

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, Inc. | 470 Atlantic Avenue, 4th Floor | Boston, MA 02110
 Phone Toll Free (866) FUND-911 | www.massfund.org

Table of Contents

Welcome Spring	1
Events and Family Service Projects	2
Thanksgiving Day of Service at Catholic Charities	2
Catholic Charities Gift Drive	2
Holiday Pops	3
Winter Service To Project Benefit Camp Harbor View	3
What to Expect If You Visit Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO)	4
9/11 Survivors—Visit to the National 9/11 Memorial Museum	5
Ted Kennedy’s Legacy—A New Interactive Institute for the Senate	6
Upcoming Events	6
Chief Prosecutor, General Martins to Speak at Harvard on April 14, 2015	6
Red Sox Tickets Available	7
Upcoming Tuesday’s Children Programs	7
Memorial Day Flag Planting	7
FAC Housekeeping Notes	7
Video Montage Updating Project	7
Do You Have Something to Share?	7



Welcome Spring 2015!

After a 20-year record breaking winter season observed over a large portion of New England, and monstrous snow we have become famous for, we can’t help but be excited about spring. We have some great events to look forward to. We’ve already sprung into action and we’re busy planning family events, including service projects, a Red Sox outing, and the 14th Annual Commemoration. For those of you wondering what to expect if you visit GTMO, turn to page 4. General Martins is making a rare visit to Boston on April 14th. For details, turn to page 6.

We always look forward to welcoming new family members to our committee to help us with our important volunteer service on behalf of MA 9/11 families. Please get in touch with us if you would like to join our efforts. Our work includes producing the quarterly newsletters, organizing social and service events, and planning the annual commemoration. Family members have found creative ways to help us and we appreciate any suggestions you may have to offer.

As we plan this year’s commemoration, we will be taking into account the comments from the survey so many of you were kind enough to complete. Though this is a non-milestone year, the commemoration will be no less important with regards to its content, respectfulness, and how it honors our loved ones. We are hoping to update our video montage this year, so if your loved one’s photo is not included in it, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. Details are on page 7.

Board of Directors

President
Eric Lowrey

First Vice President
John Curtis

Second Vice President
Linda R. Gay

Treasurer
Faith R. Arter

Margaret Hatch, Clerk

Members at Large

Rita DiGiovanni

Laura Ogonowski

Mass 9/11 Staff

Alyse R. Mazerolle, Director of
Operations and Programs

Family Advisory Committee

Teresa Mathai, Chair

Karin Charles, Vice Chair

Christie Coombs

Iris Friedman

Maureen Gilligan

Diane Hunt

George Smith

Judy Smith

Mike Sweeney

Sally White

Honoary Board

Cany Altman

Mary J. Kakas

Roderick MacLeish, Jr.

Chancellor Marty Meehan

Molly Shereden

Barry Tatelman

Eliot Tatelman

Faith Weiner

In Memoriam

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Loretta W. Kowal

EVENTS AND FAMILY SERVICE PROJECTS**Thanksgiving Day of Service at Catholic Charities**

On November 25th, 2014, 5 volunteers from the Mass 9/11 Fund and one additional family friend offered helping hands at the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive at Catholic Charities South, Brockton under the direction of Beth Chambers. It was a beautiful sun-filled day, thankfully, as we performed our assigned tasks outside. We all worked tirelessly from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Hundreds of turkeys and all the fixings were handed out to those in need. In addition, we brought canned and dried goods to help replenish their shelves. This was appreciated by Beth and her staff. All in all it was a feel good day for all of us.



Maureen Gilligan, Sally White, Carol Queeney, Judy Smith, George Smith, Diane Hunt, Alyse Mazerolle, Eileen West, Beth Chambers

Catholic Charities Gift Drive

Catholic Charities, under the direction of Beth Chambers, held a Gift Giving Day for underprivileged children in December at their headquarters in Brockton. Each parent, with the assistance of volunteers, was able to choose two gifts appropriate to their children's ages. The parents showed proper identification upon arrival, and then were able to choose the donated gifts in the designated rooms. Sally White, Maureen Gilligan, Diane Hunt, Alyse Mazerolle and her two college sons, Alex and Jackson, volunteered from the 9/11 families. This was a feel good day for all of us. We left looking forward to helping out again next year, with hopes of getting more volunteers from the 9/11 families involved.

