Commemorating The 15th Anniversary

On February 26, 2008 at St. Peter’s Church a memorial Mass was held observing the 15th anniversary of the WTC bombing. At 12:18 pm, family members observed a moment of silence at the World Trade Center site.

The Tribute Center observed the anniversary with an exhibit and public program where survivors spoke about their experiences. Mike Hurley, Gerry Bogacz and Mel Wasserman described the differences between 1993 and 2001. Mr. Wasserman remembered descending the stairs. “My office was located on the 19th floor. We were able to descend the staircase, but the most frightening moment was when I heard that the door on the mezzanine was locked. We had to go back up against 100 floors of people. We went back up, left the stairs at the 13th floor and waited for help.”

Joseph Daniels, president of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the WTC said, “The families will never forget what happened, but this date becomes increasingly forgotten as time passes. If we remember the innocent victims and unite in hope and understanding, we will defeat terrorism’s purpose.” Mr. Daniels also stated, “The Museum will imbue visitors with the essential truth that the victims could have been any one of us. In doing so, we hope to reinforce the universal human connections that make it harder for attacks like this to happen again.” The new memorial complex will include a dedication to all who died on February 26, 1993.

Inside The Fence - New Exhibit

Of the over 400,000 national and international visitors to the Tribute Center, some will only view our galleries once, while others return multiple times. For those visitors we offer changing exhibits that reveal additional stories. Following the success of our first exhibit, Coming Together: Kids Respond to 9/11 with Hope for the Future, our second exhibit opened in January, 2008 and will remain until June.

We hope you will visit this touching exhibit in Gallery 5 on the lower level. The new exhibition, Inside the Fence is a tribute to the dedicated people in transportation, sanitation and construction trades who played a major role in the recovery at the World Trade Center site. Additionally, the exhibit provides a glimpse into current projects in development in construction, sanitation and transit that are based upon increased awareness and innovative technologies developed after the attacks. Artfully designed, Inside the Fence recounts the stories of transit workers who safely evacuated thousands of Lower Manhattan passengers, provided manpower and vital equipment at the site for months, transported other first responders round the clock, and helped rebuild damaged subway lines in record time. It features accounts of Sanitation workers who brought lights, fuel and heavy equipment to the site and who cleared streets so that utility workers, police and firefighters could have easier access. It highlights the reflections of construction workers who helped build the World Trade Center and were stunned that, 30 years later, they were now carrying its pieces away. Inside the Fence portrays the cooperation of various entities as they approached their heartbreaking and unprecedented tasks. It features photographs by Sam Hollenshead, presented courtesy of the NY Transit Museum, as well as personal photo albums and journals from people who worked.

USS New York (LPD 21) Christening

On March 1, 2008, the USS New York (LPD 21) was christened at Northrop Grumman Avondale Shipyard in New Orleans, LA. With 7.5 tons of steel from the World Trade Center in her bow, this amphibious transport dock ship carries the motto, “Strength, Forged Through Sacrifice. Never Forget.”

The ship crest includes the seven rays that highlight the State of New York Seal. The seven rays represent the Statue of Liberty’s crown, symbolizing the seven seas and continents. The gray chevron and two vertical bars represent the bow of LPD 21 and the Twin Towers. The phoenix rising personifies the hope and determination of this nation to rebuild and regroup to fight terrorism. The shield on the phoenix’s breast honors the FDNY, NYPD & PAPD. The stars commemorate the three battle stars the USS New York battleship earned in World War II. The ship will be...continued on page 2
Sadako’s Origami Crane

On September 12, 2007, Masahiro Sasaki presented an extraordinary gift to the Tribute Center—one of the family’s 5 remaining paper cranes folded by his sister, 12-year-old Sadako, in 1955. Sadako, who died as a result of illness from the bombing of Hiroshima, made the tiny red crane from a medicine bottle wrapper. She was following the Japanese tradition that says if you fold 1,000 cranes, your wish will come true. Origami cranes have become a symbol of peace. Each year thousands of cranes are offered to the Children’s Peace Monument in Hiroshima. Many people left chains of origami cranes on fences around the World Trade Center site after 9/11. Mr. Sasaki is donating one historic crane to each of 5 continents. He decided to donate the crane for North America to the Tribute Center after reading about the 10,000 cranes at the Center that are folded by Japanese family members, employees of Fuji Bank and five schools in Hiroshima. In presenting the crane to Tribute, Mr. Sasaki said: “I decided to present Sadako’s origami crane in the hope it will help people overcome differences, such as race and religion. Nothing meaningful will be born from the chain of hatred and retaliation. I strongly condemn terrorist attacks who take precious lives of innocent people mercilessly. Our hearts go out to those who lost their loved ones.” Sadako’s crane will be on display at the Tribute Center later this year.

