

## HONORING THE NY NATIONAL GUARD

On Friday May 18th, in a ceremony at the 9/11 Tribute Center, New York State Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy and Lee Ielpi, Board President of the Tribute Center who lost his son Jonathan Ielpi on 9/11, honored the New York National Guard for their service after 9/11. Major General Steven N. Wickstrom, Commander of the NY National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division, accepted a plaque from the Tribute Center in recognition for their dedication.

Lieutenant Governor Duffy said, "The New York National Guard has served our state and nation honorably and selflessly throughout its history. The Guard's response to 9/11 demonstrated the dedication, strength and courage of the men and women who serve our state; service that was continued in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. National Guard troops also bravely performed water rescues and large scale evacuations of residents during last year's floods, helping residents across New York rebuild their towns, villages and lives. The people of New York State will forever be grateful and honored by their service." *(cont'd on page 2)*



## 9/12 GENERATION PROJECT TEACHES SERVICE

The 9/12 Generation Project is the youth service-learning division of the New York Says Thank You Foundation. Their mission is to engage children in acts of citizenship and volunteer spirit akin to those that united our nation and the world on September 12, 2001. These children are the 9/12 Generation. The award-winning documentary film, *New York Says Thank You*, has been edited for schools. Nearly three thousand schools nationwide will have access to the film and related support materials to engage students in meaningful discussions about the history of 9/11 and service projects.

With support from KPMG, Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, and the Christina-Taylor Green Memorial Foundation, each school will receive the film accompanied by learning components. The Mentor Action Guide includes the history of September 11, 2001, and links to supplementary curriculum provided by the Tribute Center and the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum. The Tribute Center and Generation 9/12 are collaborating to share Tribute's comprehensive online learning resources including inspirational classroom projects and the annual Tribute teacher awards. The Service-Learning Project Guide offers a curriculum around projects of disaster relief, and community revitalization. The Youth Action Guide is a tool for youth to manage their service components of the 9/12 Generation Project. To learn more about the 9/12 Generation project go to <http://912generationproject.org>.

## TRIBUTE VISITS THE PENTAGON



On May 18, 2012, Tribute Center volunteers traveled to the Pentagon Memorial along with members from the Flight '93 Ambassador program from Shanksville, PA. Jim Laychak, who lost his brother on 9/11, is President of the Pentagon Memorial Fund. He gave a tour sharing personal reflections and details of the memorial design. Elegant and simple, the Pentagon Memorial serves as a timeline of the victims' ages, spanning from the youngest victim, three-year-old Dana Falkenberg, to the oldest, John D. Yamnicky, 71, a Navy veteran. Each Memorial Unit is a cantilevered bench, a lighted pool of flowing water, and a permanent tribute, by name, to each victim.

Jeanette Gutierrez, a survivor and Tribute Center volunteer, said, "The 9/11 Memorial is so big - the Pentagon's Memorial is much smaller and compact but that didn't matter - the tangible feeling of loss is still the same, the commitment of the docents is the same and more importantly the sense of resilience and the power of healing is the same. It will be so cool for me to lead tours and tell visitors in New York that I've been to the Pentagon Memorial and share their story on tours."

Bruce Powers, a survivor from the Pentagon and volunteer with both the Tribute Center and Pentagon Memorial, gave an evening tour describing "the soft light that emanates from beneath each of the 184 benches, coupled with the relative quiet from fewer visitors and reduced traffic on the adjacent Highway of Heroes, lends a serenity after dark that gives the Pentagon Memorial a different feel not to be missed." *(cont'd on page 2)*

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## RESOURCES

### Mental Health & 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)

### American Psychological Association 1-800-374-2723

Referrals on everything from  
managing traumatic stress  
to coping with terrorism  
<http://locator.apa.org>

### Faithful Response 516-679-0080

Free, faith-based mental  
health programs for Long  
Island residents.  
[www.faithfulresponse.org](http://www.faithfulresponse.org)

### Columbia University & NY State Psychiatric Institute 212-543-5367

Does the grief over the death of a  
loved one on 9/11 still interfere  
with your life? Free treatment for  
those eligible.

