



Tribute Center Welcomes The 500,000th Visitor



USN Lt. Jeremy Vellón with Tribute Center Founders Jennifer Adams and Lee Ielpi

Less than two years after opening, the Tribute Center welcomed the 500,000th visitor in May 2008.

The half-million visitor was Lt. Jeremy E. Vellón, USN Assistant Air Officer on the *USS Kearsarge*, who

visited the Tribute Center with his family during Fleet Week. A native of Brooklyn, Vellón and his family were honored to mark the occasion with Tribute founders Lee Ielpi and Jennifer Adams. "I have no words to properly describe what this opportunity to visit meant for my family and me," said Lt. Vellón. He lost friend and classmate Darin Pontell in the Pentagon attack, and was deployed the week after September 11, 2001 onboard *USS Bataan* for Operation Enduring Freedom. Lt. Vellon also provided humanitarian assistance to the Bangladeshi victims of Cyclone Sidr with the crew of the *Kearsarge* during Operation Sea Angel II.

After touring the Center, Lt. Vellon stated, "Thanks for this honor on behalf of the sailors, marines and coastguardsmen visiting New York City for Fleet Week 2008. I hope to serve my country as long as she'll let me."

Volunteer Program Celebrates 50,000 Visitors on Tours

This summer the Tribute Center is celebrating personal and meaningful tours to over 50,000 visitors at the World Trade Center site. 225 Tribute volunteers have been trained to share their 9/11 experiences with visitors in a walking tour. The tour weaves together facts along with the volunteer's personal experience as a family member, resident, survivor, recovery worker or volunteer.

Since September 2005, visitors from across the US and around the world have been welcomed on Tribute tours. In a recent visitor evaluation by MEM & Associates, 100% of visitors said they would recommend the Tribute tour to friends and said it was the highlight of their New York City visit. Volunteers treasure the opportunity to meet people from around the world who care about learning about what happened on that terrible day. Volunteers also share a supportive bond with one another and share their stories.

The program has monthly meetings where guest speakers share insights. Former guest speakers include: Frank Lombardi, Chief Engineer, Port Authority and survivor of the 1993 & 2001 attacks; Jules Naudet, documentary filmmaker and survivor; Alice Greenwald, Director of National September 11 Memorial Museum; Barbara Black, National Park Service Curator, Flight 93 National Memorial and resident of Shanksville, PA; Howard Cash, President of Gene Codes Forensics, Inc.; Bruce Powers,



....continued on page 2

WTC Family House Relocated

The Family House has been relocated to Gate 7 due to construction at the World Trade Center site. Gate 7 is located on Liberty Street between Greenwich and West Streets, one block west of the Tribute Center.

The Family House is open 7 days a week from 9am - 7pm.

For information about the Family House, contact: Davella May at the Port Authority, dmay@panynj.gov or 212-435-5552.

Your Family Identification Card from the Medical Examiner will provide access. If you do not have a Family ID Card, contact the Medical Examiner's office at 212-447-4394.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 500,000 Visitor At Tribute
- 1 Volunteer Program 50,000 Visitor
- 1 WTC Family House Relocated
- 2 America's Camp Enrollment
- 2 Pope Visits Sacred Ground
- 2 Resource Corner
- 3 New NYC Mental Health Program
- 3 Letters To USS New York
- 3 National 9/11 Memorial Museum
- 4 Worker's Comp. Registration Ends
- 4 Dates To Remember

RESOURCE CORNER

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

1-800-LIFENET

Free & Multilingual. Available 24/7. Mental health professionals help find mental health and substance abuse services.

<http://www.mhaofnyc.org>
(click on LifeNet)

9/11 Service Guide

List of non-profit agencies with services for those affected by September 11th.

www.redcross.org/september11/help
(under Resources click 9/11 guide)

American Psychological Assoc.

1-800-374-2721

Offers information on everything from managing traumatic stress to coping with terrorism

www.apa.org/topics/topictrauma.html

Faithful Response

516-679-0080

Free, faith-based mental health programs for Long Island residents.

www.faithfulresponse.org

St. Vincent's Health Center

212-346-2582

Free, mental health counseling, healing services and stress management.

Columbia University & NY State Psychiatric Institute

212-543-5367

Does the grief over the death of a loved one on September 11th still interfere with your life?

Free treatment for those eligible.

NYC DOHMH Benefit Program

1-877- 737-1164

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is offering an insurance-like benefit to help cover mental health and substance use treatment for New York City residents affected by September 11th.

www.nyc.gov/9-11mentalhealth

Enroll Now — America's Camp 2008!



America's Camp is a one-week overnight camp for children, ages 7-15, who lost a parent or sibling on September 11th or at any time in

the line of duty as a firefighter or law enforcement officer.

