

# **SIRIUS, THE HERO DOG OF 9/11**



by  
**Hank Fellows**

Hello, my name is Sirius. I was a patrol dog at the World Trade Center. I died on September 11, 2001, the day that America was attacked.

Before I tell you my story, I need to tell you a little bit about the World Trade Center and New York City. These are things I learned by listening to the people around me.

When the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were completed in 1973, they were the two tallest buildings, not just in New York City, but in the entire world.



The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center

The gleaming North and South Towers, soaring high above Manhattan, showed the world that New York was proud to be a great city.

And everyone who lived in New York knew why it was a great city. It was great because over the years, people from more than 200 countries had come here to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Here in New York City, here in America, everyone had the chance to dream.



An Immigrant Family Arrives in New York City in 1905

But there have always been people who hate America. They hate the beauty of our land. They hate the freedom to speak and work and pray without fear of punishment.

Most of all, they hate the belief that every person is special, and deserves that chance to dream.

And so, some of these people who hate America looked up at the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and said, "If we destroy the World Trade Center, then America will not be so great anymore."



The Grand Teton Mountains in Wyoming



In America, everyone has the chance to dream

The job of protecting the World Trade Center belonged to a part of the government called the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which also protects the ports and harbors around New York City. Everyday, the Port Authority police officers searched packages and trucks coming into the Twin Towers, checking for anything that could hurt people or damage the buildings.

But some of the most important work was not done by the police officers. Some of the most important work was done by dogs. These dogs were part of the specially-trained Police K9 Unit. The letter and number "K9" was a short way to spell "canine", which means "dog".

Each dog in the Police K9 Unit was carefully trained to smell dynamite and other dangerous things that might be brought into the Twin Towers.





The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
Protected the World Trade Center

I was one of these special dogs. My name is pronounced "Seer-us". Sirius is the name of the brightest star in the evening sky. I was a light-brown Labrador Retriever, a breed of dog known for its intelligence and courage. I was born in a small town in Pennsylvania. I became a member of the Police K9 Unit at the Twin Towers when I was 4 1/2 years old.

I had a police officer partner, a man named David. Everyday, David and I patrolled the Twin Towers.

And each night, at the end of our long day's work, I went home with David, because I was also David's friend, and I was a member of David's family.