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**2008 Commemoration
Thank You and Feedback**

The MA 9/11 Fund staff would like to thank the dedicated committee of family members, government officials, community partners and volunteers who worked tirelessly to help plan and carry out this year's commemoration services. In particular, we are grateful for the contributions of Jon Barkan and his staff at Communications for Learning. We have posted online a link to the program and readings from that day on our web page. In addition, we are hoping family members will take a few moments to fill out our brief online satisfaction survey about the commemoration, in order to help us continue to improve this important program. The survey is located at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=hUzzyjh0e_2fQJnB4j3N9Ffg_3d_3d

If you do not have access to a computer, please feel free to call us with your input.

**Upcoming Family Event
Boston Pops Concert December 12**

We are pleased to be hosting our third winter event with the Boston Pops on Friday, **December 12, 2008** at Boston Symphony Hall. Reduced price tickets are available at a **limit of two** per household for \$50 each; if this cost is difficult for your family, please do not hesitate to let us know so we can make the event affordable for you. You can request these tickets either by emailing or calling Erica Cabag beginning on **Saturday, October 4 at 10:00 am**. If family members need more than two tickets per household, please let us know at the time you request your tickets. We will do our best to honor each request. **As in years past, we will also offer a private reception for family members before the concert in the Higginson North room at 6:00 PM. The concert will begin at 8:00 pm. Tickets will be distributed at the reception; if you do not plan on attending the reception, please let us know and we will mail them out to you.**

Kowal Scholarship Winners Announced

We are pleased to announce that this year, the Fund was able to award Kowal Scholarships to assist **three** young family members with costs of elementary, secondary and therapeutic school education. It is an honor to remember Loretta Kowal's spirit through these remarkable children.

For more information about the Kowal Scholarship Program, please see visit our web page at: <http://www.massfund.org/lorettakowalscholarships.html>

**Credentialing Begins for 9/11 Guantanamo Trials
CCTV Broadcast Site Available to Families at Fort Devens**

The Department of Defense has begun issuing credentials for family members who would like access to watch the closed circuit television broadcast of the 9/11 Guantanamo trials at Fort Devens in Massachusetts. For more information about these trials or to request your credential, please contact the military's Victim Witness Liaison, **Karen Loftus**, either by email at loftusk@dodgc.osd.mil, or by phone at 703-602-4173, x125.

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In memoriam

Loretta W. Kowal

Invitation for Participation

Conference Call with Families of Freedom/Scholarship America

The Fund would like to invite interested family members to participate in a conference call with us regarding the management of the Families of Freedom program of Scholarship America. The purpose of this call is to provide families with updated information about the administration of the funds raised for 9/11 dependents. This call is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 7th at 1:00 pm**. Those interested in joining the call should contact Erica Cabag at the Fund and she will provide you with the call in number. Those interested in participating who are unable to join us on October 7th should contact Ted Livingston for a summary of the call.

Research Participants Needed

Study on Coping with a Parent's Death

Family member **Kerry Silvia, MA**, from Suffolk University is part of a team conducting a study called "Coping with a Parent's Death" to learn about how adolescents cope with the death of a parent. They are especially interested in learning about the role of friendships. They are looking for students grades 6-12 who would be willing to participate with their parent/guardian. The study involves filling out forms that ask questions about your thoughts, feelings and actions and about your friendships. The forms would take about 40 minutes to complete. Amazon.com gift certificates will be given to participants in appreciation of their time.

Please contact Ms. Silvia directly at 617-557-2063 or kerry.silvia@suffolk.edu for more information.

Important Notices on MA 9/11 Fund Programs & Staff

Grant Program Coming to Close

The MA 9/11 Fund's general financial assistance grant program will be coming to a close at the end of December, 2008. Since its inception in January of 2002, the Fund has distributed more than \$1.8 million dollars in aid to qualified family members. Family members who are still struggling financially are invited to contact **Diane Nealon** at the Fund before the end of the year. Please note – participants in this grant program are subject to strict eligibility and financial needs requirements. For more information or to download an application, please visit our web site at:

<http://www.massfund.org/financialassistance.html>.

Staff Hours and Office Move

Beginning some time in the next six months, the staff at the MA 9/11 Fund will be **part-time**. Staff schedules will be posted online. In addition, the offices of the Fund will be moving to a new location. Stay tuned for more details as we relocate!