

NEVER FORGET

Nearly five years ago, a group of criminals tried to wreck one of mankind's greatest societies by crashing four planes into icons of freedom, military leadership, free enterprise and most importantly, democracy. Within 93 minutes, the two tallest buildings in our nation fell; killing almost 3,000 innocent people - including your fellow brothers and sister who paid the ultimate calling of "this we do - so others may live."

Like Everyone during those tragic days, we wanted to help. While working in the Allied Pilots (union) command center, fellow associates sketched a vision for the WORLD MEMORIAL as an International forum to receive ideas, designs, artwork and healing from around the globe.

Moved by the images of your brothers and sisters removing bodies around the clock from "The Pile" - a common Voice came from around the globe: Save the surviving WTC steel. It was crying out to be preserved as evidence for future generations. Unfortunately, in the heat of battle, most of the steel was melted down and sold off. A year later after the fires were Extinguished, nothing remained from that powerful icon seen by 5 billion people around the world.

Why are we here today? Let me share with you an acquisition by FDNY (Retired) Firefighter Jack Toale. Jack created a Maltese cross from the shim plate World Trade Center North Tower. It's just a little piece of history; but it carries a big story: People died over it, people cried over it, and people shared magnificent careers and dreams within these metal walls. Let us Never Forget.

Four years ago, Vancouver artists and firefighters saw the same vision. Even though all of the steel and blueprints were destroyed, they created a sculpture armed Only with passion and Resolve. It symbolized the "thousands of souls" unleashed that infamous morning. Hence, the appropriate name "Release of Souls."

However, in the beginning of this project, everyone commented - it was "too tragic," "too ugly," and the frequent "Why are you wasting your time?" Except for one Group...Uniformed Public Servants - who daily put their lives in harms way. A group that is always the FIRST to be on scene and the LAST to leave. A group that daily witnesses tragedy that goes unnoticed by many. A profession that daily manages human crisis. You see, it is the Police and Fire Fighters, EMT's and Paramedics around the globe that are united in a common bond of the WTC beauty, power and passion. London Police Officer Dave Holdbrook requests, "Let the surviving steel stand erect for a thousand years. Never Forget."

With the last shred of Evidence gone, WORLD MEMORIAL went to work on another resource: a beautiful, inspirational collection of original songs donated from around the world. This 5th Anniversary year 2006, International Composer Bechara EL KHOURY, Composer Miles Black, musicians from Paris to fire stations of Mississippi, and world-renown Cantor Joseph Malovany, will present spectacular concert performances to honour your profession, your families, and the 2,800 children that lost a parent on that infamous day.

Please join us for the "Release of Souls" Concert. It is a Tribute to our fallen heroes, support for the families left behind, and salute to those serving in harms way. Let's stand together - as one community in International healing and celebration of Freedom. NEVER FORGET September Eleven.

Brus D. Messinger, Founder
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