Holiday Pops

On December 14th, 65 family members and friends attended the Boston Pops Christmas concert, conducted by Keith Lockhart, at Symphony Hall in Boston. We all shared a grouping of wonderful seats conducive to an evening of entertainment, putting us all in the wonderful holiday spirit! The evening concluded with a visit from the big man himself — Santa Claus!



The Hansen Family



Olivia Charles, Larissa Gay and Darian,
Karin Charles, Linda Gay



The Yang Family

Winter Service Project To Benefit Camp Harbor View

On December 16th, a group of 6 family members joined staff members of the Camp Harbor View program in Boston to wrap holiday gifts for children participating in the program. Toys, art supplies, baby items, winter coats and other clothing items were among the gifts packaged for delivery to children in families living in at-risk neighborhoods of Boston. Participation in this service project has always had special meaning to the 9/11 families since it was part of our gift to honor Mayor Thomas Menino, who initiated the Camp Harbor View program in 2007. With his recent passing, this year was even more special, with an increased amount of donated gifts.

During the service project, 9/11 family members had an opportunity to meet program staff over lunch. We all had an opportunity to share our story and learn more about the programs that Camp Harbor View provides, including a summer camp program for kids in age from 11 to 14, and a Leadership in Training program for older teens. We hope to repeat this service project in the future and perhaps participate in other volunteer activities initiated by Camp Harbor View during the year.



George and Judy Smith



Eileen West, Kelly Morrissey, Wendy Knight, Karin Charles, George Smith, Judy Smith



What To Expect If You Visit Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO)

As with other trials, victim families are invited to witness the court proceedings and in this case for the 9/11 Military capital case of US v KSM et al, 9/11 families are invited. My son and I were the most recent MA family members to visit GTMO, a few weeks back. If you have not already done so, you can still register for the lottery to attend. Over the years, from the Moussaoui trial onwards, family members and other 9/11 constituents have been selected by a lottery system and have attended the pre-trial hearings, as this case has not yet gone to trial. Some of you might have already visited the Joint Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and others might be wondering whether it is an opportunity you might want to avail of. Here are some of the logistics you might consider to help you with your decision.

The lottery - When your number comes up, you will get a call offering you the dates of the next court session, usually two to three weeks in advance. If you are not available to attend, you might get offered the next round, if it is already scheduled. If you cannot go on the dates provided, your name goes back into the lottery pool. To sign up, send an email to Karen Loftus at Karen.v.loftus.civ@mail.mil or register in person, if they are in town. Their next visit will be at Harvard on April 14th.

Time commitment - Plan for 8 days. The court is usually in session for five days- Monday through Friday. You would fly out on the previous Friday, spend a night at a hotel, preferably one on Andrews Air force Base, D.C. so that, early morning on Saturday, you would be ready to take the 3- hour chartered flight to Guantanamo Bay (GTMO). Over the weekend, families can settle into their accommodation on the base, get a tour of the base and court facilities, and get security credentialing, so everyone is ready to start early on Monday morning.

The flight back to Andrews Air Force base is on Saturday morning. It is recommended that you book your flight home from DC late Saturday evening or Sunday morning, in case the flight from GTMO gets delayed.

Expenses - You are expected to make your own return airfare or other travel arrangements to get to the DC area and onto Andrews Air Force Base. The Presidential Inn on the Base has rooms at \$60 a night. You are also responsible for any accommodation after you return from GTMO. The flights between Andrews Air Force base and GTMO are free. At GTMO, you pay for your meals and any groceries or gifts you might buy while on the base. Food at restaurants or the "Chow Halls"- cafeteria-style dining, is very cheap. Your stay on the base is complimentary. On your return, you will receive a small per diem reimbursement.

Activities on the base - Though you are expected at court on weekdays, sometimes, the court sessions are cut short and you will have free time. Karen Loftus and her team at the DOD Victim Witness Program will be your hosts on the base and you will be transported in a family van. There are a couple of gyms, a swimming pool, the NEX, a department store, and a gift store. You might have time to take a tour of Radio GTMO, visit a couple of beaches or take a boat ride, and possibly visit the Gate between the GTMO base and the other side of Cuba!! As GTMO is a bustling joint base, you will be surrounded by the wonderful energy of military personnel and various events on the base, including an open-air theater. Keep an eye out for Banana rats and GTMO Charlie, the infamous Iguana!

