



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, September 10, 2012

# THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM PREVIEWS EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING VICTIMS' LIVES

The "In Memoriam" Exhibition Will Feature Portraits, Personal Profiles, Recorded Remembrances and Other Memorabilia of the Nearly 3,000 Victims

Milestone is Reached for Collecting Portrait Photographs for the Exhibition

(New York) September 10, 2012 – The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today previewed the 9/11 Memorial Museum's "In Memoriam" exhibition, which is dedicated to commemorating the lives of the 2,983 people killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The preview was hosted by Voices of September 11th as part of its Annual Day of Remembrance Forum.

The 9/11 Memorial also announced a major milestone for the exhibition. The initial phase of collecting portrait photographs that will be a key part of the memorial exhibition has been completed. The Museum has collected 2,962 portraits and is continuing its endeavor to obtain one of every victim so that all are represented by a portrait photograph in the exhibition.

"The memorial exhibition will be the heart of the 9/11 Memorial Museum. We've made tremendous progress on the off-site fabrication of the Museum's exhibits and building of our permanent collection," 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. "We are grateful for this opportunity to begin sharing the individual stories of these men, women and children who were taken from us too soon."

The 9/11 Memorial was invited by Voices of September 11th to preview the exhibition and share news about its progress as part of the 11th Anniversary Day of Remembrance Information Forum in downtown Manhattan. Two of the media components of "In Memoriam" were unveiled at the Forum, attended by victims' families, first responders and others in the 9/11 community. In the exhibition, touchscreen tables will allow Museum visitors to learn about the victims through photographs, biographical profiles and other materials contributed to the Museum's permanent collection.

Forum attendees could explore a set of 30 complete profiles. Attendees also previewed a set of 10 audio-visual profiles that will be projected in a contemplative inner chamber. This space will provide the setting for the continuous presentation of 2,983 profiles that will include brief biographies, photographs and spoken remembrances recorded by family members, friends, and former colleagues.

"'In Memoriam' commemorates the life of each individual by focusing on the way these people lived their lives, rather than how they died, drawing particularly upon remembrances by those who knew them best—their families, friends and

colleagues," 9/11 Memorial Museum Director Alice M. Greenwald said. "We are particularly grateful for the participation and support of so many family members, because this exhibition relies heavily on material they contribute. It is our hope that through this exhibition, Museum visitors will connect to the shared human and emotional impacts of 9/11 that touched the lives of real people, their families, friends, and colleagues."

"Voices of September 11th is privileged to support families since our inception in 2001," said Mary Fetchet, Voices of September 11th Founding Director. "As a 9/11 family member, I recognized the importance of assisting families through the emotional process of honoring their loved ones. Through our work in creating the '9/11 Living Memorial,' families have contributed thousands of photographs and personal mementos. We congratulate the families who have shared their photographs and heartwarming stories, leaving a meaningful legacy for future generations. Voices of September 11th is proud of our partnership with the 9/11 Memorial Museum and honored to preview 'In Memoriam' as we observe the 11th anniversary."

"In Memoriam" is being created with photographs, recorded remembrances, personal objects and other tribute items donated by family members and friends of victims. Content has also been provided through partnerships with the Voices of September 11th's "9/11 Living Memorial" project, originally conceived by September's Mission, the Tribute WTC Visitor Center and StoryCorps' "September 11th Initiative." StoryCorps received a 2012 Peabody Award for its work on recorded 9/11 remembrances.

Additional exhibition materials have been provided by the New York City Fire Department Family Assistance Unit, the Port Authority Police Department, The New York Times, the Pentagon Memorial Fund, the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund and the United States Department of Justice. Other companies that lost employees on 9/11 have also helped to ensure the meaningfulness of this special area of the Museum.

In addition to portraits, the exhibition will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn more about the men, women and children who died in the attacks through remembrances recorded by loved ones and personal belongings such as a pocketbook, a favorite baseball cap, a pair of drumsticks or a red bandana like the one once worn by 9/11 victim Welles Remy Crowther.

Crowther, 27, a volunteer firefighter, worked as an equities trader for Sandler O'Neill + Partners in the South Tower. Using a red bandana to cover his mouth and nose to guard against smoke, he guided people to a stairwell and stayed behind to help people seriously hurt in the terror attack. He was killed in the building's collapse. His family donated another one of Welles' red bandanas to help the Museum tell his moving story.

The portraits will line walls of the exhibition, while individual multimedia profiles will be presented in an inner room. Touchscreen tables will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn more about each person and explore additional images, recorded remembrances, and other biographical and commemorative materials that are part of the Museum's permanent collection like Crowther's bandana. The memorial exhibition is being designed in a way that will allow families and friends to

continue to contribute to the exhibition over time.

## **Collecting Oral Remembrances**

The 9/11 Memorial Museum will always continue to collect and record remembrances of the victims for inclusion in the memorial exhibition.

The Museum asks family members, friends, and former colleagues of those killed in the 2001 and 1993 attacks to support its ongoing effort to collect spoken remembrances of the victims.

Appointments to record a remembrance with an oral historian can last between 30 minutes to an hour, and families are encouraged to schedule a recording by calling (877) 671-1636 or emailing collections@911memorial.org. Examples of recorded remembrances and information about the exhibition are available online at 911memorial.org/remember.

Alternatively, the Museum's "Call to Remember" initiative allows people to record a 10-minute remembrance by phone by calling (866) 582-5613 (toll free) or (646) 248-6225. Callers are encouraged to imagine that they are speaking with a friend and to share information that will help others learn more about the person who died. Remembrances can be recorded in any language.

"If you knew anybody that day, call and tell a story about that person. As family members, we want to hear from people who knew them—even if it's something others think might be insignificant—because it's huge for someone who lost somebody that day," said Deirdre Kroupa, sister of NYPD Officer Glen Kerrin Pettit, who died on 9/11. "We don't have new memories from the last 10 years. We only have what happened before that day."

The Museum gratefully partners with the 9/11 Tribute Center and StoryCorps in collecting remembrances. A collection of the recordings are available on the Memorial Guide app, which is free for download on iPhone, Windows Phone, and Android. The names arrangement of the Memorial can also be explored online at names.911memorial.org.

#### Commemorating 9/11

Please join us in commemorating this year's 9/11 anniversary. Visit <u>911memorial.org/commemorate</u> to download the Commemoration Planning Guide, which provides resources for commemorating 9/11 in communities, schools, through social media, and as an individual. On Twitter, use #honor911 when observing the anniversary.

#### ABOUT VOICES OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

Voices of September 11th (VOICES) was co-founded in 2001 by 9/11 family members Mary Fetchet and Beverly Eckert immediately following the attacks on September 11th. The VOICES mission is to provide long term support services that promote resiliency for 9/11 families, rescue workers and survivors, commemorate the lives lost on 9/11, advocate for reforms to make our country safer and provide

assistance to those impacted by mass trauma.

With offices in Connecticut, New Jersey and Washington, DC the organization provides information and programs to over 14,000 registered members living in the United States and abroad. Services include teleconference groups, case management services, an e-newsletter and an Annual Day of Remembrance Information Forum on September 10th and Commemorative Luncheon on September 11th. In 2006, VOICES launched the 9/11 Living Memorial Project, an online archive to commemorate the nearly 3,000 lives lost and document firsthand accounts of rescue workers and survivors. To date, VOICES has collected over 70,000 photographs, written materials and personal keepsakes. The 9/11 Living Project will be a core component of the exhibits at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City.

For more information about VOICES, or to schedule a Living Memorial appointment visit voicesofseptember11.org.

## 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 are 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 is now open to the public.

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 formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers and 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.

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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