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## 11<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Issue



Color guard and flags at the 9/11 Garden of Remembrance

### Plans are set for 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration

With the 11th anniversary of 9/11 fast approaching, members of the Mass 9/11 Fund Family Advisory Committee have again planned another commemoration ceremony for the families. With consideration for your thoughts and comments from last year, we are certain that this ceremony will be meaningful and respectful.

This year, **the Commemoration will take place in the House Chamber**, as it has in the past. Earlier announcements had placed it in Memorial Hall due to scheduled renovations of the Chamber. However, those renovations have been delayed and therefore, we were able to return to the Chamber. While there is ample seating in the Chamber on the main floor and balcony for family members, there will be additional seating with screens outside the Chamber to ensure that all attendees will be able to see the proceedings should we have an overflow.

If you have not already responded, please let Alyse Mazerolle know which events you plan to attend.

This year's keynote speakers will be **Cell Phones for Soldiers** founders Brittany and Robbie Berquist. In 2004, when they were just 12 and 13 years old, Brittany and Robbie founded the now national organization in response to the troops going off to war after 9/11. The organization has raised more than \$7 million in donations and collected more than 10 million cellular devices. With troops now coming home, the Berquists continue to assist service members through the new branch called Helping Heroes Home. **We encourage you to bring old cell phones with you on September 11 to deposit in the Cell Phones for Soldiers recycling box.**

**Family Advisory Committee**

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**In Memoriam**

Senator Edward M.  
 Kennedy  
 Loretta W. Kowal

The 11<sup>th</sup> Commemoration day's schedule will be as follows:

**7:30 am, Wreath Laying Ceremony**, Boston Public Garden, 9/11 Garden of Remembrance, Trolley service for those needing assistance will be available from the Memorial Garden to the State House.

**8:30 am, Flag Lowering, Moment of Silence and Reading of Names**, Front Steps of Mass. State House.

**9:30 am, Commemoration Observance & Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery**, House Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor State House, **RSVP required**.

**Reception Luncheon, RSVP required**. Trolley service for those needing assistance will be available from the State House.

**Please Note:** The commemoration at the House Chamber and the reception are by invitation only. See a complete listing of Mass 9/11 Fund 11<sup>th</sup> commemoration events online at [www.massfund.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.massfund.org/calendar-of-events)

### **Last chance to RSVP**

Invitations to the 2012 Boston commemoration of September 11 were mailed out several weeks ago to the families on our mailing list. **If you have not responded yet, please do so at your earliest convenience so that we can plan appropriately. We will only be able to guarantee reserved luncheon seating for those who respond by September 2.**

**Please Note:** The Commemoration will take place in the House Chamber. This year, ushers will be leading family members to their seats, on a first come first served basis. We will try our best to seat your family together, however, if you have a large group and all do not fit within the House Chamber, we will direct some of your group upstairs to the balcony.

**Regarding family members with mobility issues, please note that we can only accommodate those who have specifically requested this service in advance.**

**Please send your Commemoration invitation RSVP to:**

Alyse Mazerolle  
 Mass 9/11 Fund  
 10 High Street, Suite 305  
 Boston, Ma 02110  
[alyse.mazerolle@Massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@Massfund.org)  
 617-482-2911

If you are a family member and you did not receive your invitation please contact Alyse. Send her your name, home address and relationship to the loved one you lost. Also, please send your updated address to [teresa.mathai@massfund.org](mailto:teresa.mathai@massfund.org)

**The Marriott Courtyard Boston Downtown/Tremont**, 275 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116 is offering a rate of **\$249.00** for those people who wish to stay in the city on Monday night September 10th. The hotel is within a 6 minute walking distance to Boston Public Gardens. There are only 10 rooms available at this rate on a first come first serve basis. **You must make your reservations before September 7th to obtain this rate.** To reserve a room, call 1-800-321-2211 and mention the "Mass 9/11 Fund Room Block." The Mass 9/11 Fund is not covering any charges for these rooms. If you have any questions, please contact [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org)

## Red Cross, MMHF Provide Service Opportunities on 9/11

Families in Boston have several opportunities to participate in service activities on 9/11, including the **American Red Cross Blood Drive at Fenway Park**, and **the Mass Military Heroes' Fund's care package drive on the Rose Kennedy Greenway**.

