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A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF 9/11 AUDIO RECORDINGS WILL BE SHARED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM'S 9/11 MEMORIAL PREVIEW SITE

Rotating Selection of 9/11 Oral Histories Will be Part of a Listening Station and Artifacts Exhibition
New Speakers Series Program Launching Next Week with First Event Featuring StoryCorps Founder Dave Isay

The National 9/11 Memorial & Museum and StoryCorps today announced the unveiling of recorded 9/11 remembrances and a rotating exhibit of artifacts to be featured at a listening station at the 9/11 Memorial Preview Site, 20 Vesey St. in Manhattan. On Wednesday, March 31, the 9/11 Memorial will be launching a new evening program series, "9/11, Today, and Tomorrow," beginning with StoryCorps founder, Dave Isay, who will discuss the StoryCorps September 11th Initiative and feature a selection of intimate and personal recordings related to the events of 9/11. Doors will open at 6:00pm and the program will start at 6:30pm.

The listening station will allow the public to hear memorable 9/11 stories and record their own to share with the world in an adjacent sound-proof booth. Many of these recordings will become part of the Museum's permanent archives. A display of rotating personal artifacts will complement the listening station. Most of the artifacts will resonate with the recorded spoken stories and recollections.

"Sharing these personal stories will provide wide-ranging perspectives from people from every walk of life, from survivors to witnesses to those who lost loved ones," 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. "We're also hopeful these recordings will encourage others with similar remembrances to participate and help us to record the history of 9/11 through first person voices."

"The earliest human civilizations used storytelling to pass down traditions, knowledge, information and history," 9/11 Memorial Museum Director Alice M. Greenwald said. "Today this practice continues to be an important source of documenting historical events. This is perhaps no more evident than with the vast collection of 9/11 oral histories offering a glimpse into the 102 minutes that steered humanity into a new social direction and reshaped the world view."

"Although information about 9/11 abounds in the copious first-person interview transcripts that exist in archives and on-line, it's the emotion of these events that can be felt, most immediately and intimately, by listening to human voices recounting their experience," said Jan Ramirez, Chief Curator and Director of Collections for the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

Ramirez's team has been gathering many acquisitions that pair oral histories with material evidence of the chronicles shared by survivors, first responders, recovery workers, and by relatives and friends of those killed.

Richard Pecorella, 57, of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, recently donated to the Museum a Marlboro Team Penske auto racing jacket cherished by his fiancé Karen Juday, who died on 9/11. Juday, 52, was an administrative assistant at Cantor Fitzgerald on the 101st floor of the North Tower. In addition to his donation, Pecorella recorded an oral history. His story and the jacket will be featured at the Preview Site's listening station.

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"I'm honored," Pecorella said. "This will help others continue not to forget. The 9/11 Museum will show the lives of the people lost."

Oral historians Amy Weinstein and Jenny Pachucki of the 9/11 Memorial Museum have collected about 400 recordings chronicling the attacks September 11 and events before and after. First-responders, 9/11 victims' relatives, city officials, medical professionals and teachers are among the people who have participated in the ongoing effort to record oral histories. These powerful recordings will be an integral part of the 9/11 Museum's future exhibitions. The audio is also being archived for research purposes.

The Museum has partnered with StoryCorps, a nonprofit capturing the stories of America, for the daunting task of recording interviews with families and friends of all of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the 2001 attacks. Since 2005, StoryCorps operated a recording booth in lower Manhattan, where it has collected family histories, memories and other 9/11-related stories as it seeks to amass stories of our time and to create meaningful experiences within families.

New Public Program Series Begins on March 31 at 9/11 Memorial Preview Site

On Wednesday, March 31, the 9/11 Memorial will debut its speakers series program "9/11, Today and Tomorrow" at the 9/11 Memorial Preview Site, 20 Vesey St., in Manhattan. The first program in the series begins with StoryCorps founder Dave Isay. Doors will open at 6:00pm and seating is first come, first serve. The program will start at 6:30pm.

For a complete schedule of upcoming programs, visit www.national911memorial.org. The programs will be filmed in HD for THIRTEEN Forum and available the following week for streaming or podcasting (in both video and audio-only) at http://www.thirteen.org/forum/.

Due to space limitations, RSVP is recommended to guarantee a seat up to 15 minutes before programming begins. Please RSVP online at www.national911memorial.org/rsvp or call 212-312-8809. A suggested donation of $10 per person will help support ongoing programming.

ABOUT THE 9/11 MEMORIAL PREVIEW SITE

The 9/11 Memorial Preview Site, which opened August 2009, provides information on plans for the Memorial and Museum under construction at the World Trade Center site formerly known as ground zero. The Preview Site displays an historic 9/11 timeline, architecture models and renderings of the project, illustrating the future look once reconstruction is completed.

An exclusive film clip created by Project Rebirth in advance of its feature length documentary film is also presented to visitors of the Preview Site. Project Rebirth is a film chronicling the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site by combining personal stories and powerful time-lapse construction images.

The Preview Site features a webcam of live construction at the site through a partnership with EarthCam, and allows visitors to share 9/11 stories with the Museum through use of an on-site recording booth.

For more information on the 9/11 Preview Site, 9/11 oral histories, 9/11 Memorial and Museum and how to make a donation, visit, www.national911memorial.org. Also, follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/Sept11Memorial

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