Military Commission and the Press - You will get multiple opportunities to meet as a group or individually with the prosecution team, the defense teams, as well as members of the press. The court is a temporary building fabricated especially for the military trials on the base. You will be seated in the visitors' gallery with the press, NGOs, and other military personnel. The guest seating is behind a soundproof glass screen and the court proceedings can be viewed on CCTV screens as well as through the glass screen. The CCTV is on a time-delay of 40 seconds. If someone inadvertently discusses something classified, the sound will be cut for a brief period.

What To Expect If You Visit Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO)

(cont'd)

If you would like to speak to me or another MA family member who has already visited GTMO, please get in touch with me and we can answer any questions you may have. Once you get selected, Karen Loftus and her team will send you all the pertinent information you will need to make your travel, stay, and GTMO experience successful.

Teresa Mathai
Chair, Family Advisory Committee

9/11 Survivors - Visit to the National 9/11 Memorial Museum

I was at the World Trade Center on Sept 11, 2001, and was fortunate to escape with my life. Witnessing a major devastation at a young age has left a major impact on my life. Since then, I founded a non-profit organization to help survivors; specifically those who escaped from the building I escaped from, the Marriott World Trade Center that connected the North and South Tower. The hotel was completely destroyed on Sept 11. As part of my non-profit group, I organized two trips to the 9/11 National Museum. For some survivors, going to the 9/11 Museum gave them some sense of closure although it brought back difficult memories.



On the first trip, dozens of survivors came, some from other parts of the country. It was an emotional day for all the survivors and felt like we were reliving the sights, smells and sounds from that horrific day. There were many tears as we walked through some of the devastation. It was an emotional experience to relive the devastation that we witnessed first-hand on 9/11. Personally, the most memorable part of my trip was finally meeting a fellow survivor named Dick Stark who traveled from another state. On 9/11, he was 80 years old and was staying at the Marriott WTC hotel, when it collapsed on him after the South Tower fell. Trapped in the rubble, he didn't think he would survive, but he was saved by a firefighter. Dick and I had been in touch over the years but never met. Dick was grateful that I help coordinate all the logistics to help make the visit more comfortable. He was very energetic and had a good sense of humor. When we met, he was 93 years young, and full of life and energy. He joked *"Hi, I am the oldest survivor in your group."* I joked back that I may be the youngest survivor in the group. With over 50 years between us, it showed that 9/11 impacted people of all ages, and diverse backgrounds, and it also brought people together.

The 9/11 National Museum has special significance as I have worked with the museum over the past years on the survivors' exhibit. For the first 5 years, I held onto my hotel key card, tags, and receipts from my business trips to World Trade Center. These were a reminder of surviving. As part of moving on, I donated the artifacts to the museum. My story and artifacts are located in the "Historical Archive" section of the 9/11 Museum to help tell the story for future generations.



For me, it is important to have the survivors and the building I escaped from be represented as part of the historical telling of 9/11. Having history be told through personal artifacts, photographs and first-person testimonial is an essential and powerful way to remember 9/11. The survivors group is planning to write a book to tell the stories of those who survived and escaped from this building.

Joyce Ng
9/11 Survivor 3 World Trade Center
<http://www.3worldtradecenter.org>

Ted Kennedy's Legacy—a New Interactive Institute for the Senate

The Who's Who of politics and hundreds of people gathered on the frigid, snowy morning of March 30th to dedicate the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, which stands adjacent to the JFK Library at Columbia Point in Dorchester. The Institute was a vision Senator Kennedy had in 2002, said his wife, Vicki Kennedy, not to honor and remember *him*, but to teach visitors about the part of government he loved so much – the Senate.

After a brief and unexpected visit by President Barack Obama, who headlined the dedication of the Institute, Vice President Joe Biden dedicated the exact replica of the US Senate Chambers that is a focal point for education in the Institution. Speaking of Sen. Kennedy's contributions and outreach to his constituents, President Obama referred to the phone calls the Senator made to the 9/11 families just days after the tragedy and his continued commitment to the 9/11 community. He ended his comments with "What if we carried ourselves more like Ted Kennedy? What if we worked to follow his example a little bit harder?" Each dignitary spoke about the Senator's effectiveness in his 47 years in the senate, and each told personal stories of moments they shared with him.



