USS New York Care Packages

On September 9th and 10th, in honor of September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, 150 volunteers from companies affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 came together to create care packages for the crew of the USS New York. Volunteers included special guests New York Mets: Josh Thole, Dillon Gee, and Bobby Parnell; NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly; FDNY Commissioner Sal Cassano; FDNY Chief of Department Edward Kilduff; and Port Authority Superintendent of Police/Director of Public Safety Michael Fedorko. The volunteers assembled personalized, five-pound care packages including sports memorabilia, t-shirts, books, meal bars, instant coffee, vitamins, flashlights, sunscreen, toothpaste, shaving cream, razors and personal notes.

The shirt said: “Welcome to the Neighborhood...The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, USS NEW YORK.”

The sailors received their morale-boosting care packages in late September. One sailor wrote us to say, “I have served in the Navy for over 24 years and never have I received a care package… I have just recently reported on board and I knew it would be a special place when I received my orders to the USS New York but never did I fathom that you and the people of a city I have never visited would treat me as if I were one of their own”.

The Tribute Center and volunteers were very pleased to do something positive on this anniversary and express gratitude for sacrifices of the men and women serving on the USS New York.

A special thank-you to volunteers from Aon; Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft; Keefe, Bruyette & Woods; Sandler O’Neill + Partners; and Deutsche Bank.

Thank you to our generous care package donors including: Port Authority of NY and NJ, New York Mets, New York Jets, FDNY, NYPD, Pelican, Impact, GNC, New York Pass, Tom’s of Maine, WS Badger, Cliff Bars, PRO Bars, Fairway Market, Kind Bars, National September 11 Memorial Museum, Rentacrate, Rescue Remedy, and Barbasol Shaving Cream.

Zadroga Bill Passes in House

Last month, in a vote of 268 to 160, the US House of Representatives approved legislation to provide $7.4 billion for treatment to recovery workers who have illnesses from the toxins found at the WTC site. The bill’s fate in the Senate is precarious.

The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, named for an NYPD detective who died of pulmonary fibrosis in 2006, would provide $3.2 billion over 8 years to treat these illnesses. New York City would be responsible for 10% of those costs. $4.2 billion would reopen the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to help with monetary loss from illnesses.

In the past, Congress allocated funds annually to monitor recovery workers. The bill’s supporters hope for a more permanent health program to avoid annual funding battles. Almost 60,000 people participate in 9/11 monitoring and treatment programs.

The NYS Department of Health confirms 813 deaths caused by the WTC-related illnesses. For details, please click here: www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/investigations/wtc/health_studies/confirmed_deaths_2010.htm.
WTC Ship Remains Unearthed

The Tribute Center collaborated with our neighbor the New York Academy of Sciences to produce a fascinating program on the 18th-century ship that was recently unearthed at the World Trade Center site. When the ship was found during the excavation for the new Vehicle Security Center on the south side of the site, Tribute Center docents tried to point out the remnants of the ship as they walked visitors around the site. It was difficult to see the ship from the south bridge, and it was not at the site for long because it had to be moved very quickly for preservation from the air.

On September 30, more than 150 people came to hear the presentation by New York maritime historian Norman Brouwer, archaeologist Michael Pappalardo and conservator Nichole Doub. The three scholars illuminated the complexity of unraveling the mystery of this exciting find. They showed images of the ceramics, cannon balls, nuts, seeds, shoes and a Revolutionary War period button found amidst the wooden planks. Their talk explained their use of sophisticated technology, including radar scans and vacuum freeze-drying, along with older research tools like lithographs of sloops and schooners in their attempt to identify where this ship was built, where it traveled and what it carried.

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Tribute Volunteers on Healing

As Tribute’s Walking Tour Program completes a 4th year, we asked our volunteers to share their thoughts about leading tours and any impact on healing from the trauma of 9/11. Volunteers expressed empathy for the experiences of others and the healing power of this supportive community and by frequently interacting with the site, they have gained a feeling of taking control. Here are some of the volunteers’ thoughts on what they have gained from being a part of Tribute’s Volunteer Program:

"9/11 Heartache and Anger, I still had this sadness accompanying me everywhere. I kept looking for some peace and then I found the walking tour program. The more I spoke, the better I began to feel. I was opening a path to my heart, and it felt so good to rid myself of the anger I was holding onto."

"September 11th story is a mosaic.... Like in the beginning there was only my piece. That was all I could handle. But since I’ve started doing tours, and because of all the different people I’ve had an opportunity to work with, I have discovered its hundreds and thousands of pieces that make the picture of what September 11th is. And all of the people we work with – that I get to volunteer with – at Tribute are wonderful."

"I keep the events of Sept. 11th real. Not just dry facts people read about. It is truly allowing me to work through my own feelings of helplessness. One of the best parts of this program is looking into the eyes of those who want to know more about that day & what followed."

"I have healed in many ways. I'm getting to know my home town all over again, without the fear... Doing these tours has given me a bigger purpose – after the tours I tell my husband about the people that I met and the progress at the site..."
Supreme Court Rejects Families for Proper Burial Appeal

On Oct. 4, 2010, the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from some September 11th families that New York City must provide a proper burial for material at Fresh Kills landfill that was taken from the World Trade Center site because it is likely to contain ashes of victims.

The families involved allege that a landfill is not a respectful burial site for human beings.

No remains have been identified for more than 1,100 people killed on September 11, 2001.

