

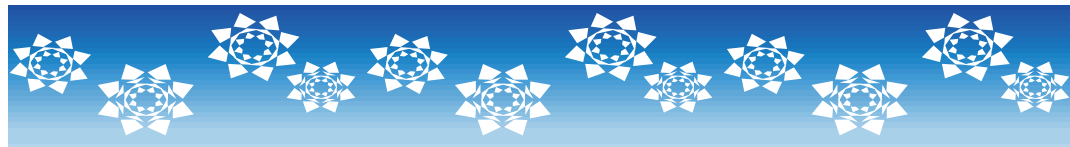
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**Wishing You a Very Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!**

As another year comes to an end and as we look forward to 2013, our thoughts go out to those affected by Super storm Sandy, our servicemen and servicewomen who are away from home and all those who are struggling with the loss of loved ones or that have unfilled needs.

2012 has been a busy year for our organization including:

- Planning our educational initiative for Massachusetts schools around curriculum that will be shared for teachers, administrators and students.
- Hosting group trips to the 9/11 Memorial in New York that received wonderful feedback from those who took advantage of these tours.
- Supporting community service programs which have become a hallmark for our Fund.
- Continuing to coordinate commemoration and remembrance events around September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Next year some of our goals and projects include:

- Launching our educational program for Massachusetts school children and teachers.
- Working with the Attorney General's office to make sure that the chronicles of those loved ones lost on September 11<sup>th</sup> are preserved through various historical archives.
- Coordinating with the administrative team of Battleship Cove in Fall River to restore a Memorial that was taken down by the state due to a construction project.
- Supporting our community and being of service to others in need.

Always remember that our Fund is here to support you. Also, if you have some free time and would like to become more involved with any of the programs listed here or if you have other ideas, please reach out to us.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

**Eric A. Lowrey**  
**President**

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Faith Weiner

**In Memoriam**

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Loretta W. Kowal

## Commemoration

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

The 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sad day that brought us all together already has come and gone. We could not have done this without the participation of all the wonderful volunteers from Boston Cares, Catholic Charities and others of our community of care, we have known all these years, including Deborah Rivlin, Kathleen Griffin (U.S. Attorney's Office), Allison Srinivasan (MOVA), and Shirley Fairclough. Many of them volunteer year after year and not only help us behind the scenes ushering families and other such duties, but they also are a comforting presence and a friendly familiar face, as we have gotten to know them so well, after all these years.



*Keynote speakers Brittany and Robbie Berquist, Cell Phones for Soldiers*

As we begin to look forward to planning the 12<sup>th</sup> Commemoration, we take to heart the comments and feedback we received from the survey handed out at the reception on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Overall, we're happy to hear that the families were pleased with this year's event. The Family Advisory Committee works diligently all year long to create a respectful, beautiful and meaningful program to remember all of our loved ones. The following are our responses to some of your comments:

- The wreath laying was initiated about five years ago at the Mayor's request. He prefers to keep it simple and brief. It became more of an "event" for the 10<sup>th</sup> Commemoration, but for each non-milestone year, it will be kept as a short, heartfelt show of respect by Mayor Menino. He prefers not to speak, insisting the focus be kept on our loved ones. There is always transportation from the Public Garden to the State House.
- At the State House, we are always looking for ways to improve the sound and placement of seats on the steps, though we are limited. The name readers are situated midway on the State House steps so

that they will project out onto the street. We've had many discussions about ways to get the public to "never forget," and this continues to be a good way to include them in our commemoration. A large number of people actually stop and listen respectfully. By reading to them, we are inviting them in to remember the day and remember our loved ones.

- We invite family members to read names every year, and we do our best to include all who volunteer. In the past, we have had each volunteer read ten names. If there are more volunteers than required for name reading, we make every effort to include those volunteers in other aspects of the program inside the State House. Regarding proper pronunciation of names, we do practice the names with readers to ensure they pronounce the names correctly and we give them a phonetic spelling of the name. If your loved one's name was mispronounced, please call Alyse and give her the correct pronunciation so we can correct the phonetic pronunciation guide.
- We are pleased that the majority of the comments about the ceremony were extremely positive. We will take into consideration your comments about the poetry readings. In order to keep the focus on your loved ones and not one person's story, we hesitate having a family member speak. We will continue to be sensitive to your comments about keeping the program meaningful through appropriate music selection.
- Regarding the reception, you all gave it high reviews. We are grateful to the Ritz for its cooperation in working within our budget and providing the families with a gathering place and a delicious meal. This year, based on requests from family members, the Board approved a warm brunch which raised our per head cost. Unfortunately, 40 of the people who sent an RSVP that they would come, did not attend the reception. We still had to pay for the guaranteed number, based on the responses. As we are a non-profit and we try to avoid wastage of any kind, the Family Advisory Committee is considering the option of charging a deposit per person for the reception. This deposit would be returned at the reception, for those who attend and be forfeited by those who do not attend. We try our very best to get maximum services with our limited budget for our family members. Please understand, that though we provide the meal free as a courtesy, we still have to pay for last-minute drop-outs, so when you respond to the annual invitations, please keep that in mind.

