show respect to those whose lives were given in service to our community.

Lady Columbia is also shown with a sword pointing downward in her right hand. The downward pointing sword is an honor to those who fought and died in battle, consequently depicting that their light is over.

The thin blue line on Tower 2 represents law enforcement officers and the courage they find deep inside when facing insurmountable odds. The black background around the line serves as a constant reminder of their fallen brothers and sisters. The "Line" is what law enforcement officers protect, the barrier between anarchy and a civilized society, order and chaos, respect for decency and lawlessness. Together they symbolize the camaraderie all law enforcement officers share.

The "343" found on Tower 1 serves as a reminder of the 343 firefighters who gave their lives on 9/11. On September 11, 2010, Fireboat 343 went into service and was proudly named in honor of those 343 NYC firefighters who sacrificed their lives in service to their fellow citizens on September 11, 2001. This is a perfect example of tragedy to triumph. Firefighters and departments across the country and around the world continue to proudly display "343" on their uniforms and equipment. These symbols of support serve to affirm their love for the fallen firefighters, but also challenge others to remember that firefighters' knowledge risk their lives every day to protect their fellow citizens.

The "1167" found in the bottom center is a reminder of the 416 total first responders who gave their lives while responding to the tragedy on September 11, 2001.

The blue "Star of Life" on the bottom of Tower 1 internationally represents all Emergency Medical Service (EMS) units and personnel. The six main tasks assigned by rescuers throughout the emergency chain, detection, reporting, response, on-scene care, care in transit and transfer to definitive care.

The symbolism of the two broken pieces of the towers lying beneath the swords represents the wounds inflicted by our enemies on 9/11. The towers remain standing on the sea to represent that while wounded, America still stands tall, proud and strong, and will rise again.

The fallen portion of Tower 2 is the shape of the State of Pennsylvania with a dot marking the location where the passengers on Flight 93 crashed the plane on the bottom left hand corner of Tower 2, is the number 66. The World Trade Center's construction was bid on September 11, 1966.

The fallen portion of Tower 1 is a pentagon shape inscribed with a "41" to honor the victims from the Pentagon. On the northeast corner of the Pentagon is the building's cornerstone. It was laid on September 11, 1941.

The Palmetto tree and crescent moon on the reverse side of the challenge coin symbolize that South Carolina stands with the rest of America in our resolve to turn tragedy into triumph. South Carolinians will always do their part.

"Inspiration is My Motivation" illustrates that our community is inspired by the character, lives, and determination of our first responders. They motivate each of us to improve ourselves. This phrase also encourages the runners and walkers of our Tunnel To Towers 5K Run and Walk to use the inspiration of our local heroes to fuel your physical efforts and performance.

"Pursue Me Do It" The Latin form of "Pay It Forward" is etched underneath the Palmetto tree, reminding each of us to do something good for someone else in response to a good deed done on our behalf. Our community's first responders consistently provide services for us and we can honor them by reaching back to our own community. Personally, the saying can be found in Roman numerals on the reverse side of the challenge coin. The word "Pursue" is the Latin word for "follow" and "Me" is the Latin word for "myself". The word "Do It" is the Latin word for "do it for others".

"I am a Hero" is a phrase that was used by a first responder who was killed in the line of duty. It is a reminder that we are all heroes in our own way. It is a reminder that we are all heroes in our own way. It is a reminder that we are all heroes in our own way.

"From Tragedy to Triumph" reminds us that even though our country and its people were beset with tragedy, caused by the tragedy of 9/11, we did not remain broken. Our unconquerable spirit literally fought back to support each other, care for victims' families and to rebuild America found the will to survive and not continue to thrive!

Coin designed by Tunnel To Towers SC Committee Members Ron and Sallie Champ, DiAnne Rawl, and Laurie Stokoe. Carved by Ron Champ, Memorial Design. Challenge Coin unveiled Sept. 19, 2014.

### 2015 Year in Review



Bluffton FD, South Carolina receives Siller Steel Award for 2015.



United States Drill Sergeant Academy Participants

Firefighter pushes local disabled citizen during the run.



WIS/10 Anchor Judi Gatson interviews Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Diane Rawl, and local children.



Gary Sinise's Lt. Dan Band performs for all active, reserve, guard, and retired military and DOD personnel on September 5, 2015 at Fort Jackson's Hilton Field. Gary Sinise also visited our Historical 9/11 First Responders and Military Services Memorial, and local Veterans at Dorn VA Hospital.



Above: Mayor Steve Benjamin issues a special proclamation from the City of Columbia declaring the Tunnel to Towers SC run/walk date each year in the capital city.  
 Below: The Tunnel to Towers Foundation donates \$200,000 to the South Carolina National Guard flood relief efforts.

