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## Families Gather in Newton and Boston

### Reflections and Support After the Boston Marathon Bombings

There is no doubt the Boston Marathon bombings triggered a myriad of feelings for family members. Fortunately, the Mass 9/11 Fund held a Family Reflection & Support Reception for our benefit. The function took place at the Sheraton Crown Plaza in Newton on May 2. Thirty or so of us came. We mingled and caught up with friends while attendees were arriving. Then Beth Chambers of Catholic Charities and Pat Dunn, social workers who many of you have met, facilitated a healing discussion with characteristic skill. We talked about the full gamut of issues on our minds, from what could have been done to prevent the tragedy to helping children cope. Meaningful conversation continued over the delicious buffet dinner, with Beth, Pat, and Kathleen Griffin, US Attorney Office Victim Witness Specialist (who many of you also know from our annual commemorations) each joining family members at one of the tables. Those who were able to attend were glad they did. Thanks to the Board and especially Alyse Mazerolle for making the event possible.

Iris Friedman  
Family Advisory Committee

### Department of Defense Visits Boston

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Karen Loftus, Director, Victim Witness Program, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Office of Military Commissions and the 9/11 prosecution team (a multi-agency group comprised of members from the Dept. of Defense, Dept. of Justice, FBI and New York Police Department) traveled to Boston and conducted two informational meetings for family members who were interested in learning about the status of the prosecution of five suspected terrorists at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

We were given a quick course in the complexities of a trial by Military Commission and why it is being used in lieu of a trial in Federal Court. The presentation also helped acquaint us with basic pre-trial procedures and the substantial documentation that makes this seem like such a drawn out process. Remember that there were 2,976 victims on 9/11. The prosecution team called 9/11 the “worst crime in U.S. history.”

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**In Memoriam**

Senator Edward M.  
 Kennedy  
 Loretta W. Kowal

The team told us that a capital case (a death penalty case) typically takes 3-5 years to complete. Because this case is so complex, it is expected to take much longer. Complexities include: the fact that the accused were arrested on foreign soil; that the trial will take place in a foreign country; and that all of the accused are suspected of being part of a terrorist organization. It was estimated that it would be a year or more before the trial begins. Additionally, we were told that there will be an opportunities for witness testimony from families.

For many years, the DoD has been taking immediate family members to Guantanamo to observe the proceedings. Family members who are interested in witnessing the military commissions' proceedings can sign up for the lottery-style selection process by contacting Karen Loftus at [karen.loftus@osd.mil](mailto:karen.loftus@osd.mil) or by calling (703) 275-8266. The proceedings are available for viewing on CCTV at Fort Devens.

Please see [www.mc.mil](http://www.mc.mil) for additional information regarding Military Commissions, including legal documents, Military Commission history and other interesting facts.

### **Families Help Plant Memorial Day Flags**

At least five Massachusetts 9/11 families helped create a garden of 33,000 flags on the Boston Common in tribute to fallen service members. As part of the Mass Military Heroes Fund (MMHF) Memorial Day project, about 300 volunteers planted the flags which served as a reminder to the public what the true meaning of Memorial Day is.



*David and Sam Gordenstein plant flags together*

For the third year, each of the 33,000 flags represented a Massachusetts service member killed in service to the country since the Civil War. On Thursday, MMHF held a ceremony with Governor Deval Patrick and Mayor Tom Menino and other dignitaries to plant the flags of 187 service members who've died as a result of post 9/11 service.



*Matthew and Julia Coombs also helped plant flags*

## Community Service Project

### St John the Evangelist Church Saturday/Sunday Bread

We will be volunteering on Saturday, June 29 at Saturday/Sunday Bread located at:

St John The Evangelist Church  
35 Bowdoin Street  
Boston, Mass.

You should arrive by 12:15 p.m. and plan to stay until 4:30 p.m. as we will be serving lunch and helping clean-up. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Maureen Gilligan at [MGilligan416@gmail.com](mailto:MGilligan416@gmail.com). We will also be collecting new toiletries, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, etc. We appreciate your support as we continue to "pay it forward."

Maureen Gilligan  
Family Advisory Committee



## 2013 Commemoration

### Madeline Amy Sweeney Award - Request for Nominations

The Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery is presented annually on September 11. The recipient of this 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 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery. Anyone can nominate a potential recipient by going to the web address [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and searching on Madeline Amy Sweeney Award.

