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## **WTC MEMORIAL FOUNDATION AND STORYCORPS ANNOUNCE THE MEMORIAL MUSEUM'S FIRST MAJOR INITIATIVE TO HONOR THE STORIES OF LIVES LOST ON 9/11**

*Goal to Collect at Least One Family Recording for Each of the 2,979 Who Perished on September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993, As Well as the Stories of Survivors and Rescue Workers*

The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation today announced the first major collaborative arrangement for the Memorial Museum. It will allow the Memorial Museum to house the reminiscences of family members and others most directly affected by the September 11th attacks who have recorded their stories as part of the StoryCorps project. These recordings enable the Memorial Museum to honor those who lost their lives in the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, and February 26, 1993, through the personal stories and reminiscences of those closest to them. The WTC Memorial Museum and StoryCorps jointly hope to collect at least one recording for each of the 2,979 lives lost in the attacks, preferably from family members, close friends, or colleagues, as well as the stories of survivors and rescue workers.

StoryCorps launched in Grand Central Terminal in 2003 and is creating an oral history of the nation through the voices and stories of everyday Americans. In 2005 StoryCorps opened a recording booth on the concourse level of the World Trade Center PATH station, with a special initiative to collect the stories of those most directly affected by the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The Lower Manhattan StoryBooth provides a safe and respectful environment for families to commemorate their loved ones, and for individuals to share their memories of that day. The StoryBooth includes a soundproof studio for recording stories, as well as an enclosed seating area for visitors waiting to conduct an interview. With the help of a trained facilitator, families and friends can record a forty-minute session and receive a CD copy upon completion.

To date StoryCorps has recorded 157 interviews remembering those who lost their lives on September 11th, and an additional 153 sessions with rescue workers, survivors and others most directly impacted by the events of that day.

Norene Schneider lost her brother Tommy Sullivan on September 11th. She recorded the first-ever interview in the Lower Manhattan StoryCorps booth with her mother, Arlene, on July 12, 2005. Schneider said, "I am honored to have had the opportunity to remember my brother Tommy through StoryCorps. Participating in the project helped me feel more alive for the first time in a long time. It was also an important and meaningful experience for my mother. I am hopeful that through the telling of our stories, our loved ones names and stories will not be forgotten; and that families who lost loved ones will not only grow closer, but also help one another heal."

Joseph Daniels, acting president of the WTC Memorial Foundation, said, "Everyone has a September 11th story and we hope to collect and share as many of these stories as possible through the Memorial Museum. It's important that future generations be able to hear firsthand the many voices of family members, survivors, and rescue workers."

Alice Greenwald, director of the WTC Memorial Museum, said, "This collaboration with StoryCorps is a tremendous opportunity for the Memorial Museum to preserve the memories, emotions, and reflections of all those affected by the events of September 11th. It's our hope that families, survivors, as well as first responders will share their stories through StoryCorps so that the Museum can offer firsthand accounts of how September 11th forever changed so many lives."

Dave Isay, founder of StoryCorps, said, "We believe that the StoryCorps project and our Lower Manhattan StoryBooth serve as a beacon of hope for families, survivors, and rescue workers. This StoryBooth was created as a safe and sacred space for families to remember and honor their loved ones. Five years after 9/11, we are humbled to become part of the Memorial Museum."

StoryCorps-Lower Manhattan is the second New York City recording facility opened by StoryCorps. The first one opened in New York City's Grand Central Terminal in October 2003. Two mobile StoryBooths-recording booths constructed inside Airstream trailers-are currently on a cross-country tour documenting American stories.

StoryCorps-Lower Manhattan is open to the general public, with special slots reserved for September 11th families, survivors, and rescue workers. In addition to a number of special events, StoryCorps will be extending its hours of operation at both the Lower Manhattan and the Grand Central Terminal StoryBooths during September 9, 10, and 11. Both facilities will be open from 10:30 am to 7:30 pm. To participate in the StoryCorps 9/11 Initiative, family members, rescue workers, and survivors can call a special reservation number: 646-723-7027. Reservations from the general public for a 40-minute StoryCorps session can be made at [www.storycorps.net](http://www.storycorps.net) or by calling 800-850-4406.

Created by public radio producer and MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Dave Isay, StoryCorps is a national project to create an oral history of America. StoryCorps seeks to capture the stories of our time and to create meaningful experiences within families. A StoryCorps interview is like a conversation: participants come to the booth in pairs-for example, two family members or two friends-and interview each other. To date, StoryCorps has collected 8,000 stories-the vast majority of which are not related to September 11th-with close to 16,000 participants, given that most interviews happen in pairs. StoryCorps will collect more than 250,000 stories by 2015, making it the largest project of its kind ever undertaken. Selected StoryCorps excerpts are broadcast on NPR's flagship newsmagazine Morning Edition each Friday. WNYC is StoryCorps' New York City public radio partner.

Major funding for StoryCorps-Lower Manhattan comes from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, with additional funding from a September 11 recovery grant from the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund, the September 11th Children's Fund of the National Philanthropic Trust, the New York City Council, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Marc Haas Foundation. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey provides the location for this StoryCorps booth on the concourse level of the World Trade Center PATH station. This StoryCorps booth will remain in Lower Manhattan through September 11, 2009.

## **ABOUT STORYCORPS**

StoryCorps is a project of Dave Isay's Sound Portraits Productions, the nationally acclaimed New York City non-profit. For more than a decade, Sound Portraits has celebrated the lives and struggles of unheralded Americans through public radio documentaries, books, CDs, museum exhibitions, and on the Web. Sound Portraits Productions has won every honor in broadcasting, including four Peabody

Awards. More information can be found at [www.storycorps.net](http://www.storycorps.net).

## **ABOUT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, Inc. is the not-for-profit corporation founded in 2005 to realize the Memorial quadrant at the World Trade Center site. The Foundation will raise the funds, oversee the design, and operate the Memorial, the Memorial Museum, and a Visitor Orientation and Education Center located on 8 of the 16 acres of the site.

The Memorial will remember and honor the thousands of people who died in the horrific attacks of February 26, 1993, and September 11th, 2001. The design, "Reflecting Absence," created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker consists of two voids that reside in the footprints of the original Twin Towers surrounded by a plaza of oak trees. The Arad/Walker design was selected from a design competition that included more than 5,000 entrants from 63 nations.

The Memorial Museum will include artifacts, interactive exhibitions, a resource center, contemplative areas, and educational programming, which will convey individual and collective stories honoring the memory of the victims and recounting the experiences of survivors, responders, area residents, and witnesses. The Memorial Museum will help facilitate an encounter with both the enormity of the loss and the triumph of the human spirit that are at the heart of 9/11, as it affirms the courage, compassion, sacrifice, and resilience-the best of humanity-demonstrated at a moment of cataclysmic tragedy.

Donations can be made through the Foundation's website, and more information on the Foundation can be found at [www.buildthememorial.org](http://www.buildthememorial.org) or by calling 1-877-WTC-GIVE.