



NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11  
MEMORIAL & MUSEUM  
AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

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**NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM OPENS TRIBUTE EXHIBITION IN  
AURORA, ILLINOIS**

*Victims' Family Member, 9/11 Survivor and Local First Responders to Sign Steel Beam  
for Memorial*

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today will open a tribute exhibition in Aurora, Illinois as part of its national tour. The traveling exhibition, which honors the nearly 3,000 men, women and children who lost their lives on September 11, is intended to raise funds and awareness in support of building the National Memorial & Museum at Ground Zero. In a ceremony later this morning, a family member who lost a loved one on 9/11, a survivor from the World Trade Center attacks and local first responders will be among those signing a steel beam that will be used in the construction of the Memorial & Museum.

The exhibition tells the story of September 11 through photographs, artifacts and a short film from the point of view of families, responders, survivors, volunteers and everyday people who came together in the aftermath of the attacks. People from across the country are invited to come together again to pay tribute to the victims and to sign a steel beam that will be used in the construction of the Memorial & Museum.

"In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, our nation came together in a show of extraordinary unity," said New York City Mayor and National September 11 Memorial & Museum Chairman Michael R. Bloomberg. "Building the National Memorial & Museum is an opportunity for people to come together again to create a lasting legacy for future generations. This tour will allow people across the country to take part in the creation of a new monument that signifies our response to the attacks and offers hope for the future."

"Americans of all ages are participating in building the National September 11 Memorial & Museum," said Joe Daniels, President and CEO, National September 11 Memorial & Museum. "9/11 was a defining event in this country's history, and we are creating a national symbol that, like the Statue of Liberty, will tell us something about who we are as Americans. The tour has received widespread interest and support in every stop to date. The response we have seen is heartening and we are excited to continue to bring this exhibition to the public."

The exhibition's opening ceremonies are expected to include remarks from Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner; Deputy Fire Chief Hal Carlson; Police Chief William A. Powell; Memorial & Museum President and CEO Joe Daniels; Anthoula Katsimatides, Memorial & Museum Board Member who lost her brother on 9/11; and Keating Crown, Memorial & Museum Board Member and survivor of the World Trade Center attacks.

On behalf of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, Anthoula Katsimatides will present the City of Aurora and its first responders with an American flag that was flown over Ground Zero.

"Aurora is honored to have this important, historic tribute come our city," said Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner. "We, like all Americans, shared in the tragedy of September 11, and I encourage all citizens to now share in the building of this important National Memorial & Museum."

After the ceremony, participants will be invited to sign a steel beam that will be used in the construction of the Memorial & Museum. The event will conclude with a tour of the exhibition, which includes a detailed timeline of the events of September 11, photographs, artifacts and a short film.

The steel beam used in the exhibition, manufactured by South Carolina-based Owen Steel Company, is part of the structural steel for the Memorial & Museum. In May 2007, the Memorial & Museum selected Owen Steel to supply, fabricate and erect the steel for the project. The beam is approximately 37 feet in length, and weighs about four tons.

The exhibition will be open today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with opening ceremonies beginning at 10 a.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Following Aurora, the exhibition will travel to Madison, Wisconsin. For more information on the tour and additional tour stops, visit the Memorial & Museum's website, [www.national911memorial.org](http://www.national911memorial.org). As details and locations are confirmed, tour information will be posted on the website.

The tour was launched in Columbia, South Carolina on September 10 and has already garnered the interest and support of thousands of visitors, yielding nearly \$1 million in contributions since the announcement of the tour schedule in August. Because of the widespread public interest in the tour, ten additional cities were added, extending the tour's reach to 25 states by the end of the year.

On September 23, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that the Memorial & Museum has raised more than \$325 million towards its private fundraising goal of \$350 million from donors in all 50 states and 30 foreign countries. This figure includes funds to support capital and planning costs, as well as an initial endowment to support operations once the Memorial & Museum opens. In less than one year, nearly \$190 million of funds were raised.

Construction of the 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 Plaza. At the end of this year, steel is expected to begin to rise at the site.

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## ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to realize the Memorial quadrant at the World Trade Center site. The organization is responsible for raising the funds and overseeing the design for the project and will program and operate the Memorial & Museum located on 8 of the 16 acres of the site.

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, 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 that included more than 5,000 entrants from 63 nations.

The Museum will display monumental artifacts associated with the events of September 11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery that are central to telling the story of September 11 and its 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.

Donations can be made through and more information can be found at the Memorial & Museum's website, [www.national911memorial.org](http://www.national911memorial.org), or by calling 1-877-WTC-GIVE.

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