This year the camp won the Eleanor P. Eells Award at the National Conference of American Camp Association (ACA) for distinguished service in camping.

Enrollment for the camp has increased steadily from 80 campers the first year to 275 last year. "Many campers return year after year to unite with friends and learn new outdoor sports," said Beth Griffin, the Assistant Director of Staffing. America's Camp is in Hinsdale, MA at Camp Danbee from August 19–26, 2008. Transportation, food and all camp services are provided free of charge. Campers participate in a range of activities, including tennis, basketball, softball, soccer, volleyball, swimming, rollerblading, archery, water skiing, theater & dance classes, horseback riding, and gymnastics.

For more information:

www.americascamp.org

Beth Griffin,

beth@americascamp.org

or call 1-800-548-6295.

Volunteer Program.....continued from page 1

Georgetown professor and Pentagon survivor; Eric Lipton, author of *City in the Sky*; and many more.

In addition to daily walking tours, volunteers give tours to special groups including military, emergency services, religious groups, international groups and students. Being part of the Tribute volunteer program is a meaningful way to remember a loved one and an opportunity to meet special people who share an important bond.

To inquire about the program or to download an application, visit www.tributewtc.org.

To meet some of our tour guides, go to:

www.tributewtc.org/walktours/meet.php.

Visitor Feedback From Volunteer Tours Of The WTC Site:

"Thank you for taking time to give us such a powerful and meaningful tour of the WTC site. You really helped us understand why September 11, 2001 is the defining event of our generation. We will never forget your personal insights and advice."

"My class found you the single most powerful speaker during our field trip. My students grew up a little bit & connected more to the city because of what you shared."

"Thank you so much for sharing a part of your heart with us."

"I met you when I did the walking tour of the WTC site. You and your family have been in my thoughts since I have gotten back to Ireland. I hope we meet again one day soon."

"We learned so much we hadn't known before and really came to appreciate in a much more personal way, the magnitude of this tragedy and its continuing pain and suffering to those closest to it. It is indeed a wonderful Tribute to those involved and a clear and present voice for those whose voices have been silenced."



On April 20, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI visited the World Trade Center site and descended the ramp to the sacred ground. There he said a silent prayer followed by a spoken prayer, blessing of the site and greeted family members and survivors.

To read the prayer go to our website:
www.911families.org and click on News.

New NYC Mental Health Program

On April 21, 2008, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene announced a new program to cover mental health and substance use treatment for New Yorkers still struggling to cope with the events of September 11th.

The new benefit covers out-of-pocket costs for out-patient mental health and substance-abuse services, as well as medication, lab work and psychological evaluations. The program is retroactive to January 2, 2007, to provide continuity of coverage.

What We Know about the Mental Health Effects of September 11th: Research shows that many people suffered serious psychological distress following the terrorist attacks. In a survey of Lower Manhattan residents conducted shortly after September 11th, the Health Department found that two out of five adults had stress symptoms indicating a need for further mental health evaluation and a potential for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- Rescue and recovery workers experienced PTSD symptoms at three times the rate of the general population.
- Lower Manhattan residents who were present during the attacks, or who had to evacuate their homes afterward experienced PTSD symptoms at up to three times the rate of other residents in the same area.
- About 11% of adult survivors of collapsed or damaged buildings suffered serious psychological distress.

PTSD may increase the risk of depression and substance abuse. "Cost concerns shouldn't deter those still struggling from getting the care and treatment they need to overcome depression, anxiety,

or dependence on alcohol or drugs associated with the attacks. If you're receiving eligible services and don't have other coverage, we can help." said Dr. David Rosin, NYC Executive Deputy Commissioner.

Eligibility includes two groups: **Group A** includes those who:

- Lost a family member, were seriously injured, or lived below Canal Street.
- Worked in the WTC area or at the Pentagon – whether or not they were at work that day — or who were evacuated from the WTC area or the Pentagon.
- Attended a school near the WTC, or are the parent of a child who attended such a school.
- Were rescue, recovery, or reconstruction workers assigned to a "restricted site"; Were emergency dispatchers on 9/11 or worked in morgues serving the attack sites.
- Worked south of Canal Street or at Ronald Reagan Airport, and lost their job before January 11, 2002 or earned less than 70% of their pre-9/11 income.
- Have a family member, or shared a home with someone who meets the criteria above and
- Reside in NYC.

Group B includes:

- NYC residents not in Group A but who have psychological symptoms that are likely related to the attacks. Individuals in this category will be screened, and their treating providers will be asked to submit a letter affirming that their conditions are likely related to the events of 9/11.

