



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sunday, September 7, 2014

## 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM UNVEILS NEW EXHIBIT ON THE VICTORIOUS END IN THE HUNT FOR OSAMA BIN LADEN

*The Exhibit Includes Shirt Worn by SEAL Team 6 Member, “Challenge Coin”  
from CIA Operative Known as Maya and Brick from Bin Laden’s Compound  
Where He was Killed*

(New York) September 7, 2014 – The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today introduced to the public a new exhibit portraying the years-long hunt, the ultimate discovery and killing of Osama bin Laden.

There are three primary components of the exhibit, including a uniform shirt worn by one of the U.S. Navy SEAL Team 6 members who took part in the 2011 raid of bin Laden’s compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The shirt has an American flag patch on the sleeve colored black and brown. The flag is backwards, as is done on such military shirts in a symbolic gesture referencing the era when the flag-bearer led soldiers behind him on the charge to battle.

The exhibit is also comprised of a so-called challenge coin, which was donated by “Maya,” the alias for the CIA operative who pursued bin Laden, and a brick recovered from the compound where the al-Qaeda leader was killed.

“This exhibit not only captures a seminal moment in American history, it also allows millions of visitors the chance to recognize the extraordinary bravery of the men and women who sacrifice so much for this country at home and abroad,” 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. “I have had the distinct honor to meet the man who wore this shirt into battle and donated it to represent the heroic efforts of Seal Team 6 for their execution of Operation Neptune Spear. I thank him and ‘Maya’—both for their bravery, courage and determination, which provided a measure of justice for every single American, and for entrusting us with these artifacts of such national and international importance.”

“In honor of the courageous men and women who have put their lives on the line in the war on terror—and in memory of all those we lost on 9/11—a member of storied SEAL Team 6 has graciously donated to the 9/11 Memorial Museum the shirt he wore during the high-risk mission at the bin Laden compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan,” said Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, who helped to secure the donation of the shirt. “I hope it will serve as a tangible reminder to all those who visit the Museum of the undaunted courage and steely resolve of the American men and women, who risk their lives - to keep our country safe from harm.”

“This display, in the heart of Foundation Hall, invites Museum visitors to contemplate the extraordinary dedication of the U.S. military and intelligence communities in their search for justice in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks,” 9/11

Memorial Museum Director Greenwald said. “These artifacts testify to the outcome of years of effort to locate Osama bin Laden. The shirt worn by one of the U.S. Navy SEAL Team 6 members during the successful raid at bin Laden’s hideout in Abbottabad—referenced also by the brick from that compound—connects us in a powerful and immediate way to that operation. The coin, donated by the CIA operative whose determined, multi-year effort to find bin Laden’s hiding place led these special forces to that location, commemorates the success of the operation.”

The challenge coin was created to commemorate the successful operation that eliminated bin Laden. One side of the coin is marked “May 1, 2011,” the U.S. date when the operation occurred. The other side shows a red “X” mark. After 9/11, President George W. Bush kept a list in his desk of key al-Qaeda operatives still at large. Whenever one was exposed, arrested or killed, he would make a red X through the assailant’s name. The brick, recovered from bin Laden’s hideout, has been on display in the Museum since it opened in May 2014. Several photographs complete the new installation. The identities of the retired Navy SEAL and the CIA operative are not included in the exhibit to preserve their anonymity.

Since the Museum opened in May, more than 900,000 people have visited. The 9/11 Memorial has had more than 15 million visitors since opening in September 2011.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to oversee the design, fundraising, programming and operations of the Memorial and Museum. The Memorial and Museum are located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site.

The Memorial remembers and honors the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The design, created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two reflecting pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers and a plaza of trees. The Museum displays monumental artifacts 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 2001 and 1993 attacks and the aftermath. It also explores the global impact of 9/11 and its continuing significance. Davis Brody Bond are the architects of the belowground Museum and Snøhetta designed its entry pavilion. The Museum’s exhibition designers include Thinc, Local Projects and Layman Design.

For more information or to reserve a ticket to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, go to [911memorial.org](http://911memorial.org).

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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