As always, the Family Advisory Committee is open to suggestions and we welcome new members to the committee. Anyone who is interested can contact Teresa or Christie.

### 2012 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery

The Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery is presented annually on September 11. Recipients of the award must be a Massachusetts resident 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.

The 2012 recipient, Paul Antonino, was driving his car in East Boston with his daughter when he noticed a three-story duplex, located on Chelsea Street, completely engulfed in flames. Without hesitation or time to spare, he ran in. Antonino kicked in the door to the first floor apartment where two elderly women were living. He then made his way to the second and third floors of the apartment building, yelling "Let's go! Let's go! We've got to get out!"

The building was occupied mainly by senior citizens between the ages of 70-80. There was an estimated \$2.5 million in property damages, 23 adults and 7 children were left homeless.

### Family members participated in the Red Sox pre-game show on 9/11



*Ben Retik throws out the first pitch*

On the evening of September 11<sup>th</sup>, family members representing many towns including: Acton, Andover, Arlington, East Bridgewater, Kingston, Needham, Waltham and Wellesley participated in the pre-game show and recognition ceremony. Members of the Red Cross and other organizations were also included in the pre-game show. The video montage of MA loved ones was shown on the Jumbotron in the background.

The families were very honored to be invited to participate in the pre-game ceremony and enjoy the exciting game against the Yankees. The thoughtfully planned pre-game event made that difficult day more tolerable by paying tribute and focusing on the lives, not the deaths, of our loved ones! It was a very moving ceremony and careful thought and sensitivity went into organizing it.

The winning combination of a well-played game and our families cheering clearly brought our favorite team good luck! This event also provided the opportunity for the public to appreciate and understand the importance of the day while showcasing some of our very own Massachusetts families who were impacted on that day, and who continue to "pay it forward" to others in honor of their loved ones.

### John Curtis' Speech at the Memorial Garden

Good Morning, before we pay our respects to lost Family members, I would like to say a few words about this Memorial.

My name is John Curtis; I am a representative of the Massachusetts 9/11 Fund.

We are standing in the Garden of Remembrance, within the Boston Public Garden. The centerpiece of the Garden of Remembrance is this beautiful Memorial on which the names of 206 lost family members are inscribed. About half of these lost family members were residents of Massachusetts on September 11, 2001, while the others had direct ties to Massachusetts. When the terrorists attacked we lost loved ones in all four of the airplanes, in the World Trade Center and in the Pentagon. They included ordinary citizens, aircrew members, security personnel, first responders and on duty military personnel.

After the events of 9/11, many understood that we must never forget those lost. Led by Massachusetts 9/11 Fund founding board members and staff, Family Members, Senator Kennedy and members of his staff, Mayor Menino and City of Boston officials with support from the Friends of the Public Garden; this site was located, approvals were obtained, the memorial was designed, constructed and was dedicated in 2004. Most of the funds for the Memorial were supplied by thousands of residents of Massachusetts who obtained "United We Stand" license plates. The 9/11 Fund continues to receive a portion of the revenues from these plates.

Since the dedication in 2004; Staff from the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department, under the direction of Commissioner Pollack, have provided much appreciated professional and loving care for the Garden of Remembrance. Thanks to the continuing generosity of the citizens of Massachusetts; the 9/11 Fund and the City of Boston have been able to establish The Massachusetts Memorial Trust Fund within the Fund for Parks and Recreation of Boston. In short, we believe the funds necessary to provide for the long-term care and maintenance of The Garden of Remembrance are now protected and managed in a Trust administered by the City.

I have had the honor of meeting many Family members and learning about their loved ones who perished on September 11, 2001. Some had extraordinary talents and accomplishments, while others were just beginning their lives. Some were working, some on their way to work, others heading for or returning from vacations or visits with family members. Most were American citizens; some were recent immigrants, some foreign visitors. The loved ones we lost were young and old, working and retired, executives and homemakers, teachers and students. They came from diverse racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds. Where given the opportunity they demonstrated incredible courage and the willingness to sacrifice themselves for others.

