



America's Response  
Monument Trust

**W.R. CASE & SONS CUTLERY COMPANY PROUDLY  
UNVEILS THE SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL V-42**

*Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland, Jr. commissioned the American knife manufacturer to craft exclusive pieces featuring World Trade Center steel in honor of America's heroes*

**Bradford, Pa. – November 9, 2017** – W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Co. was honored to unveil the September 11 Memorial V-42, a limited production World War II-era military knife featuring donated steel recovered from the World Trade Center, at a special event held this morning at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City. The three commemorative V-42s – which will never be made available for sale to the public – were crafted to uniquely honor and recognize three specific groups of Americans whose stories are forever embedded in the history of that tragic day: the citizens who were the innocent victims of the attacks, the first-responders who heroically rushed into action, and the men and women of Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-North (aka Task Force Dagger) who served as our Nation's military response.

The World Trade Center steel incorporated into the V-42s was originally presented by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey to the United States Army Special Operations Command. Lieutenant General John F. Mulholland, Jr., a senior officer in the United States Army and former Associate Director of the Central Intelligence Agency for Military Affairs, coordinated the delivery of the recovered World Trade Center steel to the Case factory in Bradford, Pennsylvania, and commissioned the development of the memorial knives.

"W.R. Case has been a long-time supporter of the U.S. Armed Forces," commented Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland, Jr. "As we set out to create a tribute to the World Trade Center and the men and women who have fought bravely to defend our freedom since that fateful day, we knew that Case was the right partner to help forge a symbol of American strength and resilience."

Case presented commemorative V-42's to two units that were among the first to respond in the face of the 9/11 tragedy in 2001; the U.S. Army's 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (the first American unit deployed into Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom) and the Central Intelligence Agency. A third commemorative was presented to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. Colonel Lewis Powers, Commander of the U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group, Toni Hiley, Director of the CIA Museum and Alice Greenwald, President and CEO of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum – were on hand to accept the specially-prepared memorials.

Also in attendance was Gene Gutierrez, an original member of the 1st Special Service Force, an elite American-Canadian commando unit in World War II that was the first to carry the original V-42 in World War II. Two others who were assigned to the very first teams to enter the World Trade Center site on 9/11 were on hand to witness today's event; Chief Warrant Officer Brad Fowlers and Sergeant Major Michael Bowman.

"We are extremely humbled that Lt. Gen. Mulholland invited Case to be part of this powerful project," remarked George Duke, Owner, W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Co. "Throughout our nearly 130 year history, Case has been proud to be a quality American-made company with the privilege of working alongside some of the finest people our country has to offer, and we are

honored to present these V-42s as a small token of our collective appreciation for the sacrifices made every day by members of our military and first responders.”

The original 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. The First Special Service Force, which became better known as “The Devil’s Brigade,” now serves as one of the forefather units of today’s U.S. Army Special Forces. In recognition, an image of Case’s V-42 stiletto sits in the center of the U.S. Army Special Forces crest and Regimental colors, and occupies a central place of honor in the official Task Force Dagger graphic.

Like the original V-42’s, the distinctive stiletto blade is double-concave ground, yielding the knife’s signature center line along the length of the blade, and blued to retain its characteristic patina. Other notable attributes include a leather-covered and blued steel guard, a hand-worked leather handle, and a threaded and pinned-on pommel. A specially engraved ‘thumbprint’ is embedded within the knife’s ricasso, which historically served to help soldiers orientate their blades with a sure grip. The newly crafted September 11 Memorial V-42 features a special tang stamp on the blade to accentuate the historical significance of the steel which comprises it.

The commemorative V-42, which will be displayed permanently at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, joins America’s Response Monument as 9/11 tributes whose compositions include reclaimed World Trade Center steel. Stationed between Liberty Park and One World Trade Center, America’s Response Monument, created by acclaimed sculptor Douwe Blumberg, commemorates members of Task Force Dagger who rode into combat on horseback in October 2001 for the first time since World War II. Each Special Forces team continuously carried a piece of World Trade Center steel throughout their tour of duty. Lt. General Mulholland dedicated the statue to the Special Forces with Vice President Joe Biden on November 11, 2011.

#### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the nonprofit organization that oversees operations for the 9/11 Memorial and 9/11 Memorial Museum. Located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site, the Memorial and Museum remember and honor the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The Memorial plaza design consists of two reflecting pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers surrounded by swamp white oak trees. The Museum displays more than 900 personal and monumental objects while its collection includes more than 60,000 items that present intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery linked to the events of 9/11 and the aftermath. The Museum also explores the global impact of 9/11 and its continuing significance through education programs, public programs, live talks and film features that cover contemporary topics designed for diverse audiences. For more information or to reserve a ticket to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, please visit [911memorial.org](http://911memorial.org).

#### **ABOUT W.R. CASE & SONS CUTLERY COMPANY**

Since 1889, W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company has been an American manufacturer of premium, hand-crafted knives. Case knives are proven to withstand the test of time, from the battlefields of World War II to the historic moon landing; a testament to the hard-working artisans who continue to make every Case knife in Bradford, Pa. Case’s range of products – including traditional folding pocketknives, fixed blade sporting knives and limited production commemoratives – are held to the highest standard of quality, as evidenced by the numerous hand operations and manufacturing steps required to create a single knife. A unique tang stamp dating system used since the very early days of its history has made Case one of the world’s favorite collectable brands. In 1981, Case created The Case Collectors Club, which now boasts more than 18,000 active members and is one of the largest known knife collecting associations

in the world. Case is owned by Zippo Manufacturing Company, makers of the world famous Zippo® windproof lighter. Call (800) 523-6350 or visit [wrcase.com](http://wrcase.com) for more information; you can also follow Case (@WRCASE) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

**Media Contact**

Chelsea Kelly  
DeVries Global  
212.546.8651

[CKelly@devriesglobal.com](mailto:CKelly@devriesglobal.com)