

# **SOUNDS OF SILENCE: Whispering winds, words remember lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001**

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## **"The Sound Of Silence"**

*Hello darkness, my old friend  
I've come to talk with you again  
Because a vision softly creeping  
Left its seeds while I was sleeping  
And the vision that was planted in my brain  
Still remains  
Within the sound of silence*

*In restless dreams I walked alone  
Narrow streets of cobblestone  
'Neath the halo of a streetlamp  
I turned my collar to the cold and damp  
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light  
That split the night  
And touched the sound of silence*

*And in the naked light I saw  
Ten thousand people, maybe more  
People talking without speaking  
People hearing without listening  
People writing songs that voices never share  
No one dare  
Disturb the sound of silence..."*

**- Parts of Simon and Garfunkel song, "Sounds of Silence," 1964**





**GLEN CARBON - Edwardsville and Glen Carbon Fire Department** members and police paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with moving words and moments of silence on Sunday at Sunset Hills Cemetery.

**Glen Carbon Fire Chief Ralph Well** said Sept. 11, 2001, will be a day for this generation like Dec. 7, 1941, was for a few generations back. It is day that will always be remembered and people will always recall what they were doing when tragedy struck the Twin Towers in New York City, he said.

Well said he was proud of some protections and alliances that have come since Sept. 11, 2001, with firefighters and police officers. Glen Carbon, Edwardsville, Maryville, Troy and Wood River all the area fire and police departments work closely together today in mutual support for difficult fire and emergency situations, he said.



**Edwardsville Fire Chief Rick Welle** said people's minds are flooding back to Sept. 11, 2001, this week with so many images, documentaries, television shows, pictures and videos of the Twin Towers going down.

Welle built the theme of his speech around "silence."

"Silence sometimes is welcome," he said. With that, he asked for a moment of silence for those in attendance before beginning his presentation.

He said for him, what he remembers the most when the Twin Towers were attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, was "the silence."

"Today we pay tribute to those who died senselessly on that day 15 years ago today," he said. "For me, I was with a group of firefighters in Jacksonville, IL, and the silence of those firefighters when this happened told it all," he said. "On the way back to Collinsville, it was all silence. There was no radio signal and the skies were grounded for fear of another attack. In Collinsville where Scott Air Force Base planes come over, there were no planes flying that day."

"I try to comprehend losing the 433 firefighters, 60 police officers, eight paramedics and close to 2,500 innocent citizens on that Sept. 11, 2001, day," Welle said. "Having been



entrusted for public safety, we must remain diligent and ensure the innocent among us are not silenced by the action of a few.”



