

FEBRUARY 26, 1993 REMEMBRANCE

February 26th marked the 22nd anniversary of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. We honor the memory of John DiGiovanni, 45, Robert Kirkpatrick, 61, Stephen Knapp, 47, William Macko, 57, Wilfredo Mercado, 37 and Monica Rodriguez Smith, 35, and her unborn child who were killed. 1,042 people were injured when terrorists detonated a truck bomb in the basement-level garage of the North Tower.



Hundreds of first responders from the FDNY, NYPD and PAPD evacuated approximately 50,000 people from the complex in a rescue that took more than 11 hours. The bomb caused numerous fires and thick smoke that made the evacuation extremely difficult. "Chief Engineer Gene Fasullo, myself, 5 other engineers and 2 attorneys were in the elevator on our way down to lunch. We could see the soot and smoke falling from the ventilation fan. Forty minutes later the lights went out. We scored the walls of the shaft using a key and a nail clipper, and cut our way into the 58th floor bathroom." - Frank Lombardi, Assistant Chief Engineer, PANYNJ

A massive FBI investigation followed in coordination with the NY Joint Terrorism Task Force, with 700 FBI agents worldwide. Four men were tried, convicted, and sentenced to life. The mastermind of the bombing, Ramzi Yousef, was captured in Pakistan in 1995 and convicted along with the driver. It was later learned from Yousef that his Trade Center plot was to topple one tower, with the collapsing debris knocking down the second. The attack turned out to be something of a deadly dress rehearsal for 9/11; with the help of Yousef's uncle Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, al Qaeda would later return to realize Yousef's nightmarish vision. – Source fbi.gov.

In 1995 a granite memorial fountain was erected on the World Trade Center Plaza. The memorial contained the names of the six people who perished as well as an inscription that read: "On February 26, 1993, a bomb set by terrorists exploded below this site. This horrible act of violence killed innocent people, injured thousands, and made victims of us all." The memorial was destroyed by the attacks of September 11, 2001. However, the lessons learned from the 1993 bombing and improvements in the evacuation are credited with saving many lives on 9/11. Today the 1993 victims are listed on the North Tower 9/11 Memorial pool, a reminder that the events of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 are forever linked.

We invite you to visit the 9/11 Tribute Center to view the first timeline unit sharing the personal experiences of February 26, 1993 or tributewtc.org to learn more.

Stories of Strength and Resilience EXHIBIT OPENING

A new exhibit in the lower level of the 9/11 Tribute Center entitled *Stories of Strength and Resilience* opened March 5, 2015, offering a setting for Tribute volunteer guides to share their personal stories of 9/11. Throughout the day, Tribute volunteers will share their personal stories with visitors in a shortened format similar to the Tribute Center walking tours. Tour groups and students have long had the opportunity to hear the stories from first responders, survivors, family members, recovery workers and lower Manhattan residents on Tribute tours, creating a memorable exchange of ideas. In the new exhibition, visitors throughout the day will also have the opportunity to hear these stories.

Video stories in the new exhibition are organized around four themes: survivors of 9/11, the art and challenge of crafting stories, stories of resilience and educational stories featuring teaching resources. Tribute Center volunteer guides are featured for their strength and commitment to sharing their stories.

The interactive display also provides questions for visitors to answer via social media and gives visitors an opportunity to share their thoughts, feelings and photos about how they were affected by interacting with the Tribute Center guides.



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DONATE TODAY

Support the 9/11 Tribute Center volunteer and educational programs. Donate today. Go to tributewtc.org/support

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Call 1-800-LIFENET

Free & multilingual. Available 24/7. Mental health professionals help find mental health and substance abuse services. Visit their website for details, clicking on LifeNet, <http://www.mhaofnyc.org>.

American Psychological Association

Call 1-800-374-2723

Referrals on everything from managing traumatic stress to coping with terrorism. Visit their website for details, <http://locator.apa.org>.

Faithful Response

Call 516-679-0080

Free, faith-based mental health programs for Long Island residents. Visit their website for details, <http://www.faithfulresponse.org>.

Columbia University & NY State Psychiatric Institute

Call 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

Call 1-888-702-0630

Medical monitoring for workers and volunteers. Visit their website for details, <http://www.wtcexams.org>.

FDNY

Call 212-570-1693

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

WTC Centers of Excellence

Visit their website for details, <http://www.nyc.gov>.

WTC Environmental Health Center

Call 877-982-0107

2015 ANNUAL TRIBUTE TEACHER AWARDS

The 9/11 Tribute Center celebrated their 8th annual Teacher Awards on February 26, 2015 in remembrance of the 22nd anniversary of the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993. Educational projects created for students to help them understand the events of 9/11 are recognized for inspiring students to remember and to improve the world. The quality of the projects submitted has improved each year with students seeking greater depth and analysis of 9/11. Dozens of submissions were received. Eight schools were awarded a Certificate of Merit and a financial gift to their school donated by 9/11 family foundations.