Memorials Around the World

In Jerusalem, Israel, a monument was dedicated on November 12, 2009 in Arazim Park to honor those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The monument was designed by Israeli-artist Eliezer Weishoff and was commissioned by the Jewish National Fund-USS/ Keren Kayemet L’Israel. The monument is a 30 ft. high bronze sculpture that commemorates the event and honors the victims with a waving American flag transformed into a memorial flame. It rests on a base of grey granite, part of which comes from the Twin Towers themselves, and is surrounded by a circular crater-like plaza and reflection area tiled in stone.

In Grosvenor Square in England, a garden is dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11. The central plaque is dedicated to the 67 UK victims who were killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93.

A garden for grief and hope, it is surrounded by an oak pergola and pavilion which bears the words: “Grief is the price we pay for love”, part of a message from the Queen read at a New York remembrance service one week after the attacks. The Memorial Garden opened on September 11, 2005. The UK and US flowers in its garden were inspired by those presented to the Queen shortly after the attacks.

Remembering the Attack on the USS Cole

At 11:18am on October 12, 2000, the destroyer USS COLE, only 4 days into a 5-month deployment, was refueling at a “dolphin” refueling station off the Yemeni coast when two terrorists approached her in a small boat filled with explosives. The al-Qaeda terrorists rammed their 35-foot craft into the USS COLE, tearing a 32’x36’ hole in her hull, killing 17 injuring 39 and causing great damage.

USS COLE returned to active duty on December 4, 2003, now bearing 17 stars on a blue-tiled passageway in tribute to the lost sailors. Mounted on a bulkhead in the USS COLE’s mess deck is a box containing marble, glass and metal from the remains of the World Trade Center presented to the ship by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

Killed in the attack on the USS COLE were Hull Maintenance Technician 3rd Class Kenneth Eugene Clodfelter; Chief Petty Officer Richard Costelow; Mess Mg’t Specialist Seaman Lakeina M. Francis; Information Systems Technician Seaman Timothy L. Gauna; Signalman Seaman Recruit Cheron L. Gunn; Seaman James R. McDaniels; Engineman 2nd Class Mark I. Nieto; Electronics Warfare Technician 3rd Class Ronald S. Owens; Seaman Recruit Lakiba Nicole Palmer; Engineman Fireman Joshua L. Parlett; Fireman Apprentice Patrick H. Roy; Electronics Warfare Technician 2nd Class Kevin S. Rux; Mess Management Specialist 3rd Class Ronchester M. Santiago; Operations Specialist 2nd Class Timothy L. Saunders; Fireman Gary G. Swenchonis, Jr.; Ensign Andrew Triplett; and Seaman Apprentice Craig B. Wibberley.

Alleged Memorial Park Chapel Arsonist in Court

During his NYC court appearance on October 6, ’10, Brian Schroeder, 26, says he was too drunk to know what he was doing when he torched Memorial Park’s chapel last Oct. 31, so the court should be lenient with him.

Prosecutors seek a deal with a minimum 1-3 years prison time and $25,000 in restitution.

Schroeder spent 2 hours in the chapel building a bonfire of 9/11 photos and mementos.

The judge will announce a plea deal on November 3.
Tunnel to Towers Run

The 2010 Tunnel to Towers run was a great success. More than 23,000 runners and walkers, including nearly 1,200 West Point cadets, followed the route FF Stephen Siller ran to the WTC on September 11th to honor all the victims killed that day. The tunnel is lined with American flags and the photos of victims of the attacks.

Winners were Daniel Lewis, with a time of 16:58 and Erin-Kate Aleksak, who ran in 20:38. Many wounded warriors also completed the 5-K route.

2010 Peripheral Neuropathy Summit

Friday, December 3, 2010 - Sunday, December 5, 2010
Washington, DC

The Summit features 2 conferences – one for patients and one for physicians. Peripheral neuropathy is rampant among WTC survivors and recovery workers.


For more information, please click here: www.neuropathysummit.org

9th Annual Marc S. Zeplin Foundation Benefit Concert

Saturday, November 20, 2010, 8:00pm
New York, NY

The 9th Annual Marc S. Zeplin Foundation Benefit Concert will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 8:00pm at Crash Mansion. The concert features the music of Tramps Like Us, a Springsteen tribute band.

The Marc S. Zeplin Foundation honors the memory of Marc Scott Zeplin, who was working at Cantor Fitzgerald in Tower 1 of the WTC.

Donations in Memoriam

Paul A. Acquaviva  B.C. Thomas Haskell, Jr.  FF Michael D. Mullan
FF David G. Arce  FF Timothy S. Haskell  Christine Olender
Captain James Amato  Mary "Molly" Herencia  FF Kevin O'Rourke
Bruce Boehm  BC Brian C. Hickey  Jon Perconti
FF Peter Brennan  Tara Y. Hobbs  Joseph Perroncino
Captain Patrick J. "Patty" Brown  Joseph A. Ianelli  Jason E. Sabbag
Fire Marshal Ronald Bucca  FF Jonathan Ielpi  John G. Scharf
Leonard M. Castrionno  FF Robert King, Jr.  Khalid M. Shahid
Larry Davidson  Rebecca L. Koborie  Captain Timothy M. Stackpole
Michael D. Diehl  Danielle Kousoulis  Anthony Starita
Lt. Kevin Dowdell  FF Daniel Libretti  Edward T. Strauss
Captain Michael Esposito  Edward J. Mardovich  Yoichi Sugiyama
Meredith Ewart  FF John Daniel Marshall  Keiichiro Takahashi
John Farrell  Tonyell F. McDay  FF Louis Valentino
Lt. David J. Fontana  Scott McGovern  Erica Van Acker
Andrew Friedman  FF Denis J. McHugh III  Donna Ann Wilson
Edwin J. Graf III  FF Michael Montesi  David H. Winton

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