### Mount Sinai Consortium 1-888-702-0630

Medical monitoring for workers  
and volunteers.  
[www.wtcexams.org](http://www.wtcexams.org)

### FDNY

212-570-1693

Service for all active and retired  
NYC firefighters and  
EMS workers.

### WTC Centers of Excellence <http://www.nyc.gov>

### WTC Environmental Health Center 877-982-0107

## HONORING THE NY NATIONAL GUARD



(cont'd from page 1) The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 triggered an unprecedented mobilization of the National Guard forces that continues to this date. Never in our nation's history has a National Guard force done as much for so long for homeland and national defense. Within hours of the attacks on the World Trade Center, 1,500 NY National Guard troops reported for duty. Within 24 hours, over 8,000 NY National Guard soldiers, airmen and women were on active duty supporting New York's security. Troops secured the area, rushed in supplies and assisted with rescue and recovery. The 9/11 Tribute Center gives heartfelt thanks to the NY National Guard for their service. Lee Ielpi said, "In honor of Armed Forces Day we are delighted to recognize the National Guard for their continuous service and immediate response after 9/11 to protect and serve New York State."

Major General Wickstrom leads a force of more than 3,500 NY National Guard soldiers and oversees a wider division force that includes more than 14,000 troops assigned to combat brigades in New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. "Since 2006, when I returned from Iraq and was first assigned to the 42nd Division, one of the things I have most enjoyed is asking Guardsmen to tell me the story of their service after we were attacked on 9/11 - where they served, what their duties were, what sticks out in their memory. There is a familiar theme to the story. Most threw their gear in a duffle



bag, said a hurried goodbye to their families and reported to their armories. Many reported with no formal orders to do so, and none knew how long it would last. Over the days that followed these Guardsmen in New York and across America helped return a sense of security to airports and train stations and a sense of calm to America's streets. It was the beginning of an extraordinary change in the National Guard. Although Guardsmen were poorly equipped and had been under-resourced for years, they possessed two things that remained undiminished. The first was their love for their country. The second was a dedication to serve her."

Following the presentation, National Guard soldiers and their families toured the 9/11 Tribute Center and visited the 9/11 Memorial.

## TRIBUTE VISITS THE PENTAGON

(cont'd from page 1) The trip also included a stop to learn about the 9/11 memorial over a group burial site at Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial specifically honors the five individuals for whom no identifiable remains were found. However, a portion of the remains of 25 other victims are also buried at the site. The names of the 125 Pentagon employees as well as the 53 passengers and 6 crewmembers aboard American Airlines Flight 77 are inscribed on the memorial. The site is on a slight rise, which gives it a view of the Pentagon.

Tribute volunteer Reverend Lisa Bellan-Boyer reflected, "At the World Trade Center site, our focus is so often on the vertical perspective: the distance from the skies to the sidewalks and streets, and down to the depths below. From the hilltop at Arlington Cemetery,

looking out from the Chaplains' Monument, Paul and I could see a new horizontal perspective how the September 11th area was intentionally placed as close to the Pentagon as possible."

Lunch at the Arlington County firehouse concluded the trip, with firefighters who responded on 9/11 sharing their experiences. Annually, the Tribute Center volunteer program travels alternately between the Pentagon and Flight '93 Memorial as an educational experience to learn first-hand about the events at each location. Volunteers are then able to share personal references from both sites with visitors on tours at the Tribute Center and 9/11 Memorial.

If you are interested in joining the Tribute Center volunteer program, email [volunteer@tributewtc.org](mailto:volunteer@tributewtc.org) or call 212-422-3520 ext 112.



## TRIBUTE HOSTS 6TH ANNUAL POETRY READING

Tribute held its 6th annual poetry reading in recognition of National Poetry Month (April) on April 30th. Poets included students from two schools in which the teachers have engaged their classes in ongoing and multifaceted projects connected to 9/11 - William McKinley IS 259 in Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn and Elysian Charter School in Hoboken, New Jersey. The poetry readings are community events and include Tribute volunteers, professional poets, people with an interest in poetry, and students.

