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Attention - New MassFund Office

Mass 9/11 Fund Office has Moved

On May 11th the Mass 9/11 Fund office moved to a new location in downtown Boston. The office is located between the Radius restaurant and the Boston Common Coffee Company. **Please note:** it is within walking distance from South Station and convenient for those of you attending Mass 9/11 meetings. The new office address is:

10 High Street, Suite # 305
Boston, MA 02110

New Telephone: 617-482-2911

Alyse Mazerolle, Operations & Programs Director

alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org

Cell Phone: 508-397-4423

2012 Commemoration

Planning for the 11th Commemoration

With another year passing, the Family Advisory Committee has begun planning the 11th Annual Commemoration of 9/11. We are working, once again, with Michael P. Wasserman, Inc. in putting together another respectful and dignified event.

This year's commemoration will be similar to past years. The main difference will be the number of speakers. Last year, being the 10th Anniversary, we had many requests from dignitaries and other individuals to participate. Because this is a "non-milestone" year, attention from the outside will be less, but for all of us, the importance of the commemoration will remain.

We are reaching out to you now to receive your thoughts and comments, collect your loved ones photos and seek volunteers. This year Danielle Lemack is coordinating the family participation for the commemoration. Below is a list of information we are seeking:

- **Photos of your loved one.** Each year, we show a video montage of photos of our loves ones. If your loved one's photo is not included in the montage and you would like it to be, please send it to us so we can include it.
- **Volunteer name readers.** If you or someone in your family is interested in reading names during the commemoration, please send us your name and contact information. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Please send your information and comments to Danielle at dblemack@yahoo.com by **Wednesday, June 27, 2012.**

This year, due to an estimated yearlong State House construction project, the House Chamber will be closed to all beginning this August. As an alternative, we have received special permission to hold the commemoration in Memorial Hall, which is usually reserved solely for use by the Department of Veterans' Services.

Family Advisory Committee

Teresa Mathai, Chair
 Christie Coombs, Co-Chair
 Iris Friedman
 Diane Hunt
 George Smith
 Judy Smith
 Sally White
 Cindy McGinty, Honorary

Honorary Board

Candy Altman
 Mary J. Kakas
 Senator John Kerry
 Roderick MacLeish, Jr.
 Chancellor Marty Meehan
 Molly Sherden
 Barry Tatelman
 Eliot Tatelman
 Faith Weiner

In Memoriam

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
 Loretta W. Kowal

Memorial Hall was built as a memorial to those who fought and died in the Civil War. This magnificent circular hall is surrounded by tall columns of Siena marble and capped by a stained glass dome depicting the state seals of the 13 original colonies. It is beautiful, venerable and very appropriate for the commemoration. Reading of the Names will take place, as it has been, on the State House steps.

The commemoration invitations will be in the mail by early July. Please return your RSVP cards by the deadline stated so that we know how many people to plan for.

We greatly appreciate your input and participation as we plan for the 11th Commemoration. We also invite you to attend the Family Advisory Committee meetings to help plan this year's commemoration. If you are interested, please contact Teresa or Christie.

What Family Members are Doing

Bus Trips to 9/11 Memorial in New York

Nearly 100 family members from children to senior citizens took advantage of the MassFund's two bus trips to New York in April and May to view the 9/11 Memorial. Both trips included a visit to the Memorial; a tour of the site by Tribute Center tour guides (including MA family member Julie Sweeney); access to the Family Room and other points of interest around Ground Zero; and a catered group lunch. In a beautiful display of remembrance, each family member received a white rose to place at their loved one's name.

Many were grateful to have friends of the MassFund, Deborah Rivlin and Beth Chambers, accompany them. "We accomplished what we set out to do in offering these trips," said FAC co-chair Christie Coombs.



**Bernice Barletta and Pat Trentini Malatesta
 placing a rose and doing a hand rubbing**

"We wanted to provide the families with an opportunity to share the experience of visiting the memorial with other family members who understood the emotions. We also wanted to make it possible for those who couldn't do the trip on their own to see the Memorial. We're grateful that we were able to do that for our families."

Moving Forward: Volunteering time at Ground Zero



Julie Sweeney Leading a Tour at Ground Zero

My husband, Brian D. Sweeney was a passenger on United Airlines 175. Brian was 38 at the time of his death and I was only 29. As many of us have come to realize, grieving the loss of a loved one is a drawn out, continual process. It truly never ends. It changes with time, but the difficult days are always there and one never knows what the next day will bring. There is no manual and no right or wrong procedure. So many people use the world closure, but I've always preferred the term "moving forward."

As part of my moving forward, I began volunteering at the WTC Tribute Center in June 2010. I'm not exactly sure what it was that drew me towards this experience, but I have never been more thankful for an opportunity. Once a month, I make the trip from Boston to Manhattan to share my story of that dreadful day. Right after 9/11, I wanted nothing to do with lower Manhattan, the place where so many people were murdered. The devastation and destruction were painful reminders of a day most of us wish we could forget. After some years had passed, I found myself making excuses to be there. Just the opposite of what it had been. It's something that I would never attempt to explain. I was drawn towards the area. I just wanted to be close. The 9/11 Families Association newsletter had a short article on volunteering as a tour guide and I remembered thinking that I wished I lived closer. The time requirement for volunteers was 4 hours per month. It takes 2 full days to travel and lead my walking tours. Every minute is worth it.

The tours take place on the Memorial Plaza and they include a brief history of the World Trade Center, the attacks and the aftermath of 9/11. During the tours, 2 volunteer tour guides get a chance to share their personal experiences from that day. This is undoubtedly the most intense, unique, and special part of each tour. With over 250 guides donating time, it is my honor to walk these tours with each and every one of them. The stories of survival and strength are nothing short of inspirational.