For the 10<sup>th</sup> year, the **Red Cross** will host one of its largest blood drives of the year from 7 am to 5 pm. Called **The Drive to Remember**, the blood drive is held in the Club level of Fenway Park. Donors are treated to traditional Fenway Franks, chicken fingers, and Legal Seafood New England Clam Chowder. 9/11 family members need no appointment, but should notify the Red Cross at check-in that you are a family member so your wait time will be minimal. Transportation to and from the city to Fenway Park may be provided by the Red Cross. Contact Christie at [mccombs@comcast.net](mailto:mccombs@comcast.net) if you plan to donate blood and you need transportation information.

The **Massachusetts Military Heroes' Fund**, a non-profit that advocates for families of post-9/11 fallen service members from Massachusetts, is organizing its **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Care Package Drive on the Rose Kennedy Greenway** on the afternoon of 9/11. Volunteers will be assembling 1000 care packages to be sent to troops serving overseas. Families are encouraged to stop by, write a note to a service member or help assemble the packages. The drive, located on the Greenway near the Aquarium, begins at 11 am and will likely end around 2 or 3 pm. If you know of a school group, business, church or civic group that may be interested in donating items or funds to the project, please contact Christie at [mccoomb@comcast.net](mailto:mccoomb@comcast.net) for details on items and quantities needed.

Other service projects and events are being organized by various groups across the Commonwealth. Refer to the Massfund website [www.massfund.org](http://www.massfund.org) for a complete listing. Our website will be updated as we become aware of more events.

## Other Massachusetts Commemoration Events

Many 9/11 family foundations, other organizations and communities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hold thoughtful commemorations on the anniversary of 9/11. These are the events we are aware of at this time. For more information on events in MA, NY, DC or elsewhere, please check our website [www.massfund.org](http://www.massfund.org).

**Family Fun Day on the Foxboro Common, Saturday, Sept. 8, from 11:30am to 3:30pm.** Featuring; music, magic, games, craft's, balloon art, face painting and raffles, food by Loewen's Deli and a great day of family fun to benefit the McGinty Scholarship Foundation. For more information call Cindy McGinty at 617-270-5155.

**The Jeff Coombs Memorial Foundation 11th Annual Road Race, Walk and Family Day, Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Woodsdale School in Abington.** The Jeff Coombs Memorial Road Race, Walk and Family Day is a 5k run and walk that features free food, many children's activities, a DJ, music and raffles. The event typically attracts more than 1,000 participants. There are awards for the many age categories, and a stroller division. Registration can be done on line at [www.coolrun.com](http://www.coolrun.com) and [www.racewire.com](http://www.racewire.com). Forms are also available on the foundation website, [www.jeffcoombsfund.org](http://www.jeffcoombsfund.org). For more information call Christie Coombs at 781-982-1608.

**Battleship Cove, Rite of Reflection Ceremony, Sept. 11, 8:30am.** In honor of the eleventh anniversary of the nation's most deadly attack, Battleship Cove will conduct a remembrance ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial site with a wreath casting followed by a 21-gun salute. The ceremony is open to the public. 508-678-1100.

**Tewksbury Commemoration Honoring all the Victims of 9/11, Sept. 11, 7pm.** The ceremony will include a color guard and a reading of the names of Massachusetts loved ones. It takes place on the site built in front of the public library at 300 Chandler Street and honors all MA victims, but especially Peter Hashem and Peter Gay, both residents of Tewksbury. The speaker will be Larissa Gay. For more information, visit the web site: [www.tewksbury911memorial.org](http://www.tewksbury911memorial.org) or contact Linda Gay: [Turke11@aol.com](mailto:Turke11@aol.com)

