



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, September 12, 2011

## **THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL OPENS TO THE PUBLIC**

*The General Public Returns to the World Trade Center After a Decade*

*On First Day Alone, Visitors Expected from 46 of the United States  
and More than 30 Countries*

**New York, N.Y.** - The National September 11 Memorial (9/11 Memorial) opened this morning, allowing the public to return to the World Trade Center site for the first time in 10 years. 9/11 Memorial Chairman Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels, Memorial architect Michael Arad and landscape architect Peter Walker joined 9/11 family members to greet visitors from around the world.

"New Yorkers, Americans and people around the world now have a beautiful, dignified place to pay tribute to the memory of the 2,983 men, women and children we lost in the tragic attacks of 9/11," said Mayor and 9/11 Memorial Chairman Michael R. Bloomberg. "The opening of this Memorial fulfills a promise we made to open it to families on the 10-year anniversary and keep it open for them and the rest of the world forever to reflect on what happened and to honor the 9/11 victims and heroes."

9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said, "It was an honor to be with thousands of victims' family members in yesterday's commemoration ceremony at the Memorial, and this morning we are now glad to welcome the world. Thousands of men and women have made building the 9/11 Memorial their passion, and I am grateful to all of them. We now have a lasting tribute to the lives that were taken from us ten years ago."

Virginia S. Bauer, who lost her husband David Bauer on 9/11, serves on the 9/11 Memorial Board of Directors and also as a Port Authority Commissioner. "On behalf of all of the 9/11 family members on the Board of Directors for the Memorial, it is a great honor to welcome the public to this sacred site," Bauer said. "Besides being a beautiful tribute to my husband and all the men and women who we lost that day, the Memorial serves as a place where people of all backgrounds and

**NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**

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beliefs can come together to reflect on the events and recommit ourselves to bringing peace and understanding to the global community."

Due to ongoing construction on other World Trade Center projects, free timed passes are required to visit the Memorial. The timed reservation system launched in July through the Memorial's website: [911memorial.org](http://911memorial.org). More than 400,000 passes have been reserved by people from all 50 states and more than 70 countries. Today, the Memorial expects roughly 7,000 visitors from 46 of the United States and 33 countries.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to oversee the design, fundraising, programming, and operations of the Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center. The Memorial and Museum will be located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site. The Memorial was dedicated on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and the Museum will open in September 2012.

The Memorial remembers and honors the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The design, created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two reflecting pools set in the footprints of the original Twin Towers, around which the names of the victims are inscribed in bronze. The pools are surrounded by a plaza of trees.

The Museum will display monumental artifacts linked to the events of 9/11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning, and recovery that are central to telling the story of the 2001 and 1993 attacks and the aftermath. It will communicate key messages that embrace both the specificity and the universal implications of the events of 9/11; document the impact of those events on individual lives, as well as on local, national, and international communities; and explore the continuing significance of these events for our global community.

For more information or to reserve a free visitor pass to the Memorial, go to [911memorial.org](http://911memorial.org).

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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