Welcoming comments were made by New York State Regent, Charles R. Bendit, who presented the awards to each teacher. There were 8 award-winning projects: one each from Connecticut, North Carolina and Nevada, two from Massachusetts, and three from New York. Projects focus on the historical and humanitarian aspects of 9/11 history. These lessons were developed for history, language arts, and civics classes.



The awardees are:

Kathleen Connon, Scarsdale MS, NY
(developing human values of empathy and service)

Nicholas DeAntonis, Academy IT & Engineering, CT
(oral history project how 9/11 changed our world)

Mario Fitzpatrick, McQueen HS, NV
(understanding terrorism)

Judi Freeman, Boston Latin School, MA
(the impact of violence /creating a public exhibition)

Gail Frydkowski and Zach Rothman-Hicks, HS for Health Professions and Human Services, NYC
(explored defining moments and memorialization)

Dr. Susan Miller, Middleborough HS, MA
(oral history-based research/video production)

Kristina Seligson, School: PS/IS 127Q, NYC
(researching 9/11 and community activism)

Vickie Slaydon, Bethany Elementary School, NC
(arts-based community event of remembrance)

The awards have been made possible by contributions from seven 9/11 family foundations—the Brooke Jackman Foundation; the Christopher Slattery 9/11 Memorial Foundation; the Greg Richards, Larry Polatsch, Scott Weingard Memorial Fund (GLS Memorial Fund); the family of Firefighter Michael D. Mullan; the Terence D. Gazzani 9/11 Scholarship Fund; the Terry Farrell Firefighters Scholarship Fund; and the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust.

To contribute in support of the 9/11 Tribute Center education program and annual Teacher Awards, visit tributewtc.org/support.

Share free Tribute educational resources. Visit tributewtc.org/education

WOMEN WHO PLAN THE NEW WORLD TRADE CENTER

In recognition of Women's Month, a panel of women who have been involved in the rebuilding and revitalization of the World Trade Center and the surrounding neighborhood will discuss their roles in this long and complex process. The women are involved in many different aspects of this large-scale urban planning, including welding steel on the Calatrava Transportation Hub, re-routing Route 9A, furthering sustainability at the new World Trade Center, enhancing the area's public amenities, including dining, retail and cultural events, and advocating for the needs of the community during the decade-long process of rebuilding.

This program is being co-presented by the Women's City Club of New York which is interested in highlighting the often unseen work of women in the development of an important icon of New York City.

The panelists will include Jennifer Adams-Webb, CEO of the September 11th Families' Association; Sabrina Kanner, Senior Vice President for Design and Construction, Brookfield Office Properties; Jia Dee Li, WTC Sustainability Manager for The Port Authority of NY & NJ; Catherine McVay Hughes, Chair of Manhattan Community Board 1; Ambra Melendez, Ironworker Local 361; and Marie Sullivan, Operating Engineer, Local 15. Since 2001, the World Trade Center neighborhood has grown exponentially with a residential population that has almost tripled. New companies ranging from technology to media have moved downtown, and millions of tourists come to pay tribute at the 9/11 Memorial. The women on the panel have worked tirelessly to accommodate the living and community needs of all those groups by advocating for quality of life, educational, cultural and spatial needs of each group.

STORIES SHARED IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Personal stories are central to the 9/11 Tribute Center mission. Stories told by Tribute volunteers, and others who were impacted by 9/11 share poignant moments of struggle, personal transformation and healing. One of the most utilized components of Tribute's website consists of the powerful stories that our viewers can interact with online. Organized thematically, online visitors are offered a variety of stories that reveal the impact of 9/11.

Two new online exhibits have been added to our collection. In the first exhibit, "Surviving 9/11", viewers are invited to understand the experience and the challenges survivors faced moving forward. Dr. Craig Katz, Professor of Psychiatry, Icahn School of Medicine, Mt. Sinai Hospital reveals the conscious choices that people have made to help them regain control of their lives. The stories include those of corporate employees, a Port Authority engineer, an FDNY firefighter, a lower Manhattan resident and a victim's family member.



My brother vanished.



Keep moving; don't look back.

