

# ACI Staff Gathers for Flag Dedication Ceremony

With a renewed sense of patriotism, the U.S. flag is raised at the Headquarters building.

**O**n Wednesday, November 7, the ACI staff chose to spend its lunch hour together in support of the United States of America and enduring freedom worldwide. Still reeling from the tragic events of September 11 that claimed lives in New York, N.Y., Washington, D.C., and Somerset County, Pa., staff members gathered on the Headquarters lawn for a flag dedication ceremony organized and conducted by James G. Toscas, executive vice president of the Institute.

After reflecting on the ramifications of these terrorist attacks for citizens of America and the world, he turned to his executive assistant, Marlene Wieczorek, who shared with surrounding staff "Stars," a poem composed by Toscas' daughter, Mariana (see next page). The flag was unfurled on the newly erected flagpole as proud voices joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." Following the ceremony, all were invited inside for a luncheon, where the gravity of the ceremony gave way to fun and fellowship. (sm)



Fig. 1: ACI Executive Vice President Jim Toscas, Human Resources Director Barb Cheyne, and Warehouse Assistant Kevin Werner preparing to raise the flag



Fig. 2: ACI staff members gathered together around the new flag pole

## “Stars”

*Let these stars forever guide us,  
Their brightness never diminished,  
Their sanctity never compromised.*



*These stars unite us in our  
loss of innocence,  
Even as bleeding tears of sacrifice  
Dampen the white purity of our free  
existence.*



*Let us now embed these stars  
Into the foundation of the American spirit,  
That solid and unwavering product  
of freedom,*

*Built with the sweat of our hands  
And the blood of our souls,  
Impenetrable and indestructible, as is America.*



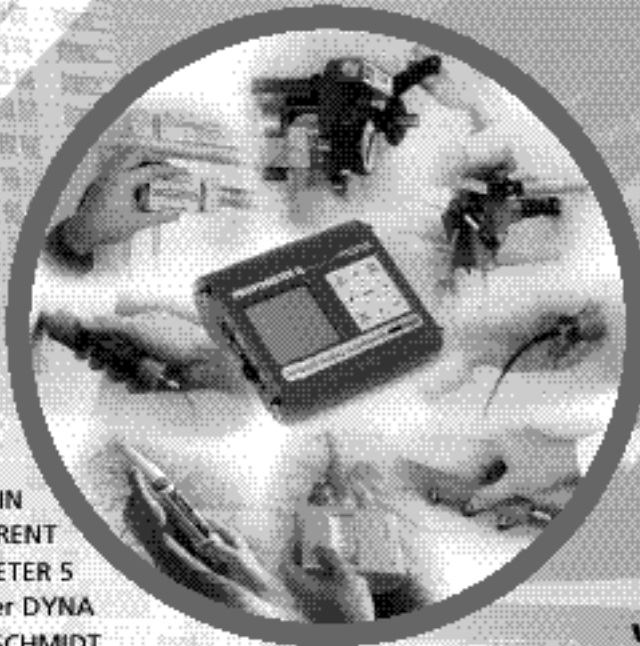
*For the stars of the sky as well as  
of our Nation  
Will always fly above us, But it is in deepest  
darkness that they shine the brightest.*

*Mariana Toscas  
11-05-01*



**Mariana Toscas** is a senior honors student at Walled Lake Western High School, Walled Lake, Mich., where she participates in drama, forensics, and sports. Her hobbies include playing piano and clarinet, as well as writing poetry. She aspires to a writing career.

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