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Graystone Society in Coatesville, Pa., gets 500 tons of steel from World Trade Center for memorial

BY [Pearl Gabel](#) and [Wil Cruz](#)
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

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Gabel for NewsTruck driver Ed Murray, 50, of Sarver, PA, draped an American flag over the 73,000 lb steel fork from the World Trade Center that he is driving from JFK airport to Pennsylvania.

A 28-truck convoy carrying more than 500 tons of history from Ground Zero - and hearts still heavy with grief - was poised to leave JFK Airport early

Wednesday morning for a 9/11 memorial in Pennsylvania.

The rigs were loaded with steel from the demolished twin towers that had been stored at Kennedy and are now destined to be turned into a memorial by the Graystone Society in Coatesville, Pa., 35 miles west of Philadelphia.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has been giving the steel to police and fire departments, cities and towns for memorials. It has received 900 requests over the last six months.

More than 150 miles west of Coatesville, the Flight 93 memorial is also underway in Shanksville, Pa., where hero passengers are thought to have helped down the second jetliner that was destined for the nation's capital.

Wednesday's delivery to Coatesville is far more than a job to Rudy Acevedo, who was born on E. 104th St. and now lives in Florida.

"I'm overwhelmed, honored, touched," the 55-year-old driver said.

With tears welling, he explained "my friend's son was a fireman who died on 9/11 ...and New York is still part of me.

"Everything in New York is part of me," he said.

Trucker Martin Walsh, 48, from Connecticut, knows first hand that the convoy's cargo is meaningful for many Americans from coast to coast.

Walsh was at Ground Zero two weeks after the attack to pick up excavator tracks and haul them to Michigan.

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"When I got there I found a lot of remains of rubble on the deck of the trailer. It was unbelievable," he said. "I collected all the pieces and for the next two months gave them to people I met all over the country."

One man was particularly grateful, he said.

"I had a small piece of glass and I gave it to a gentleman from Oklahoma. He lost his friend in the WTC," he said.

"Now, today, for me, this is the closer. A lot of us here will never forget this moment."

The big rigs, many with U.S. flags on them and some with misty-eyed drivers behind the wheel, were to cross the George Washington Bridge at 5 a.m. Wednesday on the first leg of their trip from New York.

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