



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL MARKS  
ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION

*The 9/11 Memorial Welcomes More than 4.5 Million Visitors  
Since Opening One Year Ago*

*9/11 Memorial Museum Construction is Moving Forward*

**(New York) September 12, 2012** – The National September 11 Memorial today marked its first year of operation at the World Trade Center site, where millions of visitors have paid their respects to the nearly 3,000 victims of the September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 attacks. The 9/11 Memorial opened to the public on Sept. 12, 2011, one day after a dedication ceremony attended by thousands of victims' families on the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

More than 4.5 million people from all 50 states and more than 170 countries have visited the Memorial since its public opening. The visitation total surpasses previous projections of between 3 and 4 million visitors, despite ongoing construction on other World Trade Center projects. U.S. and foreign dignitaries have been among the millions of visitors, including President Barack Obama, President George W. Bush, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron, and many others.

The Memorial has also been the site for special gatherings that have included "Community Evenings" for lower Manhattan residents and workers, dedicated "First Responder Days," special military re-enlistment ceremonies, and a "Thank You Tribute" recognizing the 10th anniversary of May 30, 2002, which marked the formal end of recovery operations at Ground Zero.

"The 9/11 Memorial serves as a beautiful place of reflection, a symbol of perseverance and a sacred site to remember the tragic events that occurred 11 years ago," said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the 9/11 Memorial Chairman. "With the help of millions of visitors and other supporters, we can ensure this national tribute will be here for generations to come."

"Welcoming more than 4.5 million visitors to the 9/11 Memorial in its first year of operation is a clear indication that our will to remember is as strong as ever," 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. "The opening of the Memorial marked the start of a new chapter in our nation's history and we are deeply grateful to all of our supporters across the country and around the world."

"Over the past year, I have witnessed the remarkable physical and emotional transformation of the Memorial, and have been moved, at times to tears, by seeing how powerfully this site affects people," said Michael Arad, designer and architect of

**NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**

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the 9/11 Memorial. "It was always my hope that the Memorial would bring people together and create a sense of community, as visitors confront the horrors that occurred here, and it has been gratifying to see that take place."

"The pilgrimage of millions from across the globe to the Memorial confirms the continuing worldwide relevance of what happened in the heart of our community 11 years ago," Community Board 1 Chair Catherine McVay Hughes said.

Marking the successful first year of operations of the 9/11 Memorial comes days after an agreement was reached on the construction of the accompanying 9/11 Memorial Museum. Construction of the Museum will now move forward with a joint agreement between the 9/11 Memorial, Mayor Bloomberg, Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Gov. Chris Christie and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

When it opens, the Museum will serve as this nation's principle institution concerned with preserving the history of 9/11 and commemorating the lives of the nearly 3,000 victims. It will also tell the stories of courage and compassion that were so much a part of the response to the attacks.

The Memorial continues to provide educational resources about the history of the terror attacks and the lives of the victims. More information and resources can be found at [911memorial.org/teach-learn](http://911memorial.org/teach-learn).

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to oversee the design, fundraising, programming, and operations of the Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center. The Memorial and Museum are located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site. The Memorial was dedicated on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and is now open to the public.

The Memorial remembers and honors the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The design, created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two reflecting pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers and a plaza of trees.

The Museum will display monumental artifacts linked to the events of 9/11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning, and recovery that are central to telling the story of the 2001 and 1993 attacks and the aftermath. It will communicate key messages that embrace both the specificity and the universal implications of the events of 9/11; document the impact of those events on individual lives, as well as on local, national, and international communities; and explore the continuing significance of these events for our global community.

For more information or to reserve a free visitor pass to the Memorial, go to [911memorial.org](http://911memorial.org).

### **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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