Marc Killam, treasurer of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, Venice campus' Veterans Exchange group, center, speaks to SCF Venice Provost Darlene Wedler-Johnson, third from left, while folding the Flag of Heroes with Veteran's Exchange Vice President Sean Corbett, right, following a 9/11 remembrance ceremony on campus Friday.

SCF marks 10th anniversary of 9/11

By ANNE KLOCKENKEMPER
STAFF WRITER

SOUTH VENICE — With the moment of silence, scattered raindrops began to fall. A bell tolled 11 times, signaling the end of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota's ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Close to 200 SCF students, faculty and staff — along with firefighters and EMTs from Sarasota County Fire Station 26 — gathered in a semicircle around the South Venice campus flagpoles just before 11 a.m. Friday for a short ceremony to remember those who died.

"We will never forget the tragedy of that dark September day. But let us also remember today that much more brings us together in this world than separates us," SCF Venice provost Darlene Wedler-Johnson said. "As we look back on Sept. 11, let us also look forward. Let us stand strongly united as we continue to work together at State College of Florida as an educational community valuing freedom of speech, liberty and respect for others — as an institution that confronts the ideology of hate and, through higher education, fosters a haven of hope and opportunity for all."

To honor those lost, the school planted two olive trees on campus.

"The trees, evergreens, will remind us of our 9/11 sisters and brothers whose memories will never fade," Wedler-Johnson said.

During the ceremony, the Veterans Exchange group on campus also presented three
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Sean Corbett, left, vice president of SCF Veterans Exchange group, holds the
Flag of Honor — which bears the names of everyone who lost their lives on the four
planes, in the Twin Towers and
at the Pentagon in place of
traditional stripes — which the
group is giving to the college,
while Veterans Exchange
Treasurer Marc Killian explains
that all proceeds from the
sale of such flags benefit
the families of victims, the
Wounded Warrior Project and
the museum at Ground Zero.

Students, faculty and staff, along with firefighters and paramedics from Sarasota County Fire Station 26, listen during SCF’s 9/11 commemoration ceremony Friday morning.

Above: State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota Provost Darlene Medlin Johnson speaks during a short ceremony recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

At left: Following a moment of silence, Sarasota County Firefighter/EMT Keith Pence unfurls a bell 9/11 Tribute to honor 9/11 commemoration ceremony Friday.

MARKS: SCF observes anniversary of 9/11

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special flags they pur-
chased for the school.
One, the Flag of the
Fallen, honors those
members of the armed
forces who have given
their lives to defend
and preserve freedom.
"This flag pays honor
to the sacrifice of the
5,276 service members
during the course of America’s history," said Marc Killian, the group’s treasurer, of the flag the group will unfurl during the ceremony.

Women who have fallen
in the line of duty in the
Afghanistan and Iraq
Theaters of Operation
since Sept. 1, 2001, as
well as to all those of
similar fate throughout
the course of America’s
history," said Sean Cor-
bett, Veterans Exchange
vice president.

Marc Killian, the
group’s treasurer, of-
fered the school’s flag
of honor and a flag of
Heroes. Where red and
white stripes normally
would be found, these
flags replace them with
lists of victims — the
2,976 from American
Airlines Flight 11 and 175,
United Airlines Flight
173, and 93, the Pentagon
and World Trade Center,
and 435 first responders
— including New York
City police, firefighters,
port authority workers and
more — who died in the
attacks.

"United in purpose
here and with thousands
of others around the
world, we make time
to remember those
whose lives were taken
or were injured, the first
responders who bravely
sacrificed themselves
in a selfless attempt
to rescue others, and
the families, friends,
colleagues and other
 Americans who are
committed to never letting
their memory fade,"
Medlin Johnson said.

http://scn.eed.sunnewspapers.net/olive/ode/north_port_sun/PrintComponentView.htm

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