

Terrorist attack described at Kittrell community watch

KITTRELL COMMUNITY WATCH

Cobblestone and Kittrell community watch groups held a second joint meeting at the Greater Ransom Way of the Cross Temple on July 16 to hear a first-hand account of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Kittrell President Edward Woodlief called the meeting to order, and Vance County Sheriff's Deputy Craig Thorpe delivered the invocation.

The guest speaker was Joe Dittmar, a survivor of the 2011 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Dittmar's Chicago office had sent him to a meeting of 54 insurance executives in New York that fateful day. They met in a windowless conference room on the 105th floor of the South Tower.

Dittmar said a momentary blinking of the lights was the only indication that the first plane had plowed through the North Tower. Dittmar was one of only seven attendees who survived because they immediately evacuated as directed by



Special to The Daily Dispatch
Guest speaker Joe Dittmar poses with Henderson-Vance Crime Stoppers president Lorraine Watkins, Cobblestone Community Watch vice president Bob Junk, Cobblestone Community Watch president Leonard Hight, Cobblestone Community Watch coordinator Bernice Price, Henderson-Vance Crime Stoppers vice president Eddie Ellington, and Kittrell Community Watch president Edward Woodlief.

the volunteer fire marshal. They descended 105 flights of stairs to exit through underground passageways.

Dittmar said the second plane slammed through the 78th through 82nd floors of the South Tower as he was descending only two floors below. The entire South Tower collapsed about eight minutes after he got out.

Dittmar said he didn't fully appreciate

the terrible gravity of the situation until he met ascending police and firefighters at the 35th floor. He said the looks on their faces told him with terrible clarity they knew they would not come out alive. Dittmar's gripping presentation provided a minute-by-minute account of sights, sounds and emotions during his harrowing escape.

Dittmar now lives in

Chapel Hill where he sponsors the Always Remember Initiative and tells his story as a memorial to the victims and survivors of the 9/11 disaster. The Kittrell Community Watch website at kittrellcommunitywatch.com includes the full audio of Dittmar's presentation.

The next Kittrell Community Watch meeting is scheduled for Sept. 17.

