Instructions: Read the text below before watching the program. As you listen to each speaker’s story, think about the following questions.

FOUNDATION: WHAT HAPPENED ON 9/11?
The webinar begins with a short film that provides a brief overview of the events of the morning of September 11, 2001. Begin the lesson by screening the film for your students. As an alternative, you can also share the key events of the 9/11 attacks using the age-appropriate language below:

On September 11, 2001, four airplanes were hijacked, or taken over, by 19 terrorists—people who use fear to change the way people and governments act—and flown into important buildings. Two planes were flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Another was flown into the Pentagon, outside of Washington DC. This is where our military leaders work. The terrorists tried to crash a fourth plane into another building, but the passengers fought back and the plane crashed into an empty field in Pennsylvania. Almost 3,000 people were killed.

Today, you will learn more about these events by listening to stories from people who were there.

BILLY SPADE
• Bill was one of thousands of first responders who came to the World Trade Center to help on 9/11. What is the job of a first responder?
• John D’Allara was an NYPD police officer who Bill met on the morning of 9/11. How did Bill and John work together to help people that day?
• On 9/11, 343 firefighters from the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) were killed responding to the World Trade Center, including 11 members of Bill’s company. What could you do in your school or with your family to honor first responders and show thanks for their brave actions?

To learn more about the FDNY and their response on 9/11, visit Inside the Collection. You can also learn about John D’Allara, who was killed on 9/11, by visiting the Memorial Guide.
CAIT LEAVEY

- What kind of work were firefighters, like Lt. Joseph Leavey, doing at the World Trade Center?
- Cait said that hearing her father’s calm voice on the radio calls was a gift. How did this help Cait after 9/11?
- Cait’s father called her “his sunshine” and she described him as loving and supportive. Today, Cait creates a space where her own students can unleash their own “sunshine.” Who are the people in your life that support and encourage you?

To learn more about Cait’s father, Lt. Joseph Leavey, who was killed on 9/11 visit the Memorial Guide.

BRIELLE SARACINI

- Brielle talked about the way she grieved her father’s death and what helped her get through each day. What examples did she give?
- What is one way in which Brielle honors her father’s memory today?
- How does hearing one person’s story of this event help us remember 9/11? How can you help others honor and remember 9/11 in your own community?

To learn more about Brielle’s father, Victor J. Saracini, who was killed on 9/11 visit the Memorial Guide.

CARLTON SHELLEY II

- Why was September 11, 2001, going to be a special day for Carlton and his fellow students at Emma E. Booker Elementary school?
- In the middle of the President’s visit, Carlton says “all of a sudden, President Bush was leaving.” As Carlton learned more about why the President had to leave, how does he describe feeling?
- In his 5th grade graduation speech, Carlton says that 9/11 made him a better person in three ways. What are the three things he mentions?
- Carlton says perseverance, which is the ability to continue doing something despite difficulties, has continued to help him as an adult. Can you think of a time in your own life where you were able to face a challenge that helped you to grow or to learn something new?

To hear from additional veterans about how 9/11 affected their decision to serve, visit our Salute to Service page.

JOHN SPADE

- How did John first learn about his father’s 9/11 story?
- John said he would always remember when people came up to him after his father’s tours and say, “your dad is a hero.” Who are heroes in your own community? How do they go out of their way to help others?
- What can you do to show gratitude or appreciation to a hero in your own community?

To learn about how other kids chose to respond after 9/11 with compassion, explore our collection of children’s artwork.
REFLECTION ACTIVITY

- Write a “Dear Hero” letter, inspired by the many letters children wrote in response to 9/11 or create artwork to honor and thank those in your community who have stepped forward to help people affected by COVID-19.

- For other online activities you can do at home, visit our Activities at Home page.