USS New York (LPD 21) Christening

Based in Norfolk, VA and led by Commander F. Curtis Jones, a native New Yorker. Over 1,200 crew members will serve our country through humanitarian efforts and by maintaining national security. Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding took great pride in building the New York. At the christening, President Mike Petters stated, “Each ship built by the hands of our workforce holds a special place for all of us. This one, however, is truly special—not just for our shipbuilders, but for all Americans. This ship holds the memory of the heroes who died on September 11, 2001.” Four shipbuilders visited the Tribute Center in January 2008. Rochelle Gaines said on her visit, “I work around steel every day and to see it twisted up as it was is unbelievable that something like that could happen.” Mr. Petters also spoke of what a privilege the shipbuilders felt. “Shipbuilding is hard work under extreme conditions. It’s about being part of something greater than our individual selves. It’s about personal pride in workmanship and service to one’s country. It’s personal. It’s personal for me and it’s personal to each man and woman who laid his or her hands on this ship to build her in honor of those heroes of that day in our country’s history.”

On September 9, 2004, then-Secretary of the Navy Gordon England named the eighth and ninth ships of the San Antonio class of ships the USS Arlington (LPD 24) and the USS Somerset (LPD 25). “The future USS Arlington and USS Somerset will join USS New York as living tributes to those who suffered in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and to the nation.” The USS Arlington will be commissioned in 2011. The USS Somerset will honor the courageous crew and passengers of Flight 93 who stormed the cockpit. England stated, “Their actions prevented the airplane from reaching its destination and inflicting further casualties. Their heroic sacrifice rallied and inspired the nation.” The USS Somerset will be commissioned in 2012.

In the fall of 2009, the USS New York will be commissioned in New York City where the ship will officially become part of the US Navy’s fleet. The Association is compiling a small book of letters for the crew from family members about your loved ones and the meaning of this living memorial. Letters may include thoughts to the crew about how much their service on the USS New York means to you as a family member, survivor, recovery worker, volunteer or Lower Manhattan resident. If you would like to send a letter to be bound in the book for the crew, please send it to our offices at 22 Cortlandt Street #801, NY NY 10007 or e-mail kgrieger@911families.org with the subject “Letters to the USS New York.” We encourage all ages to write, keeping in mind this book will accompany the ship on deployments for long periods of time.

Due to military and safety regulations gifts for the ship are not being accepted. The USS New York Foundation will support in perpetuity morale, welfare, emergency and recreation programs for the crew not funded by the Navy.

For more information visit: www.ss.northropgrumman.com/christenings/New_York/index.html.
St. Nicholas Church Presents Gift To Tribute Center

Every year the congregation of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, which stood in the shadow of the World Trade Center, celebrate St. Nicholas day on December 6th. A temporary church is set up just east of 90 West Street, close to the location where the St. Nicholas Church stood from its founding in 1916 until it was destroyed by the collapsing South Tower. In this year’s ceremony, the leaders of the Board of Directors, Joan Dimonekas and Peter Drakoulias, acknowledged the Tribute Center with the formal presentation of a copy of the cherished last photograph taken of St. Nicholas Church. “We present you with this gift, a sign of our love.” Hundreds of congregants from the metropolitan region came to Lower Manhattan for the annual ceremony and service. Father John Romas spoke of his hope that the church would be rebuilt to serve an even wider public across from the World Trade Center site. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios eloquently described the increased awareness of our common humanity after September 11th.

