

COME ON UP FOR THE RISING

Unlike most memorial sculptures, you can stand beneath the steel beams of "The Rising" in Kensico Dam Plaza and gaze at the heavens. "It is meant to impart feelings of awe and respect, of inspiration," says Frederic Schwartz, the memorial's SoHo-based architect. And, of loss. Each beam represents one of 109 county residents who died on 9/11, which intertwine and soar 80 feet skyward "to represent the community as one." They emerge from the "Circle of Remembrance"—stones engraved with the names, birthdates, and former residences of the deceased, and quotations from family members. A committee of artists, architects, and victims' relatives chose the design unanimously, back when its price tag was \$200,000. Five years and over \$900,000 later, on September 11, 2006, it was officially dedicated to victims amid family, friends, and a Bruce Springsteen tribute band. (Though "The Rising" has been associated with the popular Boss ballad, Schwartz insists he named it before the album's release.) This year has brought ups and downs: "The Rising" won awards from the county, the Society of Engineering, and the Institute of Architecture, but two more Westchester residents were added to the 9/11 death toll. The town plans to insert two new memorial tablets into the circle over the next few months, so we can remember them, too.

—A.G.