

REACH



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'Day's Pay' effort will buy fire truck for New York

Todd Nelson, BHI

Farmer Margaret Hue was sitting on her tractor after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, sorting through some strong emotions — surprise, shock, anger, sorrow and depression. She knew almost everyone felt the same things, but she was surprised to learn that even a couple of weeks later a majority of Americans still felt as depressed as did she.

She had heard about the Day's Pay effort in World War II, and her thoughts kept coming back to that as a way to make a difference. "As did nearly everyone else, I wanted to help," Hue said. "There were many groups soliciting funds to respond to the attacks. But I wanted to do something tangible, and people kept talking about the World War II Day's Pay effort. Then I saw on the news a fire truck being lifted from the rubble of the World Trade Center."



Photo courtesy of M. Peterson

New York City lost nearly 90 emergency service vehicles in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. The Day's Pay for the USA effort will raise \$1 million to purchase a 75-foot ladder truck similar to this one being pulled from the rubble. It will also purchase hazardous material response suits for emergency response organizations in the Tri-Cities region.

As Hue studied the issue, she found out that New York lost nearly 90 emergency service vehicles on Sept. 11. New York — like most cities — is self-insured and faces a \$47 million bill to replace the destroyed vehicles.

Kelly Watson of Richland was one of the many people sympathetic to Hue's desire to do something tangible — so much so that Watson agreed to help mobilize others in the community.

Their plan — "A Day's Pay for the USA" — was unveiled exactly one month after the attack and will be carried out on Thursday, Nov. 8.

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'Day's Pay' effort will buy fire truck for New York, cont.

Two-pronged plan

The campaign has two parts. The first objective is to raise \$1 million to buy a new fire truck for New York, as well as some hazardous material response equipment for the regional Tri-Cities Fire Association. "We're doing this by asking Tri-Citians to donate a day's pay on Thursday, Nov. 8," said Hue. At Hanford, it's estimated that about \$2 million would be raised if everyone gave day's pay.

The second part of the plan is to stimulate the local economy by promoting a "shop Tri-Cities" day. On that day, participating merchants will give a portion of their day's sales toward the Day's Pay effort.

"Even though we weren't directly affected by the attacks, we're feeling the impact through our economy," said Watson. "We can help counter that effect by making Thursday, Nov. 8, the biggest shopping day of the year."

Several Hanford contractors are offering payroll deductions for employees who want to contribute to the Day's Pay for the USA effort. Bechtel Hanford, Bechtel National, CH2M HILL Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford are offering employees a chance to make a one-time contribution through payroll deduction or allowing them to spread the deductions over an eight-week period.

No overhead

Other Hanford contractor employees will have the opportunity to make cash contributions, and Hanford volunteers are helping organize and run the campaign.

Contributions may also be made at any Banner Bank. Send checks to "TCFA — Days Pay USA, Banner Bank, 8200 Gage Blvd., Richland, WA 99352. The Tri-County Fire Association is sponsoring the campaign so that all contributions are tax-deductible.

Through Oct. 31, Fluor Project Hanford team employees may also cash out their Personal Time Bank hours and mail that money to the disaster relief agency of their choice, including Day's Pay for the USA.

In addition, all the money donated will go toward the fire truck and equipment. "We wanted to make sure that every cent donated went directly toward relief and none toward overhead or administration," said Hue. "Everyone working on this effort is donating their time." Any costs will be covered by the sale of T-shirts with the Day's Pay for the USA logo.

Volunteers are still needed for many tasks, including helping to staff tables at key Hanford locations to collect donations. To volunteer, contact The Volunteer Center of Benton and Franklin Counties at 582-0631.

Any business that would like to participate may call the Richland Chamber of Commerce at 946-1651. ♦



The Day's Pay concept harkens from World War II, when 51,000 Hanford Engineering Works employees contributed \$300,000 to purchase a B-17 for the war effort. A mural depicting the plane, christened "Day's Pay," is on the wall of the Art Dawald Gymnasium at Richland High.