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Firefighters at Raleigh's Central Station joined fellow firefighters at the city's 26 other stations for a moment of silence at 9:59 a.m. Friday, the moment the south tower of the World Trade Center collapsed.

CHUCK LIDDY, Staff photo by Chuck Liddy

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## In the Triangle, honors mark a bleak day

### Silence, service recall Sept. 11

**BY LYNN BONNER, Staff writer**

Firefighters, politicians and students in the Triangle observed the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with quiet memorials and volunteerism.

At 9:59 Friday morning, Raleigh firefighters stood at attention outside their stations, marking the time the World Trade Center's South Tower collapsed. The silent observance was in remembrance of those who died in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington.

N.C. State University students were encouraged Friday to write letters to troops serving overseas, the day after student Republican clubs prepared a memorial to the victims. On Thursday night, NCSU College Republicans and Meredith College Republicans placed nearly 3,000 U.S. flags in the university's Brickyard to commemorate lives lost eight years ago.

About 40 students from the two campuses helped set up the memorial and guard it overnight, said Ches McDowell, chairman of NCSU's College Republicans.

So many students wanted to write to the troops Friday that the group ran out of paper, McDowell said.

"We don't want people to forget," he said. "It's still impacting our lives today."

Students at seven other campuses around the state erected similar memorials.

For the first time, Americans were asked to observe Sept. 11 as national day of service. This year, President Barack Obama signed a law designating Sept. 11 as a day for service and remembrance.

U.S. Rep. Brad Miller, a Raleigh Democrat, went to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, where he sorted and labeled food with student volunteers from Campbell University. The food bank, in Raleigh, serves 34 North Carolina counties.

Gov. Beverly Perdue planted collard greens for the hungry outside the governor's mansion in downtown Raleigh, calling it an appropriate activity for the day. She was publicizing an effort that encourages gardeners to grow extra produce and donate it to the needy.

"It's a day to think about being better than we are," she said.

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