

Update on The Americana Stars Memorial

The July 2005 issue of *Stitcher's World*® magazine (now *Cross-Stitch & Needlework*® magazine) featured an article about Doreen Lynn Saunders and The Americana Stars Memorial. Since then, many readers have requested an update about the project.

When the events of September 11, 2001 occurred, Doreen was working for a company in New York City. As a New York resident of many years, she designed and cross-stitched "An Americana Flag" to honor the victims of 9/11 and to help her get through her initial trauma. The unexpected and extraordinary responses from everyone who saw her flag led her to believe it was necessary to create a follow-up piece. That project is The Americana Stars Memorial.

The memorial will honor every victim of 9/11 and will feature more than 3,000 different stars, all of them cross-stitched by hand, each in honor of one victim. They will include those of the World Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon, Pennsylvania, the 1993 World Trade Center victims, and Sirius, the electronic detection dog that was killed. The piece will consist of 50 Navy Blue Aida cloth panels, each one 2½' × 4' in size with 64 stars on each. Under each star a victim's name will be stitched. (An example of one panel is illustrated on this page.)

"My feelings about this process have grown since the start and my motivations have been increased by what is happening in the world today," Doreen says. "The United States is the most wonderful country, and I am just so grateful to have been born here. I am glad to have a way to show my gratitude in being an American and hope that others feel just as fortunate."

The project has been progressing over the past two and a half years with over 800 stars completed. Each star is stitched in three stages. Volunteers gathered as a result of the 2005 magazine article will stitch the first stage, and, because she wishes to be personally involved with each and every star, Doreen will finish each one.

The memorial has been planned in such a way that it can be displayed in a variety of venues — large open halls, museums of any size, and traveling shows. Doreen hopes to have it finished and ready by 2010. She continues to seek out possible locations for the finished project.

To learn more about The Americana Stars Memorial, read the original article from the July 2005 issue of *Stitcher's World*, and learn how you can contribute to the project, log on to www.americanaarts.com/memorialarticle.html. For a cross-stitch chart of one of the thousands of individually unique stars created by Doreen for The Americana Stars Memorial, see page 17 of the July 2005 issue of *Stitcher's World* (back issues available at www.c-sn.com/backissues).

