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May 2, 2011 – Remembrance at the Memorial Garden

## Remembrance, Reflection and Support

### Remembrance and Reflection at the Memorial Garden

Following the news of Osama Bin Laden's death, on May 2, 2011, the Mass 9/11 Fund organized a moving and thoughtful event to honor our loved ones who were lost on September 11. Families and local dignitaries were invited to share in a moment of silence. Following the period of reflection, attendees placed 206 white roses on the memorial, each one representing a New England family member killed on September 11. It was a beautiful moment to remember our loved ones.

### Mass 9/11 Families Share Feelings and Receive Support

In response to requests from Mass 9/11 families, a reflection and support reception was held Friday, May 13, 2011 at Les Zygomates Restaurant in Boston. Following the dinner, family members expressed how they felt about the news of Osama bin Laden's death.

Diane Nealon, LICSW led discussions and offered understanding and support to family members who were again dealing with emotional and physical reactions similar to those they felt after the attacks on 9/11. Beth Chambers, Director of Community Services for Catholic Charities and Erin Heenan were also on hand to lend their support. At the end of the evening, there was a consensus from family members that more gatherings of this nature would be helpful in the future as we continue to respond to events in the aftermath of 9/11.

Family Advisory Committee

Teresa Mathai, Chair  
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In memoriam

Senator Edward M.  
 Kennedy  
 Loretta W. Kowal

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## 9/11 Families Honor Memorial Day with MMHF Families

As part of our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter service project, several 9/11 family members participated in the Mass Military Heroes' Fund's (MMHF) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Memorial Day tribute by helping to plant 20,000 flags in the grass on the Boston Common on the Wednesday before Memorial Day. Some also attended the Name-reading Ceremony on Thursday morning, at which time MMHF family members, friends, and dignitaries symbolically planted 143 flags in honor of those who were killed in Afghanistan or Iraq. Governor Deval Patrick, Attorney General Martha Coakley, and Mayor Tom Menino spoke at the ceremony.

MMHF created the tribute last year as a way to remind people of the true meaning of Memorial Day. Each of the 20,000 flags represented a Massachusetts service member killed in service to our country since World War I. Hundreds of people visited the display each day. The flags made a sobering statement as they waved in the breeze on the sloping hill just below the Sailors and Soldiers Monument on the Common.



Family member and Massfund Board Member Sally White (second from left) brought friends to help plant flags at the Second Annual Mass Military Heroes' Fund Memorial Day tribute on the Boston Common.

## Thanks to Yanks Dinner

Michael Shain, founder of "Thanks to Yanks," will be hosting his 6<sup>th</sup> Annual tribute dinner in Milford, Mass on the evening of September 11. Free to 9/11 family members and military, the event is designed to honor the 9/11 victims and heroes, as well as the military who continue to fight the war on terrorism. Please go to [www.thankstoyanks.org](http://www.thankstoyanks.org) for more information.

## National September 11 Memorial & Museum

### 9/11 Memorial Historian Visits Massachusetts

On May 16, Oral Historian for Exhibitions, Jenny Pachucki from the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York met with families at the Children's Room in Arlington, MA. Ten families took this opportunity to submit photographs, memorabilia and record anecdotes and recollections of their loved one. Each recording will be professionally edited into a 3 minute audio segment that will become part of the museum's interactive archive.

**Note:** The 9/11 Memorial Museum will continue to accept items for display even after their opening on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11. **If you were not available during this visit and would still like to meet with the museum staff, another meeting will be scheduled this summer in Kingston, MA on the South Shore.**

By now, you should have received by mail a *Guide to Memorial Names Arrangement* in a personal folder identifying the precise location of your loved one's name around the two reflecting pools. Additionally, you can find your loved one's name on the perimeter of the North or South pools by utilizing one of the following links:

<http://names.911memorial.org/> or <http://www.911memorial.org/>

If you have any questions Jenny Pachucki can be reached at:

Phone: 212-312-8785 or [jpachucki@sept11mm.org](mailto:jpachucki@sept11mm.org)

### Visit to 9/11 Memorial Museum

From the responses to the Family Advisory Committee Survey sent out to families last month, we determined that there is sufficient interest to organize a group trip to New York for a guided visit to the 9/11 Memorial Museum. The trip will be scheduled in the last quarter of 2011. We will keep you informed of our plans.