Tribute volunteer Peter Messana talked with the students about his experience working in the recovery and read his poem "The Spirit of 343". The reading culminated with a masterful, lyrical recitation by poet Alan Britt of his 9/11 pieces and one by his student. Britt is a Professor of English and Creative Writing at Towson University in Maryland, and after the reading he engaged with the other readers in remarkable conversations about poetic language and process. Three 7th grade students asked him, "How do you get in the zone to write your poems?" The professor in turn said he couldn't believe that young students had such a profound understanding of the poetic voice.

**Alanna Livingston** **William McKinley**

They were frightened, but didn't turn back.

**IS 259**

Forgot about the courage they thought they lacked.

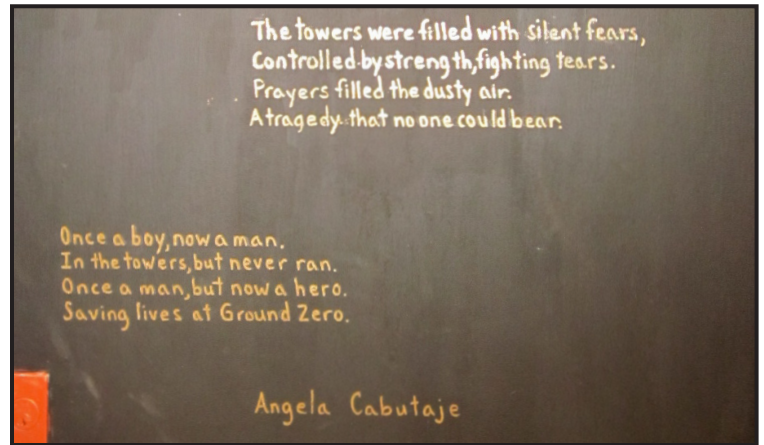
Fort Hamilton

Left behind all their fears.

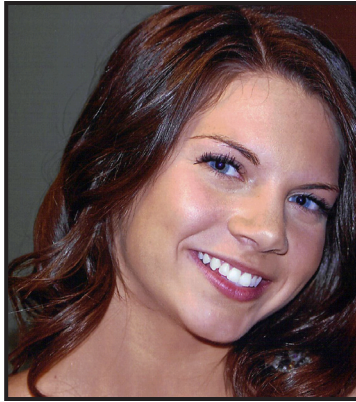
Brooklyn

Departing with only a trail of tears.

William McKinley IS 259 School of Brooklyn painted a mural making September 11th the theme for the newest section of a continuing mural that students started in 2006, incorporating poems and literature of student reflections on 9/11. Thomas J. Buxton, the seventh-grade English teacher who proposed 9/11 as this year's theme after a student referred to what happened that day as "an accident" and hoped to change that, providing students with education and awareness.



## TRIBUTE VOLUNTEER PROFILE



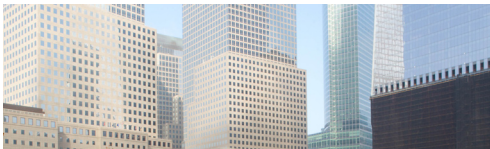
Ten years ago, when Katie McDonnell's birthday fell on Father's Day, officers from NYPD, ESU Truck 1 surprised her with a Disney princess party. They closed off the street and brought in the mounted unit for horse rides. "There weren't any kids," Katie remembers, "just my family and the officers," officers who have become almost an extension of Katie's family. Katie's father, Brian McDonnell, also an officer with ESU Truck 1, was killed responding to the terrorist attacks on September, 11, 2001. He was last seen entering the South Tower prior to the collapse. His body was not recovered.

This month, Katie McDonnell turns 19, and just as she has every year since her Disney princess party, she'll be remembered on her birthday by the officers from NYPD's ESU Truck 1. Brian's colleagues from the NYPD have been there for key moments in Katie's life ever since his death on 9/11. One of his fellow officers dressed up in his denim shirt and cowboy hat and took Katie to her Girl Scout hoedown.