Photo courtesy of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. Photo(s) © Bruce T Martin. All Other Rights Reserved

The EMK Institute is now open to the public. In addition to the Senate Chamber replica, the Institute features a full-scale copy of Sen. Kennedy's office. As visitors enter the interactive exhibit, they are handed touch tablets and can become Senators for a day. The Institute's mission is to inspire a new generation of leaders, said Mrs. Kennedy, because that was Senator Kennedy's passion. "Legislating is hard and that's one of the things you learn when you go through this place... But what we're showing here is you need to look each other in the eye, talk, and find that nugget of common ground," Kennedy said.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chief Prosecutor, General Martins To Speak at Harvard on April 14, 2015

Next week, on Tuesday, April 14th, Harvard Law School and Tufts University students are hosting the Chief Prosecutor, Brigadier General Mark Martins, and Mr. Ed Ryan, 9/11 Trial Counsel for the US v KSM et Al case. Robert Mathai, son of Joseph Mathai, who died in the North Tower on September 11th, and his mom, Teresa, attended hearings at GTMO in February of this year. Robert, a senior at Tufts, felt that his classmates and Harvard Law School counterparts would be interested in a discussion with military commission prosecutors. Harvard students and faculty offered to host the event at the Harvard Law School.

General Martins will provide the students an overview of military commissions from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm (45 minute talk, followed by 45 minutes of question and answer, off the record). Harvard will have an informal dinner after that. Following this presentation, the 9/11 families in attendance will break off into a smaller group, where Ed Ryan and General Martins will be able to answer individual concerns in private. Karen Loftus and Domini McDonald (Mac) from the DOD Victim Witness Program will also be present. If you are interested in attending, please plan to arrive between 5:30 and 5:45 pm so that family members can go together to the classroom. There are two metro stops within a mile of the University (Harvard Square and Porter Square).

If you have not visited GTMO or do not plan to do so, this is a rare opportunity to meet with General Martins as his schedule is very busy and he rarely comes to town. If you have not already done so and are interested in this event, please contact Karen Loftus at Karen.v.loftus.civ@mail.mil, or call her on her mobile at (703) 973-5050 as soon as possible.

Red Sox Tickets Available

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund is offering another fun day at Fenway Park on **June 14th for a 1:35 pm game against the Blue Jays**. We have 40 tickets available at a cost of **\$33.00 per person with a limit of 6 tickets per family**. We will also be offering a reception before the game in the same place we did last year, which is in the Press Conference room. **These tickets will go on sale (via email) on April 18th starting at 9 am**. Please send your requests to: alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org. It will be awarded on a first come first basis **for family members only**. A wait list will be offered for anyone that would like extra tickets. Once your email request is received, a confirmation will be sent to you within a few days.

Upcoming Tuesday's Children Programs

April 23, 2015:	Take Our Children To Work Day
April 26, 2015:	9/11 Memorial and Museum Family Day
July 26 - August 3, 2015:	Project Common Bond at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania
August 12, 2015:	Alaska: Call of The Wild

Visit <http://www.tuesdayschildren.org/events/> for more information.

Memorial Day Flag Planting

Each year over Memorial Day weekend, the Massachusetts Military Heroes' Fund (MMHF) plants more than 30,000 flags on the Boston Common. Each flag represents a Massachusetts service member who died in service to the country since the Civil War. On the Wednesday before Memorial Day, May 20, MassFund families and friends are invited to join a large group of volunteers to help with the flag planting, beginning at 1 pm. This is a great opportunity to help remind the public what the true meaning of Memorial Day is. The flag display will remain until Memorial Day at 5 pm when MMHF will again call on volunteers to help remove and bundle the flags. Please refer to www.massmilitaryheroes.org for information and to sign up.

FAC HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

Video Montage Updating Project

Our touching video montage is very central to the annual commemorations at the Massachusetts State House, and we have been reaching out to families whose loved one's photos are still not in our collection. Many of you sent us electronic photos, or the originals to our office. We are very pleased to announce that Mike Casey, who lost his wife, Neilie, on September 11th, is a professional photographer (www.casephotography.net) who has offered to volunteer his time to help with this effort to include your personal photographs—on two days...Friday, April 17th from 1—5 pm, as well as Saturday, April 18th, from 10 am—1 pm. Please contact teresamathai@gmail.com, or call her at (781) 975-1248, if you would like to bring your original photo in for professional copying on one of these days.

Do You Have Something To Share?

Family members who wish to contribute a letter, article or news item for publication in an upcoming quarterly newsletter, can do so by emailing it to alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org. Each piece submitted will be reviewed and, if approved by the Family Advisory Committee, will be published in an upcoming newsletter. Deadlines for your 2015 submissions are: May 20, July 20 and October 20.