



# THE MIDDLETOWN PRESS

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What people are saying about bin Laden death  
middletownpress.com

► Bravo wrote on May 2 at 1:28 a.m.:

"Bravo to our troops and bravo to President Obama!"

► J.S. wrote on May 2 at 5:06 a.m.:

"Let me get this straight: They supposedly finally kill the CIA creation that they blamed for the 9/11 attacks (that were really an inside job), and within hours, bury his body at sea? Boy oh boy, they really take the American people for fools for accepting this story. And you know what? They're right."

► Bravo Zulu wrote on May 2 at 8:11 a.m.:

"See, Mr. Bush? That's how it's done."

► Friar wrote on May 2 at 8:39 a.m.:

"I hope Allah shows bin Laden the same mercy and compassion that bin Laden showed his victims."

► Bemused wrote on May 2 at 9:18 a.m.:

"Obama neither found nor killed bin Laden; the work was done by intelligence and military professionals. They would have continued the work they had been doing since 2001 until bin Laden was dead no matter who was president."

► Sick wrote on May 2 at 11:18 a.m.:

"The right wing can't give the president credit for absolutely anything. So sad. While you whackos were screaming about Obama's birth certificate and calling the guy a Nazi, the president was calming plotting the demise of bin Laden. Check mate."

► Obama Supporter wrote on May 2 at 1:15 p.m.:

"Let us not forget that it was President Obama that re-directed the fight to Pakistan because everyone knew that is where Bin Laden was hiding. G-Dub had our troops aimlessly wandering around Iraq without a cause. President Obama changed the focus and got the job done... along with many other accomplishments that are yet to be recognized."

► Anonymous wrote on May 2 at 9:21 p.m.:

"Thanks President Obama for being smart enough not to screw up what President Bush started."

► No Leadership wrote on May 2 at 1:34 p.m.:

"Where is his body? Oh yeah, they say it's in the ocean. Believe what you want all you sheep."

► J.S. wrote on May 2 at 4:59 AM:

"How convenient that within a matter of hours, the body is buried at sea. The only people that would buy this story are complete suckers. When I first heard it, I thought I was reading '1984' all over again."

► Blinded wrote on May 2 at 10:19 a.m.:

"And then gas and food became cheap again and jobs plentiful, and we lived happily forever after!"

## Death brings 'closure'

By CLAIRE MICHALEWICZ  
Press Staff

MIDDLETOWN — The death of Osama bin Laden brings closure to a 10-year pursuit, but also creates worries of retaliatory attacks, local terrorism experts said Monday.

The mastermind behind the 9/11 tragedy was killed on Sunday by U.S. forces, President Barack Obama announced in a late-night press conference.

Erica Chenoweth, director of Wesleyan's Program on Terrorism and Insurgency Research,

### Retaliation still a possibility, local experts say

said she was surprised that bin Laden had been living so close to Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, and that he was in a fortified compound that appeared to have been built just for him.

To reduce the threat of future attacks from Al Qaeda, including retaliatory ones, Chenoweth suggested that the U.S. try to plant rumors within the organizations ranks, so senior Al Qaeda members turn against each other.

"The best possible outcome would be for Al Qaeda operatives to begin killing one another, which would minimize the backlash against the United States as well as the resources the U.S. needs to devote to the fight," Chenoweth said in an email.

Another good strategy, she said, would be to focus attacks on other areas where Al Qaeda is strong, like Yemen.

Chenoweth cautioned that the

second generation of a terrorist group is often stronger than the first, as was the case with the 19th century anarchist movement, or with left-wing European terrorists in the 1980s. Because of that pattern, Chenoweth said, the U.S. needs to continue to prepare for and disrupt international threats.

Still, she said, bin Laden's

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Osama bin Laden



Catherine Avalone | The Middletown Press

Fire Capt. Pete Tyc of the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Co. stands with a beam salvaged from the North Tower of the World Trade Center. The beam, classified as a WTC archive, was stored by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in an interim storage facility at JFK International Airport. Tyc received the beam in February and plans are in the works to use the beam as part of a memorial at the fire station. To buy a print of this photo and more, visit [www.middletownpress.com](http://www.middletownpress.com).

## Death of bin Laden stirs up emotions in Middlefield; 9/11 memorial under way

By KELLY ANN GORE-OLEKSIW  
Press Staff

MIDDLEFIELD — The death of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden stirs up a lot of emotion, the widow of a Middlefield man killed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks said Monday.

"I was actually very happy (Monday morning)," said Gail Eagleson, wife of John Bruce Eagleson, who died at age 53. "I talked with my three sons, and we are in agreement that (bin Laden) was an evil man. I was glad to hear he was dead."

John Bruce Eagleson, the

father of three sons, was killed during the attacks on the south tower of the World Trade Center. The couple's middle son, Tim, spent four years in Iraq serving as a ranger in the U.S. Army, and Gail Eagleson said she is pleased with President Barack Obama's actions and the actions of the nation's military.

"I'm proud to be an American," said Gail, who said bin Laden's death will be good for the country and for overall morale.

A memorial in the works by the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Department will also be a boost

for local morale and is meant to bring the community together to remember all those 3,000 people lost on 9/11.

"It took just under two years to get the whole process received," said Fire Captain Pete Tyc, who was instrumental in Middlefield recently receiving a 28-inch beam remnant from the north tower of the World Trade Center. "We requested a 3-foot long piece."

Tyc said the department was unsure what they would actually get. The process to receive the 105-pound beam included several hurdles and guidelines,

including the instructions that the beam could not be divided up once received and that the beam must be displayed for the public to see.

Tyc also had to send a letter requesting the beam to the Sept. 11 Families Association with an explanation of how it would be used.

"We hope to have the memorial in place this year," Tyc said Monday. "We are looking for ideas... we want to do this memorial in a dignified manner."

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## 2 union contract extensions rejected in Middletown

By CLAIRE MICHALEWICZ  
Press Staff

MIDDLETOWN — Contract extensions for two of the city's bargaining units covering managers and police officers were rejected by the Common Council on Monday.

Both contracts were rejected along party lines, with the council's eight Democrats voting against them and four Republicans voting for them. A third

contract extension, for the city's firefighters, was approved, with only one Democrat — James Streeto — opposed.

According to documents from the Finance Director Carl Erlacher, the contract for the city's managers' union, the Teamsters Local 671, would cost the city an additional \$51,118, which would be covered by Mayor Sebastian Giuliano's proposed budget for the next fiscal year. That cost comes from step increases for

three union employees, and from keeping health insurance premiums at 15 percent despite cost increases.

"There's a widespread perception of unfairness within the workforce and I'm very concerned about morale," said Streeto.

Streeto said he would feel differently if they were new contracts, but these were only extensions.

Councilwoman Hope Kasper

outlined the Democrats' concerns about the contract, specifically that the contract allowed for step increases, in spite of a pay freeze. Furthermore, she said, the union had not made any concessions on their health benefits.

Republican Minority Leader Phil Pessina warned that by rejecting the contracts, the council was risking spending more money on binding arbitration.

"We may be opening ourselves up to some real union problems

as far as arbitration," Pessina said, explaining that the costs of labor arbitration could be as high as \$2,000 a day. "The Teamsters and police will become full-blown contract negotiations. I'm just cautioning everybody that we're going to be paying some heavy legal fees."

The contract for the police union, the Local 1361, calls for a step increase freeze in the next

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