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## **New York's Freedom Tower Topped Off with Spire**

New York City's skyline added a new skyscraper when One World Trade Center was topped out May 10 with building's spire crowning the building known as Freedom Tower. The building now rises to a height of 1,776 feet. The Freedom Tower was erected on the site of the World Trade Center Twin Towers that were destroyed during the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks in 2001.



Hoisted to the top of the building on May 3, the final section of the spire weighs more than 700 tons. The rigging of the final section included an American flag waving in the wind, a patriotic gesture that pleased hundreds of onsite witnesses to this historic event.

The same Favelle Favco tower crane that has been on the job for more than six years lifted the spire to the top of the building and then hoisted it to its final position on the building's crown. The 408-foot spire will serve as a broadcast antenna and communications center for the building.

The building's final height of 1,776 feet signifies the year in which the Declaration of Independence was signed. Freedom Tower will be the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, according to the Port Authority of New York.