## 10th Year Commemoration

### Boston Commemoration – Volunteers, Invitations and RSVPs

We are actively planning for the 10th year commemoration event on September 11, 2011. If you would like to contribute any songs, poems or other readings, or are interested in participating in the event, please contact Danielle Lemack at [dblemack@yahoo.com](mailto:dblemack@yahoo.com).

**We will be sending out the invitations to this year's commemoration event in July - earlier than usual. Please note that we will need you to RSVP by August 1 (which will be noted in the invitation).** If we receive your response after August 1, we may not be able to accommodate you and your family at the luncheon.

### Request for Information on Other 10<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Events

We are consolidating a list of events that will be occurring in and around Boston during the month of September to share with the families. If you know of any such events or your family foundation is conducting a memorial fundraiser or event around this time, please send the details to Christie. Her e-mail address is [mccoombs@comcast.net](mailto:mccoombs@comcast.net)



### Information on Travel Assistance to NY, PA or VA

A New York organization called 9/11 Healing and Remembrance is offering support for family members who wish to take part in 10th anniversary commemorative programs occurring in New York City, Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and Arlington VA. The organization has been funded to provide free transportation for those who specify a financial hardship by stating that they would not otherwise be able to attend one of these events without some assistance. There is no requirement to substantiate your individual financial circumstances. **Please note the deadline date of July 1.**

Visit the Healing and Remembrance Web site [www.9-11healingandremembrance.org](http://www.9-11healingandremembrance.org), for information on mental health resources; commemorative 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event listings; tips for recognizing anniversary related stress and coping skills; and a guide for talking to the media. Call 1-866-212-0444 for assistance inquiries or more information.

### Possible assistance for Commemoration Travel to Boston

There is a possibility that families who need it may receive some travel cost assistance to attend the Commemoration ceremonies in Boston. If you have immediate family living outside Boston (farther than 240 miles) who would like to travel to Boston but need some assistance, please respond to Christie at [mccoombs@comcast.net](mailto:mccoombs@comcast.net) asap. She will relay the information to the Director of Healing and Remembrance who will then decide if they will include Boston in their transportation and lodging funding. **Please note the July 1 deadline applies, so Christie will need to know before then.** [mccoombs@comcast.net](mailto:mccoombs@comcast.net)

## Upcoming Service Projects

### 9/11 Day of Service Projects

The Mass 9/11Fund will again be associated with two worthy service projects on September 11 this year. The projects are being coordinated in recognition of the anniversary of 9/11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

### MMHF Care Package Drive

The Mass Military Heroes Fund will host its Third Annual Care Package Drive on the Rose Kennedy Greenway (near Quincy Market/The Aquarium) in honor of our loved ones who died. Packages will be sent to soldiers currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Families are invited to participate by helping to assemble packages, address labels, and write notes, etc. The event begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends between 1:00-2:00 p.m., so there's time to help after our annual brunch at the Ritz Carlton. Additional help and support can be provided by asking your company or your children's school to hold a drive to collect the items we need in quantities of 500. Examples of items needed are: Chapstick, pens, foot powder, and packages of lifesavers, crackers, etc. Call Diane Nealon at 617-482-0444 or Christie Coombs at 781-982-1608 for more information or to volunteer.

### American Red Cross Blood Drive at Fenway Park

The American Red Cross will again be hosting its "Day of Remembrance" blood drive at Fenway Park from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on September 11. The 8<sup>th</sup> annual event encourages the public to honor this solemn day by giving blood in memory of those who died on 9/11. Each pint of blood donated can help save up to three lives. Sixteen year olds are now eligible to donate, and 9/11 family members will be escorted to the VIP area to expedite the process. Transportation will be provided by the American Red Cross from within the city of Boston to Fenway Park. Family members who choose not to or cannot donate are welcome to stop by to greet and thank donors for giving in our loved ones' memory. Please email Christie in advance of the day to arrange for transportation. [mccoombs@comcast.net](mailto:mccoombs@comcast.net)