To be considered, the nomination must include: (1) evidence of Massachusetts residency; (2) names of two or more witnesses or individuals having personal knowledge of the facts surrounding the candidate's extraordinary endeavor; and (3) a detailed account of any public recognition the candidate has received for his or her endeavor, which includes recognition or awards from any local, civic, religious, or other organizations as well as any press coverage of the event in which the candidate displayed exceptional bravery).

A completed nomination may be submitted using the online nomination form on the website. You may also download the nomination form, print it and mail it to Madeline Amy Sweeney Award, c/o Executive Office of Public Safety, One Ashburton Place, Room 2133, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, or you may email a completed form to [eopsinfo@state.ma.us](mailto:eopsinfo@state.ma.us)

**The nomination form must be submitted by Thursday, August 1, 2013** for acts of bravery performed between July 15, 2012 and June 15, 2013.

### Important Notice for the Commemoration

It's hard to believe that we are already beginning to plan for the 12th Commemoration event this Fall. This year's reflection will again be a more private, low-key commemoration since it is a "non-milestone" year. We are reaching out to you to get your input, collect your loved ones photos and seek volunteers.

- **Photos of your loved one** - Each year, we show a video montage of photos of our loved ones. If your loved one's photo is not included in the montage, please send it to us as soon as possible 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.

Danielle Lemack is coordinating the flow of information regarding the commemoration and family participation. Please respond about your interest in participating in the event to Danielle – [dblemack@yahoo.com](mailto:dblemack@yahoo.com) by **August 1st**.

We work hard to accommodate requests, but given the logistics and extensive work involved in planning the commemoration, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to include any late requests.

In addition, if you plan to attend this year's commemoration, we would appreciate you letting us know. We are in the planning stages and it helps for us to know how many people will be attending. We will be sending you a formal invitation in **July**. Please respond by the deadline. Also, please do your best to be accurate with your response. We expend a great deal of resources for the commemoration event and have to pay for family members who do not attend. Last year, we paid for 40 people who did not attend. We appreciate your help in assisting us to minimize our losses by giving us accurate numbers and informing us if anyone in your party intends to drop out- by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

We greatly appreciate your input and participation as we plan for the 12<sup>th</sup> commemoration.

## Upcoming Family Events

### Theater Tickets for the Hit Show "WICKED"

We have been fortunate to secure discounted tickets to the hit show "**WICKED**" for Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the Boston Opera House, 539 Washington St., Boston, MA 02111.

The price of each ticket is :

- Orchestra seats \$219.00, discounted to \$158.00
- Mezzanine seats are \$142.00, discounted to \$97.00
- Side Mezzanine seats are \$91.00, discounted to \$67.00
- Balcony seats are \$64.75, discounted to \$57.00

To obtain these specially priced tickets go to:



[https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/group\\_corp\\_start.html?i=EN&team=baabos&owner=76685040&group=2462&err=&event=&customerID=](https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/group_corp_start.html?i=EN&team=baabos&owner=76685040&group=2462&err=&event=&customerID=)

When prompted you will need to enter the special offer code: MASSFUND to access the discounted offer. If you are having difficulty creating an account or buying tickets through the system, please call Jill McMillan at (617) 880-2463 and she will walk you through the process. Also contact Jill if the seat pricing you want is not available. There will be NO REFUNDS after your ticket purchase.

If we have at least 20 respondents, we will hold a brunch reception before the performance. Please contact Alyse at: [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org) or call (617) 482-2911 or (866) Fund911 ext. 1 if you plan to attend the brunch.

### Reagle Players –A Musical Christmas Spectacular

The Mass 911 Fund is planning to host a holiday show at the Reagle Theater. The Reagle Players will present a Christmas spectacular, a show we feel the whole family will love. The performance will be held on December 7 at 1:00 p.m. in the Robinson Theatre at Waltham High School. A light lunch or brunch may be offered. Be prepared for a truly wonderful afternoon to put you in the holiday spirit.



Tickets will be \$36.00 each and seats will be located in the center section of the theatre. Tickets must be purchased early in the fall. More information regarding this event will be forthcoming.

**Diane Hunt**  
Family Advisory Committee