For information go to:
877-737-1164
(TTY) 212-982-5284
www.nyc.gov/9-11mentalhealth

Letters To USS New York (LPD) 21

The *USS New York (LPD) 21* will be commissioned in New York City in September 2009. The September 11th Families' Association will present the Commander with a book of letters from family members who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001. If you would like to contribute a letter about your loved one or the meaning of this living memorial, please mail the letter to our office at: 22 Cortlandt Street, #801, NY, NY 10007, or email kgrieger@911families.org with the subject, "Letters to the USS New York."

A web site has been launched by the *USS New York* Commissioning Committee. Visit www.USSNY.org for updates, or to make a contribution to the *USS New York* Foundation that supports morale, welfare and recreation programs for the crew, meets crew-member emergency needs, and helps finance scholarships for the children of crew members.

Due to military and safety regulations the ship cannot accept tangible gifts.



National September 11 Memorial & Museum

The National September 11 Memorial Museum would like to extend an invitation to victims' family members, first responders, and survivors to contribute to the Memorial Museum by participating in two partnership programs: the StoryCorps September 11th Initiative and the Voices of September 11th Living Memorial. We are honored to be working with these organizations to create a vast collection of orally-recorded and digitally-preserved memories that will help us achieve the goal of individually honoring the victims of these terrorist attacks as well as preserving the history. These archives will be accessible in the Memorial Museum.

In addition, we ask everyone to help us build the permanent collection of the Memorial Museum by considering the donation of photographs, memorabilia, personal effects, and other materials that are testaments to the lives and experiences of the victims, as well as materials that help document the events and varied experiences of the day.

For information about the partnership programs, contact Caitlin Zampella, Director of Program Partnership Initiatives: 212-312-8788 or czampella@sept11mm.org

For information on donating to the collection, contact: Jan Seidler Ramirez, Chief Curator & Dir. of Collections : 212-312-8845 or collections@sept11mm.org
www.national911memorial.org

Worker's Compensation Registration Ends August 13th

Without a second thought, tens of thousands of people rushed to help after the terrorist attacks. Thousands of others worked at the site in the year after 9/11 – and now, over six years later, many of those responders are sick.

If you worked at the site, the Staten Island landfill, the barge operation or the New York City morgue (or any of the temporary morgues set up during that period), you can register with the NY State Workers' Compensation Board. By registering, you will preserve your right to file a workers' compensation claim, in case you get sick in the future.

Last summer, the Workers' Compensation Law was changed to allow workers and volunteers who worked in the World Trade Center's vicinity to file a claim for workers' compensation if they have a 9/11 related illness or develop one in the future.

To file a claim in the future, rescue, recovery and cleanup workers and volunteers must register with Workers' Compensation no later than August 13, 2008. People who were exposed to the toxic dust or psychological trauma should protect their right to file a claim. If you are in doubt about whether or not you qualify, you should register.

For information visit www.nycosh.org
or call the toll-free, 24-hour hotline
1-866-WTC-2556

Our newsletters are now available online:
www.911families.org/newsletters.html

Dates To Remember

7th Annual Brian Cannizzaro Memorial Golf Outing & BBQ

Friday, August 8, 2008
Silver Lake Golf Club, Staten Island
718-447-5640
info@brianfund.com or visit
www.brianfund.com

5th Annual Lt. Thomas Kelly Memorial Golf Outing

Friday, August 15, 2008
Cherry Creek Golf Links, Riverhead
Jim Kelly 917-538-0197

Camp Haze

August 18-24, 2008
Camp Kennybrook, Monticello
908-665-9092
www.camphaze.org

6th Annual Summer's Last Call to Benefit "With Eddie's Help, Inc."

Friday, August 22, 2008
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ
Jay Strauss: 732-742-8888
www.witheddieshelp.org

7th Annual Damian Meehan 5-K Memorial Run/Walk

Saturday, September 6, 2008
Central Valley, NY
212 942-3432
www.damianmeehan.org

5th Annual Frank Thomas "F.T." Aquino Outing

Texas Hold'em - Family Day
Saturday September 6, 2008,
Nansens Lodge, Staten Island
www.outing4FT.com

7th Annual Capt. Gerald F. DeConto U.S. Navy Scholarship 5-K Run/Walk

Sunday, September 14, 2008
Sandwich, MA
Dave DeConto 508-888-8571
www.GeraldDeConto5k.com

To learn more about these
and other events visit:
www.911families.org/events.html

Donations in Memoriam

FF David Arce

FM Ronald Bucca

Christopher E. Faughnan

Bernard Mascarenhas

FF Michael D. Mullan

FF John J. Tipping

Diane M. Urban

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

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT NO. 74