400,000th Visitor
Tribute WTC Visitor Center

On February 25, 2008 the Tribute WTC Visitor Center had the privilege of welcoming Christopher Lee and Judith Lee of Kent, England as our 400,000th visitors to the center. Reaching this milestone less than a year and a half after opening to the public in September of 2006 emphasizes the importance to national and international visitors to understand the events and see the World Trade Center site. As expressed by Mr. Lee, “9/11 for me was seen on TV. I have watched documentaries and until today thought I had an understanding of it all, but on February 25, 2008 my wife and I wanted to pay tribute and come to the site”. His comment embodies our mission which is to connect visitors to the site, the community and the events of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993.

Inside The Fence - New Exhibit

at the WTC recovery effort. Six oral histories detail the daunting challenges and unique collaborations during the nine months of recovery. Some of the voices and stories you will hear in the exhibit are: “For those of us who were down here, it’s a special feeling we have for each other, a camaraderie that few people understand. We developed a bond that won’t ever be broken...Its something you can’t forget, and don’t want to forget. Whether we like it or not, this is a part of history.” Anthony Palmeri, Sanitation Worker (retired) Department of Sanitation, City of New York.

“...continue from page 1

Active and retired members of DSNY, MTA and NYC Construction Trades are invited to visit the Tribute Center at no charge during the Inside The Fence exhibit.
Please bring proper ID.

Deutsche Bank Dedicates Wall Street Fountain

On November 16, 2007 the ribbon was cut on a new ornamental fountain located at the corner of Wall street and Front street in Lower Manhattan. The Wall Street Fountain is a gift to the City of New York from the Deutsche Bank in recognition of the bank’s employees who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, as well as a testament to the enduring spirit of the citizens of New York.
Did you participate in RESCUE, RECOVERY or CLEANUP after the World Trade Center collapse?

9/11 Workers and Volunteers!
Register Now to Protect Your Right to Workers’ Compensation Benefits
Go to WWW.NYCOSH.ORG

If you did or paid for rescue, recovery or cleanup work in Lower Manhattan during the year after 9/11, you may be eligible for medical and wage replacement benefits — but only if you register first with the New York State Workers’ Compensation Board!

Act soon! Registration ends August 2008
For more info: www.nycosh.org/911info/instructions_english.html 1-866-WTC-2556

Remembering April 19th 1995
Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Oklahoma City on the 13th anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

Dates to Remember
Seventh Annual Brian Novotny Golf Outing

Friday, June 13, 2008, two starts: 8:00am and 1:00pm

New York Country Club
103 Brick Church Road
New Hempstead, NY 10977

Call Robert Novotny (914) 262-2700
or visit www.briannovotny.com

Donations in Memoriam

Terence E. Adderley, Jr. FF Jonathan L. Ielpi
David G. Arie Sarah Khan
Craig M. Blass Alan Charles LaFrance
FF Michael Boyle FF Neil Leavy
Richard Caproni Darya Lin
FF Dennis M. Carey FF Bob Linnane
Mark S. Carney FF John K. McAvoy
Francis Albert De Martini FF Robert W. McPadden
D.C. Raymond M. Downey Ronald Magnuson
FF Robert Evans Brian E. Martineau
Paul J. Friedman Michael Miller
Lt. David Halderman Dean & Joan Montzingo
Lt. Vincent G. Halloran FF Dennis M. Mulligan
Sara Manley Harvey Lt. Raymond E. Murphy
Joseph A. Ianelli Patrick J. O’Shea

Lt. Kevin Pfeifer
Joseph Oswald Pick
FF Michael E. Roberts
FF Stephen P. Russell
Jason Elazar Sabbag
FF Thomas E. Sabella
Samuel Robert Salvo, Jr.
Anthony Segarra
Richard J. Stadelberger
Erica H. Van Acker
Donna Wilson
Sandra Lee Wright
Joseph J. Zuccala

The 7th Annual FF Michael J. Cawley Memorial Fund party

Saturday, April 5, 2008
3pm-8pm at Mulcahy’s
3232 Railroad Avenue, Wantagh, NY
(by the LIRR station)
www.mulcahys.com

$25 recommended donation at the door.
Proceeds go to the FF Michael J. Cawley Memorial Scholarship Archbishop Molloy High School.

For more information contact:
www.ffmichaeljcawley.org or 718-359-8430

Remembering April 19th 1995
Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Oklahoma City on the 13th anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

September 11th Families’ Association
22 Cortlandt Street, Suite 801
New York, NY 10007