



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**9/11 SURVIVOR TREE SEEDLINGS INSPIRE RESILIENCE**

***Seedlings Are Donated to Communities in Las Vegas, Pittsburgh and Greece Affected by Violence and Disaster***

**(New York) September 12, 2019** – Las Vegas, Pittsburgh and Greece will be honored with the offering of “Survivor Tree” seedlings, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum announced today. The communities have committed to nurturing these trees to serve as landmarks symbolizing resiliency and hope.

“Located at the very heart of the 9/11 Memorial, the Survivor Tree symbolizes the potential for resilience in the aftermath of tragedy,” Alice M. Greenwald, 9/11 Memorial & Museum President and CEO said. “As the communities in Las Vegas, Pittsburgh and Greece continue their own journeys towards healing, we in New York City stand in solidarity with them and offer these Survivor Tree seedlings as living symbols of the promise of renewal. It is our intention that the seedling program will inspire hope around the world.”

The recipient communities have been impacted by violence and extreme disaster. In Las Vegas, a gunman killed 58 people and injured 400 more at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in October 2017. The following year, in October of 2018, 11 people were killed and 6 were injured at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. During the shooting, three congregations were in service — Congregation Dor Hadash, New Light Congregation and Tree of Life Congregation — making this the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in United States history.

In 2018, a series of wildfires in Greece resulted in 102 fatalities and 172 injuries. The municipality of Marathon will accept the seedling on behalf of the country.

The Survivor Tree has become a symbol of the nation’s spirit of hope and healing as well as strength and resilience in the wake of the 2001 attacks. The tree got its name after it was nursed back to health when it was pulled from World Trade Center rubble. It was later replanted at the 9/11 Memorial.

In September 2013, the Memorial began the tree seedling distribution program in partnership with Stamford, Conn.-based Bartlett Tree Experts and John Bowne High School in the Flushing neighborhood of Queens.

Bartlett, which donates its resources to support the program, harvested seeds from the Survivor Tree in the fall of 2011. John Bowne High School cares for the seedlings as part of the school’s agriculture curriculum.

**Images of the Survivor Tree and seedlings associated with the program can be provided upon request. Please email [press@911memorial.org](mailto:press@911memorial.org) to request access.**

Learn more about the Survivor Tree and the seedling program [here](#).

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

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the nonprofit organization that oversees operations for the 9/11 Memorial and 9/11 Memorial Museum. Located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site, the Memorial and Museum remember and honor the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The Memorial plaza design consists of two reflecting pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers surrounded by swamp white oak trees. The Museum displays more than 900 personal and monumental objects while its collection includes more than 60,000 items that present intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery linked to the events of 9/11 and the aftermath. The Museum also explores the global impact of 9/11 and its continuing significance through education programs, public programs, live talks and film features that cover contemporary topics designed for diverse audiences. For more information or to reserve a ticket to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, please visit [911memorial.org](http://911memorial.org).

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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