**Paige Farley-Hackel Charity Benefit, Tuesday, Sept. 11.** Boston Music Awards Nominee James Montgomery & Friends come together at Sculler's Jazz Club, 400 Soldiers Field Road for the 11th Anniversary to commemorate and honor the lives and spirit of those lost. This memorable night of music and charity will benefit The Paige Farley-Hackel Memorial Playground in Roxbury. Tickets are available at [www.scullersjazz.com](http://www.scullersjazz.com) for \$25. Please ask about our VIP meet and greet cocktail party with the evening's entertainers. **To request one of the ten pairs of complimentary VIP tickets being generously offered to Mass 9/11 Fund Families, or to make a donation, please contact Peter Hackel at [peter@phproductions.net](mailto:peter@phproductions.net).**

**The Al Filipov Peace & Justice Forum, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7-9pm,** at The Trinitarian Congregational church, Concord, MA. This event is free and open to all. The second annual Al Filipov Peace & Justice Award will be presented to John Hockenberry, journalist and advocate. For more information, contact Loretta Filipov at 978-369-4837 or go to the website [www.alfilipov.org](http://www.alfilipov.org)

**The Tenth Annual Matthew C. Sellitto Golf Classic, Thursday, Sept. 27,** at the Ballyowen Golf Club, 225 Wheatsworth Rd., Hamburg, N.J. 11:00am shotgun start and 4:00pm reception and awards dinner for golfers and non-golfers. For more information visit [www.mcsfoundation.com](http://www.mcsfoundation.com) or contact Joe Huchko at [joe@teamworkenterprises.com](mailto:joe@teamworkenterprises.com) or 908-455-1229.

## What Family Members are Doing

### My Good Deed Launches "I Will" Service Campaign



**Julia Coombs and Katie Harlin, daughter of a New York firefighter lost on 9/11, step on the "I Will" structure in New York's Times Square**

This month My Good Deed launched the 2012 9/11 Day of Service campaign in Times Square. Family members Cindy McGinty and Christie Coombs traveled to New York City to participate in the campaign with the unveiling of a 30-foot-long "I Will" sculpture. Throughout the day, thousands of people stopped by to make their "I Will" pledge, stating what they will do on 9/11 to honor the day of service and remembrance. Those who stopped by included family members, first responders, rescue and recovery workers, military veterans, volunteers, contributors and passers-by.

David Paine, co-founder of My Good Deed, said the campaign has the goal of "again inspiring millions of people and countless organizations to perform good deeds and other forms of charitable service in observance of the upcoming anniversary of 9/11." To promote the project a Public Service Announcement is running on national media and on [www.911day.org](http://www.911day.org) with participation from prominent supporters including Dr. Oz, Victor Cruz, Julianna Margulies, Steve Harvey, and family members.

To make an "I Will" pledge, go to [www.911day.org](http://www.911day.org).

## America's Camp Families Invited to the Pentagon

On Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 33 people were honored to receive an invitation to the America's Camp Exhibit ceremony at the Pentagon, including the Mathai family from MA. Due to high security, attendance was limited to America's Camp participants and their parents, on a first come, first serve basis. The ceremony was followed by a private tour of the Pentagon and a visit to the Pentagon Memorial.



A night time view of the Pentagon Memorial Park

In a park-like setting on the west side of the Pentagon is a memorial to those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. Marking the path to the crash site of American Airlines Flight 77, the Pentagon Memorial offers a remembrance of the victims while providing visitors with a place for quiet contemplation.

