

# Climbing for Heroes

**O**n September 11, Karli Buhr plans to pay tribute to first responders in a special way. The 11-year-old from Thatcher, Arizona, will take part in a memorial stair climb. Events like this honor the emergency workers who sacrificed their lives to help others on September 11, 2001.



Karli Buhr

On that day, **terrorists** flew two planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Firefighters, police officers, and other first responders quickly arrived at the scene. As terrified people ran from each of the 110-story skyscrapers, emergency workers did the opposite. They entered the towers and climbed the stairs to try to save as many people as possible.

Meanwhile, terrorists flew a third plane into the Pentagon, the U.S. military headquarters

in Arlington, Virginia. A fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

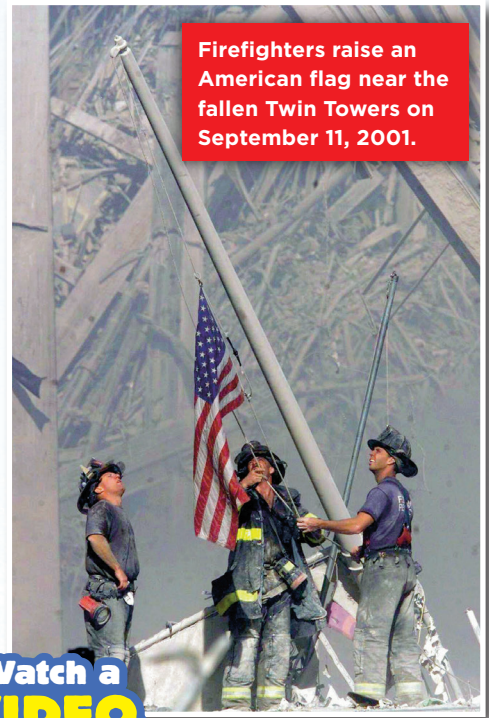
In total, nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks that day, now known as 9/11. That includes more than 400 firefighters, police officers, and paramedics who were killed when the Twin Towers collapsed.

## Coming Together

During memorial stair climbs, people honor first responders by climbing at least 2,071 steps—the same number that were in each of the Twin Towers. The events are held nationwide at stadiums, parking garages, and other places.

Karli plans to attend a stair climb at Eastern Arizona College for the second year in a row. Each participant is given a badge with the name and photo

Firefighters raise an American flag near the fallen Twin Towers on September 11, 2001.



## Watch a VIDEO

Learn more about what happened on 9/11.



of a first responder who died on 9/11. Last year, Karli climbed the stairs in honor of firefighter John F. Ginley.

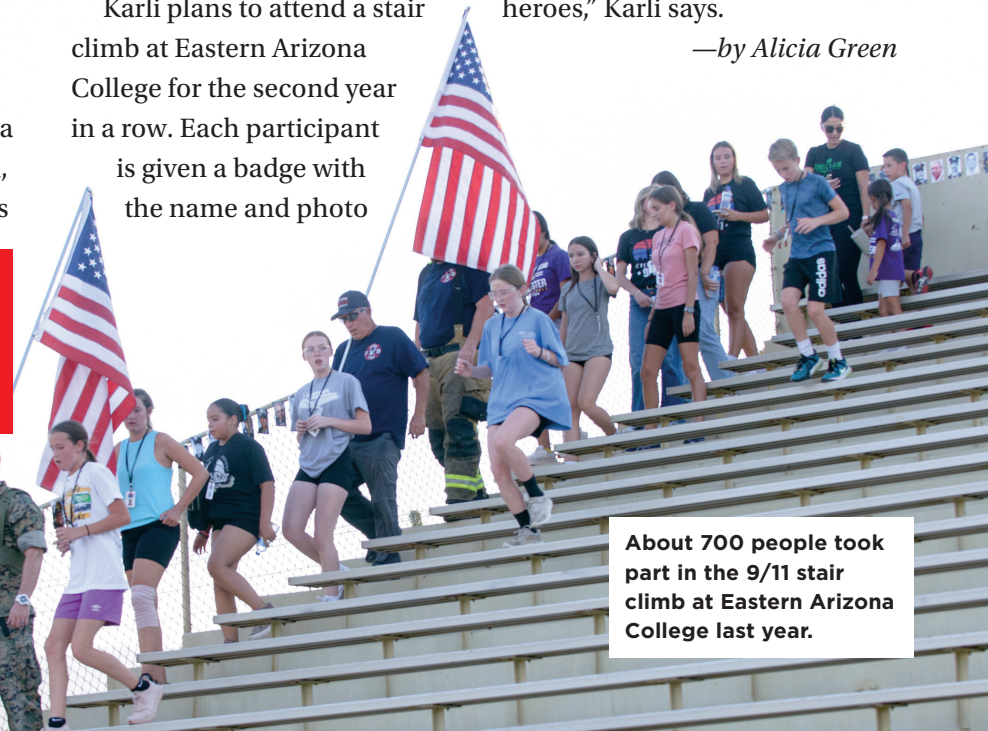
The event taught Karli about the bravery of first responders like Ginley and how the nation came together during the tragedy.

“It helps me learn more about that day and remember the heroes,” Karli says.

—by Alicia Green

## WORD TO KNOW

**terrorists** *noun, plural.* people who use violence to spread fear, gain power, or force a government to do something



About 700 people took part in the 9/11 stair climb at Eastern Arizona College last year.