



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SURVIVOR TREE SEEDLINGS DONATED TO COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE ENDURED TRAGEDY, SHOW RESILIENCE

*Newtown, Conn., Joplin, Mo., and Madrid, Spain
to Receive Seedlings as Symbol of Hope*

(New York) September 12, 2015 – Three communities that have endured tragedy will receive “Survivor Tree” seedlings, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum announced today. The Survivor Tree embodies our nation’s spirit of hope and healing, strength and resilience in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

The tragic shooting in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School claimed the lives of 20 school children and six adults. A tornado on May 22, 2011 killed more than 150 people and injured more than 1,000 in Joplin, Mo., making it the deadliest tornado since 1947. The seedling for Joplin will be planted at Mercy Hospital Joplin which was in the direct path of the tornado.

The first international recipient in the program is Madrid, Spain. In 2004 coordinated terror bombings against the Cercanías commuter train system of Madrid killed 190 people and wounded 1,800. The actual planting of the tree is expected to take place at Spain’s embassy in Washington, D.C.

The communities have committed to nurturing these trees to serve as landmarks symbolizing resiliency and hope. Oso, Wash., Gulfport, Miss., and Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas were selected last year to receive seedlings.

“The Survivor Tree reminds us of our shared strength in the face of unimaginable tragedy. It was in that spirit the seedling program was formed,” 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. “We hope these trees serve as an inspiration to these communities and others who have suffered hardships and are working to recover.”

The 9/11 Memorial began the tree seedling program on Sept 11, 2013, in partnership with Stamford, Conn.-based Bartlett Tree Expert Company and John Bowne High School in the Flushing neighborhood of Queens.

Bartlett, which donated its resources to support the program, harvested seeds from the Survivor Tree in the fall of 2011. John Bowne High School cares for the seedlings as part of the school’s agriculture curriculum.

The inaugural towns for the program included Far Rockaways in Queens, which was torn and battered in 2012 by Superstorm Sandy, and Prescott, Ariz., in

honor of the 19 firefighting members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots who died on June 30, 2013. Boston, Mass., also received a seedling in honor of the three people killed in the bombing at its marathon on April 15, 2013.

Learn more about the Survivor Tree [here](#).

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. The Memorial and Museum are located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site.

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 displays 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 also explores the global impact of 9/11 and its continuing significance. Davis Brody Bond are the architects of the belowground Museum and Snøhetta designed its entry pavilion. The Museum's exhibition designers include Thinc, Local Projects and Layman Design.

For more information or to reserve a ticket to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, go to 911memorial.org.

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