

The September 11 Memorial V-42

The September 11 Memorial V-42 was crafted by W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company to uniquely honor and recognize three specific groups of Americans whose stories are forever intertwined and now embedded in the history of that terrible day. The first group we honor and recognize is our fellow citizens who were the victims of the hideous attacks of September 11th, 2001. These men and women, innocent in every possible way, suffered enormously. Despite the horror they experienced, we know of many acts of heroism and sacrifice as they worked to save one another.

The second group are those who, in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, courageously rushed literally into the flames to rescue their fellow citizens. These are the police, firefighters, fellow citizens and all first-responders who demonstrated unimaginable levels of individual and collective valor, professionalism and dedication to duty before the eyes of the world.

Finally, the men and women of Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-North, better known as Task Force Dagger, our Nation's military response to those who attacked us. While the Green Berets of the 5th Special Forces Group were the core of Task Force Dagger, it was their partnership with the incredible team of CIA operatives, Army and Air Force special operations aviators, pilots and personnel who, together, conducted the Unconventional Warfare campaign into Afghanistan to destroy and overthrow the Taliban regime.

The V-42 is one of America's most famous wartime fighting knives. With the "V" standing for "Victory," and "42" for the year it was created, the stiletto was originally manufactured by CASE from an original design submitted by the commander of the First Special Service Force, then-Colonel Robert T. Frederick. One of America's first modern special operations forces, the First Special Service Force is one of the forefather units of today's U.S. Army Special Forces. The V-42 stiletto sits in the center of the Special Forces crest and Regimental colors, and occupies a central place of honor in the Task Force Dagger graphic.

The World Trade Center steel from which these commemorative knives are made was originally presented by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to the United States Army Special Operations Command for the purpose of crafting these magnificent stilettos. The stilettos themselves are made to same original wartime plans and specification of the V-42 stilettos carried by the Forcemens of the First Special Service Force in World War II. This effort, executed in full partnership with CASE, has been many years in the making and literally forges together the three stories, the three threads of this unique tapestry, illustrating another chapter of true courage, sacrifice and victory in American history.