

Let Freedom Ring



Don't let the unoriginal title of this piece be taken for granted as the effort and pride associated with the following project was something to behold. You see, the City of New York is in the process of rebuilding many of the buildings that were destroyed as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. And that, my friends, is exactly what they should do. Well, it just so happens that our crack salesman for that area of the country, Thad Hicks, was able to persuade some contractors and engineers to use our soil pipe and fittings for the 104 floor



Freedom Tower, currently under construction. Keeping all of this in mind, Tyler Pipe was commissioned – actually we were asked if we would and we gladly said yes – to put some “commemorative” lettering on certain sticks of pipe exclusively for this project.

The special lettering that was requested was to read “We Will Never Forget 09/11/01” and will be installed on the 9th, 10th and 11th floors of the Freedom Tower – the largest of the buildings to be rebuilt. Although Tyler and Wade will supply the plumbing for the entire building, these three floors will have special significance. The truth be told, there was a considerable amount of pride along with some extra painstaking detail that went into the production of these few bundles of pipe (13 in all). Several people had a hand in the success of this venture.

Greg Simmons, Asst. General Manager, gladly confirmed that we could/would do this and gave the go ahead. Dan Nelson, North Plant Manager, conferred with his management team concerning the overall setup and implementation of the project. Jimmy Allen, North Plant Pipe Manager, set in place assurances that all of the facets of production were operationally sound while Ross Caldwell (Stationary Pipe Units Supervisor) and Jason Moore (Pipe Finishing Supervisor), respectively, ensured that the pipe production and mill room finishing operations ran smoothly. Marion Howell, Engineering Manager, deserves special recognition for the extended amount of time he invested in setting up the programs that allowed the pipe stenciling to be evenly balanced and spaced across each pipe. Kudos go out to Randy Dean, Quality Inspector, for adding a little extra “touch” of care for the quality of the finished products. Tommy Stone and Donald Rector from Shipping, guaranteed that the pipe bundles were handled carefully while being staged before shipment. And lastly but definitely not least, a round of applause is in order for the meticulous workmanship and extra effort displayed by the pipe operators, bundlers and finishing personnel who were, in essence, responsible for making sure



that this special project would be completed with pride, dignity and quality. These team members are featured in the adjacent photos.



Needless to say, there were enough gold hats milling around the project one would have thought that they were handing out bonuses. Felix Gomez, Pipe Finishing Team Member, could hardly maneuver his fork lift around the amassed managers and supervisors. But why not! This was an opportunity for Tyler Pipe to be a part of and be represented with the spirit of America's past and future – not unlike our company itself. Think about it. In 100 years or more, if the walls were stripped away, these lengths of pipe with this meaningful wording will still proudly be visible.

As we see it, for all who were involved with this endeavor, it was an honor. *Article by Pat Baldwin*



Melvin Phelps

Alton McGhee



Lorenzo Aguirre

Willie Williams



Jessie Harper

Francisco Ruiz