They came to her Sweet Sixteen, high school graduation party and even gave Katie her first guitar. As Katie puts it, the NYPD "really stepped up" for her, which is something she wants to talk about as a volunteer walking tour guide for the Tribute Center. Katie and her mom, Maggie McDonnell-Tiberio, are two of the newest people to volunteer for Tribute's walking tour program at the 9/11 Memorial; all volunteers in the program have deep, personal connections to the events of September 11th. Tribute's tours recently transitioned to the 9/11 Memorial, and that sense of place is what encouraged Maggie to join the program. "Most people go to the Memorial and think only of that day, of death and destruction," she says. "I want people to know what happened on September 11th was only one day of Brian's life. I want people to know Brian the father, the husband, the son, the brother, the friend." For Katie, now a sophomore at NYU, volunteering for Tribute is about helping others understand the enduring aftermath of the tragedy. "Kids my age don't remember 9/11 that much," she explains. "What happened on September 11th wasn't just something that happened to my parents' generation, the next generation was affected by 9/11."

Katie is not only one of Tribute's newest volunteers, at 19, she's also one of our youngest. Dina LaFond, who lost her daughter on September 11th, has been a Tribute volunteer since 2006, a year after the program started. Although you'd never know it from her demeanor, Dina is proud to be Tribute's most "senior, senior" volunteer. There is a great diversity of volunteers in Tribute's walking tour program that reflects the profound impact 9/11 had on different generations and constituent groups.

To find out more about Tribute's volunteer program, please contact: Nancy Gamerman, 212-422-3520 x112 or [volunteer@911families.org](mailto:volunteer@911families.org).



**Tenth & Final Chris Slattery  
Golf Classic**

Monday, July 9, 2012  
Great River Golf Club, Milford, CT  
[www.chrisslatterygolfclassic.com](http://www.chrisslatterygolfclassic.com)

**9th Annual Glen Rock 9/11  
Tribute 5-K Run**

Wednesday, July 4, 2012  
Veterans' Park, Glen Rock, NJ  
[www.tributerun.org](http://www.tributerun.org)

**Mark Bavis Leadership  
Foundation Night of Comedy**

Sunday, July 15, 2012  
New Seabury Country Club  
Mashpee, MA  
[www.markbavisleadershipfoundation.org](http://www.markbavisleadershipfoundation.org)

**11th Annual Lt. Joe Gullickson  
Memorial Picnic**

Saturday, June 30, 2012  
Nansen Park, Staten Island, NY  
[www.themaverickfoundation.com](http://www.themaverickfoundation.com)

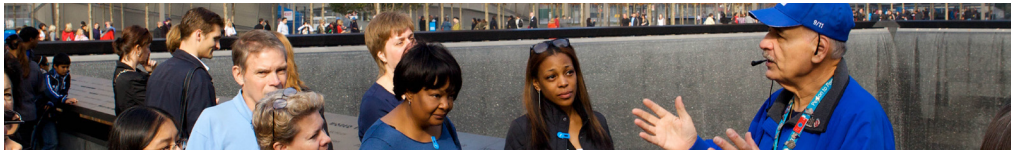
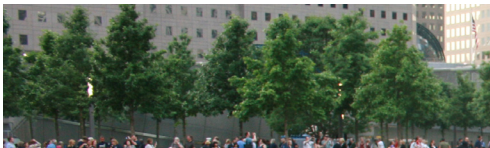
**Ninth Annual Robin Kaplan  
Memorial Golf Tournament**

Thursday, August 2, 2012  
Lake of Isles Golf Course at Foxwoods  
Resorts & Casino, North Stonington, CT  
<http://rkmgt.com>

**For more information:**

Visit our families' website and go to our events  
page at [www.911families.org/events.html](http://www.911families.org/events.html)

**EVENTS**



**DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM**

**Paul A. Acquaviva**

**FF Michael Boyle**

**FF Robert Evans**

**Christopher Edward  
Faughnan**

**FF Alan D. Feinberg**

**Terence D. Gazzani**

**Lt. David Halderman**

**Lt. Paul T. Mitchell**

**Francisco Heladio Muñoz**

**Lt. Robert B. Nagel**

**Betty Ann Ong**

**FF Michael Otten**

**FF Thomas E. Sabella**

**Maria Theresa C. Santillan**

**FF Gregory M. Stajk**

**FF Lawrence Virgilio**

**David Harold Winton**

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