9/11 NEWS Thursday, November 5, 2015 / A-6

### TUNNEL 2 TOWERS DONATES \$20K TO FLOOD RELIEF



The Stephen Siller Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation presents a donation to the South Carolina National Guard's Service Member and Family Care program in West Columbia on Oct. 23, 2015. Featured from left to right are Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, the adjutant general for S.C., thanks Dan Hennigan and Jack O'Neil, along with representatives for their program in West Columbia on Oct. 23, 2015. Featured from left to right are Peter O'Neil, T2T Foundation; Imo



## TUNNEL 2 TOWERS DONATES \$20K TO FLOOD RELIEF



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY LT. COL. CINDI KING

The Stephen Siller Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation presents a donation to the South Carolina National Guard's Service Member and Family Care directorate to help those Guard families who suffered heavy losses from the floods that impacted South Carolina in October 2015. SCANG

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, the adjutant general for S.C., thanks Dan Hennigan and Jack Oehm, along with representatives, for their generosity at a presentation ceremony in West Columbia on Oct. 23, 2015. Pictured from left to right are Peter O'Tool, T2T Foundation; Irmo

Fire Chief Mike Sonefeld; Billie Baca of Home Depot, Harbison location; Jack Oehm, T2T Foundation; Maj. Gen. Bob Livingston; Dan Hennigan, T2T S.C. Chairman; and Bob Brickley, SCNG CSM.

## TUNNEL TO TOWERS RUN



MARK BELLUNE | CHRONICLE

More than 3,500 runners participated in the 3rd annual S.C. Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers 5K Run Friday night at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in

Columbia. The run honors South Carolina first responders and first responders that lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. The run also raises money to buy "smart homes"

equipped for triple and quadruple amputees injured in the War on Terror. Read about and see more photos from the event on [Page A7](#).



PHOTOS BY MARK BELLUNE | CHRONICLE

Runners start the T2T 5K Friday evening outside the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. More than 3,500 runners participated in the Sept. 18 event that featured teams of EMTs, firefighters, law enforcement and many others who ran in honor of those who gave their all on Sept. 11, 2001.



## 5K run honors those who gave their all for us

BY MARK BELLUNE & JERRY BELLUNE  
jerrybellune@yahoo.com

Jane Caughman and Diane Rawl know the fear of one's child going to war. Jane Caughman's son Thomas Caughman, 20, of Lexington, was killed in an ambush in Iraq on June 9, 2004.

Diane Rawl's son Ryan Rawl, 30, of Lexington, was killed June 20, 2012, in Afghanistan.

Both mothers spoke encouraging words to 3,500 runners and their families and friends in the 3rd annual Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers 5K Run - S.C. last week at the Convention Center in Columbia.

Siller was the New York firefighter who ran in full bunker gear from the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the World Trade Center Sept. 11, 2001, and gave his life to save others.

Both mothers thanked 1,500 runners from Fort Jackson and other military bases, firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medical technicians, other first responders and civilians for participating in the 9-11



Neighbors of Diane Rawl greet friends before the race Friday evening. They were running for Team Ryan Rawl. Rawl, of Lexington, was killed serving in Afghanistan in 2012.

commemorative to raise money for homes for wounded warriors.

"For the ones of us who have lost loved ones," Mrs. Caughman said, "I promise you this: as a Gold Star Mother, our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, will never be forgotten."

Event organizer Dan Henningan of Lexington said the turnout has been amazing. The first event two years ago attracted 800 runners, a little more than

half the number that came this year.

Dressed in the heavy firefighter bunker gear that some firefighters ran the 5K event in, retired New York Fire Department battalion commander Jack Oehm reminded the runners about the sacrifices first responders and military men and women make to keep us safe and defend us.

"These guys in front of me put their lives voluntarily in harm's way so we can live in the world's greatest country," he said.



TOP: Jane Caughman and Diane Rawl hold pictures of their sons who were killed in the War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan before the start of the T2T 5K Run/Walk on Friday evening. Thomas Caughman, 20, of Lexington, was killed in Iraq June 9, 2004. Ryan Rawl, 30, of Lexington, was killed in Afghanistan June 20, 2012.

ABOVE: Firefighters and other runners listen to the National Anthem Friday evening before the race.

RIGHT: Firefighters and other runners pause in prayer before the race.





***We Will Never Forget***

***First Responders***

***Military Service Members***

*See You*

*at the Start Line*

**Friday, September 16, 2016  
at 7:00 p.m.**