Each year since the memorial was dedicated we have gathered here with Mayor Menino to remember and honor those lost on September 11, 2001. Mayor Menino comes to support the families and for personal contemplation of those we have lost. I know he does not desire nor expect any recognition. However, I am pretty confident the Mayor won't refuse an extra hug of thanks today, especially from Family members.

Now Mayor Menino and Family member Bill Coombs, brother of Jeffrey William Coombs, will preside as we pay our respects to our lost loved ones.

## What Family Members are Doing

### Thanksgiving Day of Service at Catholic Charities

On November 17th, 15 volunteers from the Mass 9/11 Fund and friends helped out at the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive at the Catholic Charities Yawkey Food Pantry in Dorchester. It was a beautiful day for our fourth quarter service project. Each of us was assigned a task and all worked tirelessly between 8:30 and 12:00 noon.



*Rita DiGiovanni and Kelly Bavis Morrissey at Thanksgiving Day of Service*

Beth Chambers of Catholic Charities said we served 2200 families! Each family received a turkey, vegetables, stuffing and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner. Many of the volunteers brought canned goods and boxed dried foods to help restock the food pantry.

To all who participated this year, thank you so much. By helping those in need, we all went home feeling the Thanksgiving spirit.

### 9/11 Widows Work with American Widow Project

Last month, Tuesday's Children partnered with the American Widow Project and traveled to New Orleans to work on a home devastated by Katrina. Tuesday's Children, based in New York, advocates for children and widows of 9/11 and hosts many family activities. The American Widow Project (AWP) is made up of women who have lost their husbands as a result of military service in post-9/11 conflicts. Cindy McGinty and Christie Coombs, along with a 9/11 widow from New York, joined seven AWP women for a weekend of service, mentoring and bonding. "It was one of the most meaningful weekends we have experienced," said Cindy and Christie. The group worked with The St. Bernard Project helping to insulate the house. "Working with these women was empowering," said Christie.



*Cindy McGinty and Christie Coombs participate in a Build Service Project in New Orleans*

## Massfund Trip to Ground Zero

The Mass 9/11 Fund organized a third day-trip this year to Ground Zero on Saturday, October 13. Many thanks to Massachusetts family member Julie Sweeney-Roth and Tribute Center Family Liaison, Kimberly Grieger for leading the 24 family members on optional tours which included The Family Room, The Tribute Center, Fire Station 10/10, and St. Paul's Chapel, after the visit to the 9/11 Memorial. Over lunch, 9/11 Memorial President, Joe Daniels and Associate Director of Collections/Senior Oral Historian, Amy Weinstein spoke to the family members about the museum history, their ongoing acceptance of family photos and memorabilia, and plans for the opening of the museum. They plan to visit Massachusetts to collect photos or keepsakes and take recording of memories of your loved ones, but no dates have been set, yet; we will keep you informed.



*Tribute Center Family Liaison, Kimberly Grieger helps Claudia make a rubbing of her brother Ariel Louis Jacobs' name at the 9/11 Memorial*

## Upcoming Events

### Mass 9/11 Fund Planning February Get-together of families

In lieu of a night at Christmas at the Pops this year, the Mass 9/11 Fund is planning a family post-holiday party in early February. Planning is still in progress and we will inform you once the details are set.

### Memorial Book – An Archive of Massachusetts Loved Ones

Members of the Board of Directors and the Family Advisory Committee recently met with Attorney General Martha Coakley, who has expressed interest in creating a comprehensive archive of our loved ones' stories. AG Coakley said that reading a name leaves her wondering things like who that person was and what were they doing on September 11, 2001. She has offered a staff of interns to help create a book and an on-line archive that will give a photo and a little more than basic information about each Massachusetts person who died that day. The project will happen under our guidance. Once it begins, families will be contacted by the AG's intern staff for a photo and information to be included in the archive. No start date has been determined, but we will let you know as soon as it is decided.

### Survivor's Forum

We have been contacted by Joyce Ng who is a family member who is a survivor of 9/11. She and several other survivors of 9/11 have kindly offered to talk about their experiences. During the reception following the 11th commemoration, Joyce was talking with family members who thought there would be others interested in hearing her stories.

If you would be interested in attending a forum like this, please email Alyse Mazerolle at [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org). If we have enough interest in this, the Mass 9/11 Fund will put together this forum and a small reception sometime in March 2013.

Joyce is also a volunteer at the Tribute Center in NY, where she leads groups around the Memorial and other sites at Ground Zero.