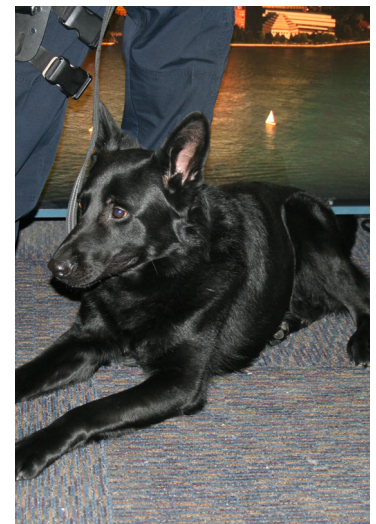
In the second exhibit "Crafting our 9/11 Stories: A Transformational Journey" offers 9 stories, each revealing a turning point in the storyteller's experience. Each of the storytellers had to face the challenging task of re-examining what happened to them on 9/11 and subsequently. Viewers can experience the stories of a 9/11 family member who invites them into her kitchen to experience the community of support she felt; a firefighter who shares his dramatic experiences during the morning of 9/11, other firefighters who share their experiences in the aftermath, an NYPD detective in charge of identifying remains reveals her personal challenge, a Tower One survivor describes his experience being caught in the collapse and a resident shares the details of returning home in the aftermath of the attacks. Visit tributewtc.org to view the online exhibits.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT INSPIRED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ryann Pignataro, a senior at Exeter-West Greenwich Senior High School in Rhode Island, visited the 9/11 Tribute Center and was inspired by the courage of the 9/11 community. After interviewing Mike Hurley, a survivor of the 1993 and 2001 terrorist attacks, for her school project, she was inspired to support the mission of the 9/11 Tribute Center. For her senior project, Ryann created a fundraiser to support the Center's programs. Ryann explains, "A fundraiser seemed like the perfect opportunity to help people where it mattered."

Ryann organized a walk-a-thon using the track behind her high school. Forty people attended from her small community, raising \$1,000!

NYPD K-9 PROGRAM



On a freezing Sunday afternoon, NYPD ESU K-9 Officers William Hernandez and Matt Wicelinski gave a warmly received presentation on the work of the K-9 unit teams to a standing-room-only audience. Accompanied by their canine partners, Buddy, a German Shepherd, and Dallas, a Belgian Malinois, the two men spoke about and demonstrated the dogs' training.

The dogs come from breeders in the Czech Republic and Germany, and when they get here, they have to be taught to understand commands in English. Dogs are matched to particular partners by size and personality. Once an animal is paired with a police officer, the two develop a very strong bond. A dog lives with the officer and his or her family, and learns to obey that officer above anyone else. Officer Hernandez, who is a training supervisor, talked about the dogs' role at the World Trade Center and said that some of the NYPD dogs have extra training so they can work with FEMA in disaster response. Officer Wicelinski described the dogs' exercise routines – jumping over walls and running on treadmills, learning to recover human remains, locating missing people, and helping detectives after a burglary. Finally, he demonstrated the dogs' favorite activity – going after a ball.

Officer Wicelinski commented that he was in high school on 9/11 and he could see the smoking Twin Towers from his classroom window. He followed his father into the NYPD and loves his job with the K-9 Unit.

During the recovery at the World Trade Center in 2001 and 2002, rescue dogs from the NYPD and from all over the country actively helped to search the site. Other dogs played an important role as therapy dogs who brought comfort to the people facing the daunting task of examining the crevices and canyons on the 16 acres.

Ryann was delighted last month to return to the Tribute Center and personally deliver the proceeds to support the Tribute Center educational mission. She said, "Ever since my first visit to the Tribute Center and my tour with a 9/11 community volunteer, I felt a strong connection to the September 11th attacks. I wanted to do something, no matter how small it might have been." After Ryann graduates from high school, she hopes to attend Boston University and study publishing.

Be inspired to make a difference like Ryann. Find ways you can support the 9/11 Tribute Center mission at tributewtc.org/support

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

DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

Joao Alberto da Fonseca Aguiar, Jr.
Lt. Gregg Atlas
Margaret L. Benson
John Paul Bocchi
Vincent M. Boland, Jr.
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Salvatore Gitto
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and her unborn child
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Naomi Leah Solomon
FF Gregory Stajk
Craig William Staub
Doris Tooker
FF R. Bruce Van Hine
Meredith Whalen
Scott Jeffrey Weingard
Donna Ann Wilson
Siucheung Steve Wong

DATES TO REMEMBER

Visit www.911families.org and select
"Events" for a full list of upcoming events.

Architectural History of the WTC

Monday, April 6, 2015
9/11 Tribute Center, New York, NY
For more details, rsvp@tributewtc.org

Metro NY COPS Fundraiser

Thursday, April 16, 2015
Mulcahy's, Wantagh, NY
For more details, metronycops.org

Poem in Your Pocket Day

Thursday, April 30, 2015
9/11 Tribute Center, New York, NY
For more details, rsvp@tributewtc.org

Kevin J. Hannaford, Sr. Foundation Family Fun Day

Sunday, May 3, 2015
Basking Ridge, NJ
For more details, kevinhannaford.org

Donations in Honor

Peter Bitwinski
Tribute Center
David Greenberg
Lee Ielpi
Bill Kehoe
Susan Mollo
Tim Reeves Family
John Scibilia
Thomas Tierney

CORRECTION FROM NOVEMBER 2014

*A donation was made
in HONOR of John Scibilia*

9/11 TRIBUTE CENTER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM
May 1st - 2nd | July 10th - 11th

