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OPINION

TODAY'S EDITORIAL

Unsung heroes are getting their due

July 13, 2002

Our position: *With its new memorial, Crown Hill Cemetery will remind Hoosiers of the heroism of our public safety officers.*

The blood bank lines have long since dwindled. The World Trade Center clean-up site officially closed six weeks ago. American flags have gradually faded from porches, windows and vehicles.

In the 10 months since misguided fanatics took more than 3,000 lives, many seem to have forgotten, or put out of mind at least, the victims and heroes who were made that day.

Crown Hill Cemetery President Keith Norwalk hasn't; and he's doing something about it that promises to last a long time.

On Sept. 14, Norwalk will dedicate the Heroes of Public Safety Section in the cemetery. Gov. Frank O'Bannon, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson and a 10-person committee are expected to help.

An 11-by-14-foot monument will be erected in the section, and free and discounted burial ground in the memorial area is being offered to current and retired Indiana public safety officers and their families. Officers killed in the line of duty will receive free funeral services as well.

Crown Hill's leaders should be commended for commissioning this project. Those who lost their lives while protecting others deserve full recognition as the heroes they are. One of the best places for that to happen is at Crown Hill's storied cemetery.

Those to be honored are unsung servants who do the state and the nation proud through their sacrifices. They remind us that public safety officers who served not only on Sept. 11 but on every day of the year are protectors of our lives and property.

Americans must heal the wounds of Sept. 11 and go on, but as the new memorial at Crown Hill will remind us, we must never forget the people who became heroes on that heartbreaking day and those who continue to be heroes each day since.

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