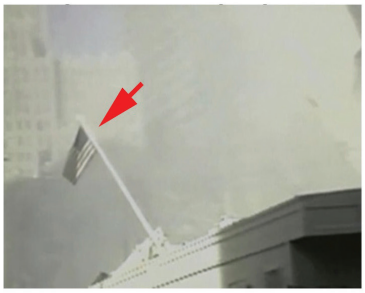
THE JOHN JAY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

THE LOST WORLD TRADE CENTER FLAG: A FIFTEEN YEAR JOURNEY HOME

SPEAKER: NICHOLAS PETRACO, MS, DETECTIVE NYPD (RET.)

MAY 2, 2017
1:40 - 2:40 PM
ROOM L61

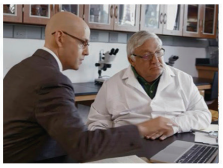
Afternoon Sept. 11, 2001

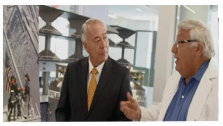


Dust Sept. 11, 2001

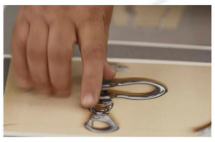
Reports Flag Missing

Oct. 2014

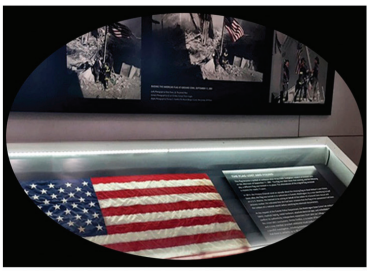




Examination of Evidence



Flag returned to WTC Memorial Museum



Sept. 11, 2016

An iconic photo captured three firemen hoisting an American flag at the World Trade Center site right after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This flag became a celebrated symbol of American resilience, but at some point was misplaced and only rediscovered in 2014. The authentication took a multidisciplinary effort with the most compelling evidence being trace evidence on the flag matching dust collected at Ground Zero.

Nicholas Petraco, MS, a forensic chemist specializing in microscopy and trace evidence analyses who has examined thousands of cases and testified as an expert witness in over 500 trials. He is a retired detective and former criminalist with the New York City Police Laboratory's Trace Evidence Section and is currently a Science Department adjunct at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

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