

TO: **Mitch Mendler**
World Memorial
3616 Hartzel Drive
Spring Valley, CA 91977

FROM: **Matthew Salenger, RA**
DATE / TIME: **9/22/2009 2:47 PM**

Mitch-

I was really moved and impressed with what you put together this past anniversary of September 11th. It was, by far, the best memorial for any event that I have been to in person in my life.

For years I have sought to better understand how to deal with the tragedy, and how to provide tribute to those that lost their lives that day. Your memorial helped me reconnect to the events with somber and reinstated remembrance. However, it also provided me with new positive feelings on how to grow and contribute to our community because of my profound memories of the tragedy.

Additionally, the event was especially poignant for me because you chose to have this year's event at the Arizona 9/11 Memorial, of which I helped design. Our work, entitled "Moving Memories" is all about how we remember the events, and what we choose to do with those memories. Your event was beautifully conceived, perfectly situated, and flawlessly executed.

As you know, there has been some controversy associated with the design of the Arizona 9/11 Memorial, as with many such memorials. I feel the way you and your guests specifically stayed away from politics and kept the messages clear and concise regarding serving one's community really helped heal much of the issues surrounding "Moving Memories". I was proud to be there to see it all happen.

I was especially impressed and moved because of my conversation with Retired Lieutenant Joe Torrillo of the New York City Fire Department, who was there because of your efforts. I had a one-hour conversation with him in the evening that was nothing short of life changing for me. To be so close to such a great man, a hero, was really meaningful for me.

Again, Mitch, great work. And thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication to keeping the memory alive. May everyone in this nation continue to remember, learn, and grow from your efforts.

Sincerely,



Matthew Salenger