



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION RECEIVES
DONATION FROM
AIRLINE RIDE ACROSS AMERICA**

The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation is to this afternoon receive a donation of \$45,000 from Captain Thomas Heidenberger of the Airline Ride Across America, in a ceremony on Capitol Hill. The donation comes from proceeds of the Airline Ride, a cross-country bike ride organized to raise funds and remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, particularly the 33 airline employees who died. Heidenberger will present additional \$45,000 checks to both the Pentagon Memorial and the Flight 93 Memorial.

"It is the sacred obligation of the World Trade Center Memorial and Museum to honor the innocent victims of the September 11th attacks and forever remember the courage displayed that day," World Trade Center Memorial Foundation President & CEO Joe Daniels said. "Because of Tom Heidenberger and the Airline Riders' inspiring commitment, we are one step closer to building this national tribute. The Airline Ride sent a strong message across the country that the participation of the American people is the engine that will complete America's Memorial."

Captain Thomas Heidenberger, a 28-year pilot for U.S. Airways who lost his wife Michele, a senior flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 77, is from Chevy Chase, MD. In early 2006, he decided to raise funds and awareness in memory of the airline crew members who died on 9/11. He and six others embarked on a cross-country bike ride from Los Angeles to the three memorial sites. After the 33-day Ride in the spring of 2006, Heidenberger has continued to work toward his goal of generating funds and awareness for the memorials.

Construction of the World Trade Center Memorial began in March 2006 with preliminary work to cover the original box beam columns that outline the perimeters of the Twin Towers. In August 2006, heavy construction work began to build the footings that will hold up the Memorial, Museum, and Museum Pavilion. Work on the footings is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2007. On May 8, 2007, the Foundation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey selected Owen Steel Company, Inc. to supply, fabricate, and erect the steel for the Memorial project. Fabrication will begin later this year, and the first pieces of steel are expected to be erected at the World Trade Center site in December 2007.

ABOUT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, Inc. is the not-for-profit corporation, established in 2003 to realize the Memorial quadrant at the World Trade Center site. The Foundation will raise the funds, oversee the design, and operate the Memorial and Museum located on 8 of the 16 acres of the site.

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The Memorial will remember and honor the thousands of people who died in the horrific attacks of February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001. The design, "Reflecting Absence," created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two pools 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, which included more than 5,000 entrants from 63 nations.

The Museum 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 legacy of 9/11 for a world increasingly defined by global interdependency.

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

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