Each of the 184 people who perished in the crash, including three with ties to MA, is commemorated with a Memorial Unit that bears his or her name; 125 for the Pentagon personnel (facing towards the Pentagon) and 59 for those who perished aboard American Airlines #77 (facing away from the Pentagon). The units feature a stainless steel and granite bench that arcs upward over a rectangular reflecting pool as though it were growing out of the ground. At night, the pools are lit from below the benches, which is the only lighting in the memorial. The Pentagon Memorial park is free and open to the public, 24/7. For further information visit the websites: <http://pentagonmemorial.org/> and <http://www.whs.mil/memorial/>

The artwork on display at the America's Camp Exhibition at the Pentagon consists of high-resolution reproductions of the five original America's Camp collaborative art pieces. The original collaborative pieces are now part of a permanent collection at the National September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial and Museum in New York City. During the fifth year of the camp, Traci Molloy, artist, educator and activist, joined America's Camp as their art director and with 250 America's Camp kids, produced five collaborative artwork pieces over the next few years. Please see the picture of "The Feathers of the Phoenix", one of the favorites, on the next page.



*The Feathers of the Phoenix, 2006, 8'x15'x20', mixed media sculpture*

The "feather" imagery began as 12"x12" watercolor drawings or paintings which were mechanically reproduced, and then converted into feather shapes. The feathers reflect each camper's wish to honor someone they hold in high esteem. The sculpture glows in the dark, mimicking the mythical Phoenix bursting into flames.

To see more of Traci's Molloy's collaborative artwork with America's Camp (Quilt Slam, Pandora's Lantern, Apollo's Ascent, and The Sky Project), you can visit her website: <http://www.tracimolloycollaborations.com>

### **Project Common Bond: Let Our Past Change the Future**

The events of September 11, 2001 led to the creation of Tuesday's Children, an organization based in NY. Since then we have learned that terrorism touches us all, but none more than the children of its victims. Though this group was originally designed for teens that lost a loved one in the attacks of 9/11, the original participants suggested that it be opened to include international teens. This program now reaches out to teens across the globe who have lost a loved one due to an act of terrorism. Their common bond unites them as one global community standing up for peace.

This year, the annual camp was held in Massachusetts for the first time. Young adults, ages 15 to 20, who lost an immediate family member through an act of terrorism or political violence, qualify for this camp. Three teens from MA were among 75 teens who attended from over 14 different countries, including Algeria, Argentina, England, France, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, and the United States.

Participants learn to become ambassadors for peace through a Harvard University designed conflict negotiation and peace-building curriculum, thereby gaining essential knowledge to move forward and affect change, not only in their own lives but in their communities as well. They meet like-minded teens and make lifelong friendships, creating a support network to help them heal. According to Dubhaltach Mulvenna of Ireland, "Everyone here understands each other, and it makes us all strive for peace because of our past. We don't want other people to have to go experience what we have. We want it to stop at us."

For more information regarding the annual camp for Tuesday's Children, contact the camp director, Kathy Murphy, at [Kathy@tuesdayschildren.org](mailto:Kathy@tuesdayschildren.org) or visit the website <http://www.tuesdayschildren.org/programs/pcb>



*Three MA teens, Robbie Hayes, Julia Coombs, and Robert Mathai, were among those who attended Camp Project Common Bond, this year*

## Education Initiative

### Update from the Education Committee Chair

I am pleased to report to the families of the MA 9/11 Fund that your input was invaluable to our team of education consultants, doctoral student Aaliyah El-Amin and Professor Meira Levinson of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Their work is scheduled to be completed in December 2012 which includes a contest that will be held for Massachusetts students and teachers.

Here is a summary of the project plan:

Aaliyah and Meira will draft all materials related to the contest, call for submissions, evaluation criteria, and submission mechanisms, etc. Our Education Task force members will be invited to review and critique all materials, as will potential partners. This work will be done in August and September.

Next, Aaliyah, Meira, and Massachusetts 9/11 Families will identify and conduct outreach to potential partners (teacher organizations, non-profits, state and local government officials, schools, etc.) in publicizing the initiative during Fall 2012.

Once all materials are fully developed and potential partners are organized. Our consultants will hand the project back to the task force so that a web designer and press/publicity/outreach coordinator can be hired (December 2012).

My work plan, as convener of this project, is to:

Convene the Education Task Force to review the progress to date and flesh-out the details of what the outreach plan should look like, and to develop a budget to accomplish the objectives outlined above, including a multi-year plan which is currently projected to reach out to five years.

*David Hastings*

