

Department of Defense Participants in the Pentagon's Olympic Torch Relay Ceremony

Carrying the torch at the beginning of the ceremony

Chief Petty Officer Bernard Brown

Chief Petty Officer Bernard Brown's works in the Deputy Chief Naval Command. In the September 11 tragedy, Chief Brown lost his 11-year-old son, Bernard Jr., a passenger aboard American Airlines Flight 77. He also lost several of his staff members who were in the building.

Receiving the Torch and Passing Along:

1. Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell is a survivor of the September 11 attack on the Pentagon. He sustained burns to more than 40% of his body. He received the Purple Heart for his injuries. Lt. Col. Birdwell was released on December 5th from Washington Hospital Center, where he continues to undergo physical therapy as an outpatient. His wife, Mel, and his 12-year-old son Matthew have supported him throughout his recovery process. Lt. Col. Birdwell currently serves as the military assistant to the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.
2. Ms. Lori Reeder Burroughs works for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy in the Office of Financial Management and Comptroller. On September 11th, she was in her office and in the direct path of the plane's impact in the Pentagon. Disregarding the strong desire to run from the flames she, along with Mr. Cardenas, assisted with the evacuation of a handicapped individual who required but could not use a walker or vehicle to move about the building. Without their assistance the handicapped individual may not have been able to escape from the building.
3. Mr. Samuel Cardenas works for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy in the Office of Financial Management and Comptroller. On September 11th, she was in her office and in the direct path of the plane's impact in the Pentagon. Disregarding the strong desire to run from the flames she, along with Mr. Cardenas, assisted with the evacuation of a handicapped individual who required but could not use a walker or vehicle to move about the building. Without their assistance the handicapped individual may not have been able to escape from the building.
4. Lieutenant Kelly Ennis serves as the Aide de Camp to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Because of his knowledge of the layout of offices on the 4th floor he volunteered to assist in the rescue efforts by suiting up with firemen and leading them to the 4th floor offices near the impact area. Lieutenant Ennis continued to help in the rescue efforts until early on the 12th.
5. Mr. Mahnken's actions on 11 September demonstrated his great courage and willingness to risk his life to help others. Although he sustained a head injury from the blast and narrowly escaped his destroyed office, Mr. Mahnken selflessly assisted a burn victim and monitored for shock. He continued to assist military and civilian doctors and nurses in treating several serious burn victims and helped to load these victims onto Air Medevac and ground transport. Mr. Mahnken's calm and courageous spirit on the scene set the example.
6. Sergeant Gary Massoud is a member of the US Army Caisson Platoon in The Old Guard. After the attack on the Pentagon, Sergeant Massoud and his unit served tirelessly during the recovery operations in the support area at the Pentagon. He is the section sergeant of the unit that is responsible for the Caisson, the horse drawn carriage that takes service men and women to their final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery. He unit has participated in several of the funerals for victims of the attack..
7. Mrs. Timothy Maude represents the spouses of victims of the Pentagon attack. Mrs. Maude's husband, Lieutenant General Timothy Maude, was the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Personnel and is the senior ranking officer killed on September 11th. In addition to Mrs. Maude, LTG Maude is survived by their two daughters, Kathy and Karen.
8. Keith Morris is the 17-year-old son of Mrs. Odessa Morris, a Budget Analyst in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Personnel, who was killed during the attack on the Pentagon. Keith is a senior at Gwynn Park High School in Brandywine Maryland. Mrs. Morris is also survived by her husband, Horace, and two daughters Jan-Sheri, and Dahlia.

9. Colonel Philip A. McNair is the Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel . Colonel McNair received the Soldier's Medal and the Purple Heart for his actions and the injuries he received during the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. On September 11th, Col. McNair was in a meeting when the plane struck. After helping his co-workers evacuate the burning building, he went back into the first floor and helped to save seven sailors.

10. On September 11th Commander George Navas demonstrated his calm demeanor and dedication. Immediately after the terrorist attack he assisted in evacuating personnel from the Pentagon and helped move the injured to the triage area. He helped unload supplies for emergency personnel, directed fire fighting teams through the Pentagon and accompanied battalion fire chiefs through the damaged areas, providing a first hand account of interior damage to the building.

11. Sergeant Kenneth Noe is assigned to the Military District of Washington's Engineer Company which is located at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. It is the U.S. Army's only collapsed building rescue company. Sergeant Noe and members of his unit reported to the scene at the Pentagon immediately following the terrorist attack and spent many long hours and days sifting through the debris to locate and recover victims.

12. Lieutenant Commander David Tarantino is a flight surgeon and family practitioner who is assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs. He and Captain Thomas rescued Mr. Jarrell Henson. Mr. Henson was trapped in the Navy Command Center and was semi-conscious under his desk which was covered by a collapsed false wall and burning debris. The room was filled with fire and smoke. Tarantino crawled through the smoke and fire filled room, under debris and passed live damaged electrical circuitry. He pushed the debris upward allowing Henson to crawl free. He then provided emergency medical treatment on Henson until he could be evacuated.

13. Captain David M. Thomas, Jr. works in the Chief of Naval Operations' Staff Quadrennial Defense Review office. He went to the damaged area immediately after the September 11 strike and entered the destroyed Navy Command Center through one of two holes created by the blast. He had to beat back flames with a fire extinguisher to enter the room to search for survivors. Captain Thomas discovered Mr. Jerrell Henson, who was severely injured, pinned beneath his desk and about to be overcome by smoke, heat and flames. Captain Thomas called for help and, with Lieutenant Commander Tarantino's assistance, was able to clear the debris and extricate Mr. Henson.

Alternate:

Mr. Theall's personal actions on September 11th showed great courage and voluntary risk of life in remaining in the triage area on the helipad in close proximity to the ensuing fire and secondary explosions. Sustaining personal injuries from the blast and narrowly escaping his destroyed office, Mr. Theall personally assisted survivors and the medical personnel treating them and continued to do so in spite of his own injuries and with complete disregard for his own safety under extremely dangerous conditions.

Carrying the torch at the end of the ceremony

Sergeant Christopher Braman of Arlington, Virginia will carry the flame in Washington, DC . On September 11th , after leaving the building, Sgt. Braman went back inside the burning Pentagon, risking his life to save three injured people, only one of whom survived. The survivor is Sheila Moody who clapped her hands hoping someone hear her. She couldn't speak because of intense smoke inhalation. Sergeant Braman heard her and brought her out. Braman received the Purple Heart, for injuries he received in the attack, and the Soldier's Medal for bravery when he risked his life to save victims and retrieve the Marine Corps Flag. That flag was carried on the most recent Space Shuttle Mission.