I am admittedly selfish. I go for me. I go to tell Brian's story and to have people know him. I go because it helps me move forward. I am in awe of the Memorial and the progress I see firsthand every month. I have been told that the tours help visitors find a personal connection to that day and a better understanding of the loss suffered by so many. People are inspired by the strength of others who have lost so much yet still find a way to smile and focus on the good. I walk away every time with a renewed strength of the human spirit because of this unfortunate connection that brings us all together. Walking tours are given 7 days a week 363 days per year. For more information contact <http://www.tributewtc.org/index.php>.

Julie Sweeney Roth

Going to Guantanamo: An Unforgettable Experience

At the beginning of May I was selected by random computer drawing to attend the arraignment phase of the trial of Kahleid Sheikh Mohammed and the four other men named as co-conspirators in the plotting and execution of the 9/11 attacks. I traveled to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base with eight other family members as a guest of the Victim Witness program run by the Office of Military Commissions. There is no denying traveling to Guantanamo Bay and viewing the arraignment was physically and emotionally draining, but it offered an unparalleled opportunity to participate in the proceedings in a very meaningful manner.

Any family member is eligible to enter the drawing that provides an opportunity to attend the trial. To do so, contact Karen Loftus at victim.travel@osd.mil and indicate that you want to be included in the selection process. If you have an interest in traveling to see a trial session first hand but have had reservations about it, I highly recommend you contact Karen. She can discuss what the experience entails and perhaps put your mind at ease. You certainly would be in good hands. Karen and her team could not have been nicer and were very sensitive about the physical and emotional stresses family members might experience. I certainly thought it was worth the effort. It was an unforgettable experience.

Blake Allison

2nd Quarter Service Project

Mass Military Heroes' Fund Flag Planting



Jack and Anna Sweeney Planting Flags in the Boston Common

For the third year in a row, 9/11 families helped bring back the real meaning of Memorial Day by volunteering with the Mass Military Heroes' Fund (MMHF). As one of the MassFund's quarterly community service projects, families gave of their time to plant 33,000 flags on the Boston Common, each flag signifying a Massachusetts' service member who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country, dating back to the Civil War.

About 300 volunteers completed the display in under two hours. Thousands of people visited the Common throughout the Memorial Day weekend to stop and reflect, take pictures, and honor our Massachusetts heroes. On Thursday morning, Governor Patrick, Mayor Tom Menino, Attorney General Martha Coakley, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Coleman Nee and other dignitaries were on hand with MMHF family members and board members in a name-reading and symbolic flag planting ceremony. Flags remained until Monday evening at sundown, when about 80 volunteers, including 9/11 family members, helped remove the flags.

2012 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award

Nominations for this Year's Award

The Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery is presented annually on September 11. The recipient of the award must be a resident of Massachusetts and demonstrate exceptional bravery, without regard for personal safety, in an effort to save the life or lives of another or others in actual imminent danger. We are looking for nominations for this year's Award. **Anyone can nominate a potential recipient by going to the web address:** Mass.gov and then search for "Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery". **For a nomination to be considered, follow the directions on the web page. Deadline for submission is Wed., August 1, 2012.**

A completed nomination must be submitted using the online form located on the bottom of the "Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery" web page. Additionally, you may download an electronic version of the form from the web page, print it, complete it and mail it to Madeline Amy Sweeney Award, c/o Executive Office of Public Safety, One Ashburton Place Rm 2133, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, or you may email a completed nomination form to eopsinfo@state.ma.us

Events

Red Sox Game and Reception

Mass Fund families joined Mass Military Heroes' Fund families last month for a fun afternoon at Fenway Park. About fifty family members took advantage of an opportunity to buy tickets to a Red Sox vs. Baltimore game – the game that went 17 innings before the Sox gave in to the Orioles in a 9-6 loss. In spite of the score, it was a beautiful day for baseball and an outing with other families. The Mass Fund treated families to a great pre-game reception inside the park, complete with burgers, Fenway Franks, salads and Cracker Jacks. Wally was there to greet attendees as they arrived for a complimentary tour of Fenway Park. Included were photo sessions with Wally, a view from the Green Monster and tours of other parts of the historical ballpark. Many thanks to Larry Lucchino's office for assisting us with this event. Thank you Red Sox!



Johanna, Jeff, Sophia, and Benjamin: The Filipov family at the tour of Fenway Park

Report from the Mass 9/11 Fund Board

Our Fund's mission is to commemorate, educate and remember the events of September 11th, however, the "action plan" that our organization has used effectively to accomplish our mission is simple, yet in many ways profound, we listen.

Our families' asked for commemoration services that will ensure that proper remembrances will be held on September 11th and our organization has created an endowed financial commitment for this to happen for years into the future. Presently we are designing educational programs for the school children in Massachusetts (and perhaps in other states and countries) to be accurately taught about the attacks made on our country on 9/11 since it has been a concern of those involved with the terrorist attacks that the next generations do not have an understanding of what took place on September 11th. Over the past decade we listened to family members who asked for memorials to be created within our community and our organization has permanently endowed the 9/11 memorial and contemplative garden in the Boston Public Garden. Our Fund continues to assist our community service efforts - this wonderful legacy that has come out of the horrific tragedy that involved everyone in the community we serve.

What is next for our organization? You will drive the decision making by the board and we are listening.

I have been honored to be a board member since 2002 and I look forward to being the President of our Fund during the next year. The best organizations are only as good as our staff and volunteers and I am pleased to say that we have a world-class team. Alyse Mazerolle, our Operations and Programs Director, is now a permanent employee and our volunteer board and committee members are all committed individuals. Please take advantage of our resources. My email is eric.lowrey@massfund.org and you can reach me by calling our fund's office at (866) FUND-911. I look forward to hearing from you.

Eric Lowrey
Board President