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FAMILY HONORS RON BUCCA'S 9/11 SACRIFICE



SETH HARRISON, USA TODAY NETWORK

Robert and Al Bucca on July 8 hold a photo of themselves with their brother Ron, an FDNY fire marshal who died in the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. All three brothers served in United States Army.

THOMAS C. ZAMBITO
USA Today Network

Al Bucca has made six trips to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to get a look at the men accused in the plot that killed his brother Ron on Sept. 11, 2001.

A vigil that started with his first trip in 2015 has dragged on for more than a decade with no resolution to the government's criminal case against Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and others accused of organizing the 9/11 attacks that killed almost 3,000 people.

"I want to see the people that set 9/11 up," said Bucca, 76. "I want to see them

go to trial. It's been going on for too long. They've got enough evidence. Let's go to trial already."

Ron Bucca made it to the 78th floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, higher than all but a few firefighters that day. His turnout coat later was found near a woman he'd likely tried to save. He was 47, the lone fire marshal among the 343 the FDNY lost that day.

A 23-year veteran of the FDNY from Tuckahoe, N.Y., Bucca served in the Army's elite Green Berets regiment and later worked in defense intelligence, where his family says he took a special interest in the terror groups committed to taking down

the World Trade Center.

His son, Ron Bucca Jr., said his father was among a handful in the buildings that day who, as they ascended the stairs, likely knew who was behind the attack. Bucca told his family that Al Qaeda would strike again, an intuition stemming from his work investigating the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six and injured Kevin Shea, a friend and firefighter who plunged several floors during the rescue.

"He would visit Kevin at the hospital, and he took that pretty personal," Bucca Jr. said. "You know 'Hey they bombed my

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Enterprise Rescue unveils Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt

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The Enterprise Rescue, Inc. Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign fundraising T-shirt is now available for purchase, said ERI's Director of Marketing and Public Relations Brandon Lee.

The new T-shirts are available in all sizes for \$25, with proceeds directly benefiting the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama, Lee said. "Like ERI, the BCRFA is a non-profit, whose mission is to find a cure for breast cancer by funding promising breast cancer research in Alabama and raising community awareness and funding for that research."

"Thanks to generous community support, BCRFA's lifetime investment in life-saving research is \$17 million. All funding stays in Alabama, but the impact is worldwide," Lee said. Last year, the BCRFA invested \$1.2 million to advance lifesaving breast cancer research across the state.

About Enterprise Rescue, Inc.

Enterprise Rescue is an employee-owned, non-profit EMS service operating 24/7 across South Alabama, Lee said. What started out as a volunteer service back in 1963 transitioned from what was then Enterprise Rescue Squad to now Enterprise Rescue, Inc., as of 1997.

Originally just community members operating out of a 1958 Pontiac Hearse, ERI is now an ambulance, wheelchair van and air medical service with more than 250 employees, with coverage spanning from its original roots in Coffee County, to operations now in Covington, Dale, Clarke, Monroe and Butler counties.

'Try and do our part'

"Each year we try and do our part to recognize and support Breast Cancer Awareness with this small gesture, but one that our local citizens take part in and look forward to," said Arnold Woodham, ERI's COO. "Given our footprint and coverage area now extends well

past the Wiregrass, our goal was to identify a partner on the state level that we can support and give back to, and we've done just that with the folks from BCRFA, who quickly welcomed our partnership together."

Orders must be placed by Saturday, Sept. 12, and shirts will be available for pickup in early October.

"As of January 2026, there are more than 4 million women with a history of breast cancer in the U.S. This includes women currently being treated and women who have finished treatment," Lee said. "Last year, ERI raised more than \$1,600 for the Coffee County Family Services Center Breast Cancer Awareness Program."

City encourages residents to 'Stand Ready' during National Preparedness Month, [PAGE A2](#)



Check out the interactive weather maps at www.eprisenow.com

Best Bets, a community calendar of events, [PAGE A3](#)