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NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM LAUNCHES NATIONAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM FOR 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11
Materials Distributed to High School Educators across Country as First Step in Developing 9/11 Curricular Material

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today visited Millennium High School in Lower Manhattan to launch a national education pilot program for the 7th anniversary of 9/11. The initiative includes materials and resources designed to be used in conjunction with classroom remembrances. The materials were distributed to selected administrators and high school educators across the country. The Memorial & Museum will use this outreach to eventually identify a group of teacher leaders interested in becoming partners in developing in-depth curricular materials about the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Memorial & Museum President Joe Daniels said, “We are responsible for creating a Memorial that will honor the innocent victims of the attacks and a Museum that will educate the millions of visitors to the Memorial & Museum about the events of September 11, 2001 and the continuing impact of 9/11 on our world. It is our collective responsibility to fulfill the obligations of both commemoration and education now in order to ensure that future generations understand the history we are living today.”

Memorial Museum Director Alice M. Greenwald said, “It is an educational imperative to relate the story of September 11 so that those who lived through these events and the generations that follow us can begin to understand its place in American history, in world history, and in each of our lives. In conjunction with the 7th anniversary of 9/11, this program of educational outreach will provide educators and school administrators with materials and resources that will enable meaningful observance of the anniversary of September 11 in their schools.”

The materials focus on an 8-minute film, “9/11 Stories of Survival and Loss” which recounts the events of September 11, 2001, from the perspective of family members, survivors, and rescue workers. The film has been augmented with discussion questions designed to be used in conjunction with classroom remembrances, brief biographies of each of the speakers featured in the film, a timeline of events and fact sheet, and sample follow-up activities. The materials are not meant as an in-depth curriculum or unit guide; rather, they are intended to be used in homerooms, advisories, assemblies, and first period classes to help high school teachers and students to begin a conversation about the events of the day, to remember their own experiences, and to consider how to best honor the history.

As there is currently no formal 9/11 curriculum, the long-term goal of the initiative is to develop a group of teacher leaders nationally and locally who will become partners in developing more in-depth curricular materials that meet the broader needs of 21st century students.
Memorial & Museum Director of Education Sonnet Takahisa said, “The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 happened only seven years ago. The record of the events of September 11, the significance of those events, and our understanding of their impact are still evolving. We know that teachers feel ill-prepared to address 9/11 in their classrooms and we hope to provide resources for teachers to use that will encourage and facilitate discussion. This pilot will help the Memorial & Museum develop a network of educators who will help develop a formal, national 9/11 curriculum.”

At the event, FDNY Lieutenant (Ret.), 9/11 First Responder and Survivor Mickey Kross told students about his experience as a New York City firefighter with Engine Company 16, Ladder 7 which responded to the call that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. Kross was one of 14 people trapped within a staircase to survive the collapse of the North Tower. After watching the film and hearing Kross’ story, teachers at Millennium High School led the students in a discussion about the film and their memories of and questions about the events of September 11, 2001. Created in 2002, Millennium High School was the first new school to open in Lower Manhattan after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Memorial & Museum distributed the packet of materials to educational administrators across the country, and to educators in New Jersey and secondary schools in New York City. The materials are also available on the National September 11 Memorial & Museum’s website, www.national911memorial.org/catk_education.

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 nearly three thousand 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, or by calling 1-877-WTC-GIVE.

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