



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 26, 2016

**9/11 RESCUE AND RECOVERY WORKERS ARE HONORED DURING SPECIAL
EVENING OF TRIBUTE AND REMEMBRANCE**

New Exhibition 'Hope at Ground Zero' Opens, Documents Recovery Effort

(New York) May 26, 2016 – The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today honored the men and women of the nine-month rescue and recovery effort as part of a week-long tribute recognizing the 14th anniversary of May 30, 2002, which marked the formal end of recovery operations at the World Trade Center.

As part of the tribute, a photography exhibition entitled “Hope at Ground Zero: FEMA Photographs by Andrea Booher” is on view at the Museum until May 2017. Booher, a photographer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, captured images during the first 10 weeks of the rescue and recovery operation at Ground Zero, chronicling the search for survivors and the transition to recovery.

The tribute includes a special ceremony in the Museum near the Last Column, the final steel beam ceremonially removed from the World Trade Center site when recovery operations ended. Culminating in a moment of silence to remember those who have succumbed to 9/11-related illnesses, the event concluded with participants tying ribbons at the base of the Last Column.

“Despite dreadful conditions and the sometimes destructive toll on their physical and mental health, these dedicated men and women came together to help search, clean up and start the process of recovery,” 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. “Hour after hour, day after day, year after year, they paved the way for New York City, and the nation, to get back on its feet, to rebuild, and most importantly, to heal.”

Museum officials also announced the recent donations of three artifacts related to recovery operations and stories of workers who became ill or died from exposure to Ground Zero toxins. The artifacts are a red bomber jacket worn by 9/11-health advocate John Feal, a key to the city presented to retired New York firefighter Ray Pfeifer and two challenge coins in honor of Ronald Cohen, who died of brain cancer after leading various rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

“These artifacts will remind Museum visitors that the story of 9/11 is not just about that one day, but also about the way people came together in the days, weeks, months and years after 9/11 to contribute to the recovery and revitalization of the city,” 9/11 Memorial Museum Director Alice M. Greenwald said. “They also attest to the ongoing challenges faced by so many in the aftermath of the attacks, among them survivors, lower Manhattan residents, and the thousands of rescue and recovery workers who responded, with dedication, perseverance, and selflessness, when our city and nation needed them most.”

Suffering from stage 4 renal cancer, Pfeifer toiled at the World Trade Center for most of the nine-month recovery period as part of his nearly 30-year career with the FDNY. Pfeifer donated to the Museum the key to the city New York Mayor Bill de Blasio presented to him in honor of his service and advocacy efforts.

The family of Ronald Cohen, a former deputy commissioner and senior advisor under three mayors who previously worked as a special investigator for the Trade Waste Commission, now known as the Business Integrity Commission, donated two challenge coins his son designed. Cohen, who worked during the nine-month recovery effort at both Ground Zero and Fresh Kills, died in 2014 of brain cancer at the age of 47.

Feal, a demolitions expert who was severely injured while working during the recovery, founded the FealGood Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting rescuers and recovery workers. Feal often wore the red bomber jacket over the years while advocating for the James Zadroga Act, which provides compensation and medical care for workers with 9/11-related illnesses.

These artifacts further expand on existing Museum exhibitions and public programs exploring recovery operations and 9/11-related illnesses. Museum officials encouraged this community and their families to donate more artifacts and materials tied to this important history.

For more information about the week of dedicated programs and commemorative activities please visit 911memorial.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the nonprofit organization that oversees operations for the 9/11 Memorial and 9/11 Memorial Museum. Located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site, the Memorial and Museum remember and honor the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The Memorial plaza design consists of two reflecting pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers surrounded by white oak trees. The Museum displays more than 10,000 personal and monumental objects 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 attacks and aftermath. It also explores the global impact of 9/11 and its continuing significance through education programs, public programs, live talks and film features that cover contemporary topics for diverse audiences. For more information or to reserve a ticket to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, please visit www.911memorial.org.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Kate Monaghan/Kaylee Skaar | (212) 312-8800 | press@911memorial.org

STAY CONNECTED



###