

In the weeks after 9/11, I joined the nation and the world in grief and mourning. As an artist, I naturally expressed my own anguish by sculpting, completely unaware that I was embarking on a three-year journey that would change my life. "Ascent" was born of that journey. It is a tribute to the lives lost on Sept. 11th. It represents a celebration of life, the release from tragedy, and the process of healing. It is a marker of sacred memory. A testament not only to those we lost but to all who remain. Most of all it represents LOVE. It is my hope that you also will discover your own interpretation of this piece, enabling your own stories of love and loss to be reflected in it.

My unending thanks to my fellow firefighters at the Halcottsville Volunteer Fire Department and to the many others who helped make "Ascent" a reality by donating their time and resources. Their names are listed on a plaque at the base of the sculpture. Each and every one of them wanted me to convey to you their love and support and to assure you that you have not been forgotten. That your loved ones will always be held close in the hearts of millions all over the world.