WTC Historic Study Act Introduced

Mary Fetchet

Representatives Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced the World Trade Center Historic Study Act, directing the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study of the feasibility and suitability of the national significance of the WTC site. The Coalition supports the Bill, which would require the NPS to report its findings to Congress within six months of enactment. The Bill conveys the importance of preserving the footprints, where the greatest number of victims lost their lives and where the majority of remains were found. The Bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to use the criteria contained in Section 8 of Public Law 91-383, the National Park System General Authorities Act, to conduct a study of the WTC site, evaluating the national significance and the suitability of establishing the site as a unit of the National Park System. Unfortunately, Senator Clinton and Senator Schumer have responded that they will not support this Bill in the Senate because they believe there is not a consensus among the families on this issue. The Bill simply provides for a resource study to assess the historical significance of the site in our nation’s history. NPS studies are quite commonplace. Congress approved over 50 study bills a session. For instance, there may be a study to determine if Frank Sinatra’s house has historical significance and the feasibility of establishing it as part of the NPS. As the Coalition stated to both Senators, there is nothing to loose from the study. However, by not acting now, current development plans are building retail, commercial and transportation where our loved ones died.

Results of the Coalition survey, completed in 2002 where over 2,084 immediate family members responded by voting, clearly shows a consensus among our families for preservation.

84% of family members support the Coalition’s position for the entire bathtub area to be reserved for memorial purposes;
10% of family members support a memorial park over the entire 16 acres
Less than 6% support rebuilding the site with a small memorial.

As families who lost loved ones, you can demonstrate our consensus by visiting the Coalition web site and download a letter of support for this WTC Historic Study Act. Letters should be mailed/faxed to

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National Landmark Nomination

Anthony Gardner

On behalf of thousands of September 11th family members, survivors, rescue workers and supporters, the Coalition of 9/11 Families nominated the WTC tower footprints to bedrock as a National Historic Landmark. This unprecedented nomination and all supporting documentation was delivered to Gale Norton, the Secretary of the Interior on September 3, 2003 by the Coalition. To qualify for this national historic designation, a site must be able to communicate and authenticate its national historic significance. Future generations must never forget the significance of September 11, 2001, in American history and what this site represents as hallowed ground. The site should be treated with the same historical reverence as comparable sites in American history as Pearl Harbor and Gettysburg.

This designation does not take away control from NY Governor Pataki, the LMDC or Port Authority as to what the memorial will be; however, if realized, it provides a testament to the historical significance and value of the bedrock footprints. The Tower footprints fall under the criteria of a landmark as a site of a building that no longer is standing, but as an event associated with it is of transcendent importance in the nation’s history. To register your support for the National Historic Landmark nomination of the Tower footprints at bedrock log on to the Coalition web site and sign our online petition.

-- ALL FAMILIES --

Public Input On Memorial Designs

Bruce DeCell

Phase 3 of Imagine New York—the World Trade Center site memorial—is fast approaching. The LMDC will announce the 8 finalists that the jury has selected in the memorial design competition on November 19. The jury will deliberate further, and the final selection is expected about a month later. Imagine NY is hosting workshops to allow the public to give feedback on the memorial designs. Families are strongly encouraged to participate.

Workshops for Feedback on WTC Memorial

Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 pm; OR Saturday, November 22 at 10 a.m.
At Pace University, Schimmel Center (enter at Spruce St.).

All workshops will last 2 hours. Before the workshops, there are optional, though strongly recommended, group visits to the exhibit of the memorial design finalists at the Winter Garden. Imagine NY staff will be at the Winter Garden beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and at 8 a.m. on Saturday. To participate in a workshop, Call the Imagine NY hotline at 212-750-3972 to sign up.

Space is limited, so register soon!
### WTC Historic Study

*Continued from page 1*

Senator Clinton and Senator Schumer to communicate that we are united. The disregard of the position of the families by our politicians must stop! As Governor Pataki stated to over 700 family members in June 2002, “We will never build where the towers stood. It will always be a permanent and a lasting memorial to those we lost...Where the towers stood, where the towers stood is hallowed ground.” Our families expect Governor Pataki to stand by this promise. With oversight of the LMDC and Port Authority, the Governor could revise these plans to preserve the tower footprints.

The Historic Study Act is a vital first step in assessment to identify the tangible historical ruins. The existing box beam columns, other structural remains from the buildings and the true bedrock footprints should be accessible and preserved for ALL Americans and future generations who visit this historic site. Congresswoman Maloney said, “The footprints of the World Trade Center towers need to be protected and honored. This is the wish of the families who lost loved ones that day, and it ought to become a shared goal for the country as well. This bill is about finding the best way to achieve that goal, preserving the footprints and expressing that nation’s interest in a shared remembrance and lasting tribute to those lost.”

The Coalition is grateful and encouraged by the leadership of Congressman Shays and Congresswoman Maloney in introducing legislation to assess the historic significance of the World Trade Center Site. “As we move forward rebuilding the former World Trade Center site, it is crucial we remember the ordinary courage and honor showed by so many, and the innocent victims who lost their lives that day,” said Shays. “This study is an important step in both moving our country forward and providing the families some measure of peace.”

### Anniversary Commemoration

**Mary Fetchet**

On September 10, 2003 Voices of September 11th hosted a Forum and reception at the Marriott Financial Center Hotel. Over 700 family members gathered and met with resource providers, authors, artists and quilt makers who generously donated their efforts to 9/11 projects. Discussions were held on the WTC Memorial, Financial Planning and the Saudi lawsuit. On September 11th Voices of September 11th and WTC United Family Group co-hosted a luncheon for 400 family members following the 2nd Anniversary Commemorative events. Guests of honor included Mayor Giuliani and eleven Oklahoma City family members and survivors. WTC United Family Group sponsored the Oklahoma City family members as part of the Second Annual Oklahoma City exchange program. The Information Forum and Luncheon will be held on September 10th and September 11th of next year.

### PATH Train Infringement

**Jack Lynch**

Current plans for the bedrock level of the Bathtub area, include only a small slice of area for memorial purposes to view a portion of the western slurry wall. This memorial area at bedrock is 24 feet wide by 262 feet long, compared to the memorial area six stories above that is 384 feet wide by 552 feet long. This area can be seen in the illustrations to the right which are the Port Authority (PA) development plans. The Marriott Hotel Footprint has been excluded by the LMDC from any delineation in the memorial.

At a meeting on September 17, 2003 with the LMDC, PA officials and the Libeskins, Coalition leaders once again expressed concern that the plans for the permanent PATH system will result in the gross encroachment of approximately 70% of the South Tower bedrock footprint and approximately 10% of the North Tower bedrock footprint. The PATH train system is being increased from a 7-car system to a 10-car system, creating a great deal of infringement into the South Tower footprint. The PA is considering adding a fifth track and an additional platform to the existing infrastructure. This fifth track and platform would encroach even further over both tower footprints. Engineers expressed concern to the PA over the sharp turning ratio trains would be required to negotiate on this fifth track.

Coalition leaders have repeatedly asked for the station to be named World Trade Center Memorial Station. To date, the LMDC or PA have not responded to these requests. The signage on the temporary station is “World Trade Center”. The Coalition also reiterated opposition to Greenwich and Fulton Streets being open to vehicular traffic through the site as illustrated on the next page. Streets will be bordering each side of the memorial area.

A new sub station that did not exist prior to 9/11/01 for the PATH train utilities has been built next to the South Tower along the southern slurry wall within the bathtub. Plans currently include a park area designated as Liberty St. Park over this substation at street level. Contrary to opinions of structural engineers and architects, in the remainder of the lighter shaded areas of the bedrock level next to the PATH station, the PA and LMDC are indicating this area is necessary to stabilize the slurry walls. Plans for development within the Slurry Wall Stabilization Zone have not been disclosed.
The Coalition would like to thank family members and friends who came out to support the United Stand for WTC Preservation on September 10, 2003 where Anthony Gardner announced the Coalition’s nomination of the WTC Tower Footprints as a National Historical Landmark. New York City religious leaders, historians and structural engineers including the Rev. Dr. John Hiemstra, Executive Director of the Council of Churches of the City of New York, Kathleen Dunne, structural engineer and Don Reynolds, art historian, joined the Coalition to garner support for preservation of the footprints to bedrock.

Former Mayor Giuliani reiterated the importance of the Coalition United Stand for Preservation at a news conference that same day. “I agree with the families that are pushing very hard for a much larger focus on the memorial. We have no choice but to accept that it’s a burial ground. Preserving the site down to bedrock is the principal around which all designs have to flow.”

In an interview on September 11, 2003, Senator Clinton expressed her support for the WTC memorial to be the focus of rebuilding. The harmful effects of building over this site in American history would parallel what happened to the original Penn Station. Little forethought or concern was shown this grand edifice, which resembled the Roman Baths of Caracalla and the Basilica of Constantine when it was gutted. Sadly, this largest building ever erected for rail travel, with its elegant columns, marble floor and stone eagles, is now referenced as “the basement under the Felt Forum.”

Despite the dedication of developer Larry Silverstein to rebuild the 11 million square feet of office space, Giuliani also stated that it would be more advantageous to the New York City economy to rebuild the office space north or south of the former complex. The sacred and hallowed ground at the WTC site is already, and will continue to be, a place of vigilance for millions of people annually. To simply rebuild what was there and deprive the city of this revenue from tourism would be detrimental. The $95 million dollar tax subsidy on the former WTC complex speaks to the fact that the overwhelming amount of office space was less than 70% occupied for most of the 30 years the towers stood. New York City was receiving only 25% of the tax revenue from the office space at the site. The burden of this heavy tax subsidy was being paid by New Yorkers.

At the United Stand for WTC Preservation, the Coalition also publicly highlighted the LMDC’s exclusion of the WTC Tower Footprints from the memorial guidelines issued to designers. Families are united on the stance of preserving the historic significance of the tower footprints where the majority of our loved ones were recovered. Our united efforts are making progress as illustrated by changes announced by the LMDC on 9/17/03. Positive modifications were made within the memorial area to exclude the bus depot from the bathtub area; and removal of security and service ramps from the bedrock area of the bathtub and away from the footprints.

We would like to thank the many families who wore yellow and black preservation ribbons at the anniversary ceremony to support preserving the footprints and who have written to elected officials to support Coalition preservation efforts. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the November 23rd gathering.
Tribute

Coalition of 9/11 Families

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR FAMILIES
POSITION ON THE WTC MEMORIAL

FAMILY GATHERING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23
12:00 PM
WEST STREET
IN FRONT OF THE WINTER GARDEN

PARTICIPATE IMAGINE NEW YORK
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS
RSVP (212) 750-3972
REVIEW MEMORIAL DESIGN FINALISTS

The Coalition of 9/11 Families extends our sincere appreciation to the Lutheran Disaster Response of New York for assistance in distributing the enclosed information to our families.

Download Tribute, share with family and friends. Immediate family members are welcome to vote in support of the Coalition or express their voice on the WTC Memorial at:

www.Memorialfor911.com

VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND
DEADLINE TO FILE CLAIM IS DECEMBER 22, 2003

The deadline for filing claims with the federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund is Monday, December 22, 2003. All claims assistance sites are open to assist with the application process, provide award estimates, review claims before submission and perform claim intake activities for scheduled appointments and walk-ins. On December 22, 2003, these sites will be open from 7 a.m. until midnight to accept hand delivered claim forms.

Claims will be accepted if postmarked on or before December 22, 2003.
For more information call (888) 714-3385 OR log on to WWW.USDOJ.GOV/VICTIMCOMPENSATION

** VICTIM’S COMPENSATION FUND **
Critical Choices: The Federal Victim Compensation Fund or Civil Lawsuits
(An educational forum for September 11 victims and their families) offered by the National Center for Victims of Crime
Last round before the December 22 Compensation Fund Deadline!
FOR DATES AND LOCATIONS IN YOUR AREA AND TO REGISTER CALL 1-800-FYI-CALL

Legal Assistance With Filing Your Application
TRIAL LAWYERS CARE, INC. - Call 917-464-0105
Free legal assistance to the families of victims of the attacks.
LEGAL REFERRAL SERVICE OF NYC AND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATIONS – (212) 626-7373 or visit www.iLawyer.com
Free legal assistance to victims of the terrorist attacks and their families.
LEGAL SERVICES FOR NY- (212) 431-7200
Free legal advice and representation to low-income victims of the attacks.
NEW YORK COUNTY BAR association – (212) 626-7373
Basic legal advice over the phone, including information and referrals to other lawyers for detailed assistance.
LEGAL AID SOCIETY – (212) 426-3070
Civil legal assistance with housing, public benefits, immigration, health, disability, tax, family and consumer law.

EACH FAMILY SHOULD EVALUATE THE VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND BENEFITS INDIVIDUALLY WITH YOUR LEGAL COUNSEL.