

**9/11**  
**MEMORIAL**  
**& MUSEUM**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**Michael R. Bloomberg**  
Chairman

**Elizabeth L. Hillman**  
President & CEO

In 2025, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum remained steadfast in its vital mission to honor and remember the 2,983 people killed in the September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 attacks. As we approach the 25th anniversary of 9/11, we reflect and look ahead, reaffirming our commitment to share the stories and lessons of that day with new generations. This year, the Museum welcomed 2.4 million visitors and the Memorial 11.3 million, while our education programs reached more than 1 million participants from all 50 states and 32 countries. Through an array of programs, we continue to explore the ongoing and unexpected ways 9/11 shapes our society. **The heart of our mission remains the same: to honor all those killed, support those affected by 9/11-related illnesses, and recognize all who served in the aftermath. By reaching the 100 million Americans born after 9/11, we help ensure the resilience and unity that defined our response continue to inspire, fulfilling our enduring promise to never forget.**

**THE YEAR IN NUMBERS**

5,500

Family members attended the **24<sup>th</sup> annual** 9/11 commemoration ceremony at the memorial.

200,000

Online viewers of 9/11 ceremony



Visitors

2,400,000 to the **Museum**

11,300,000 to the **Memorial**

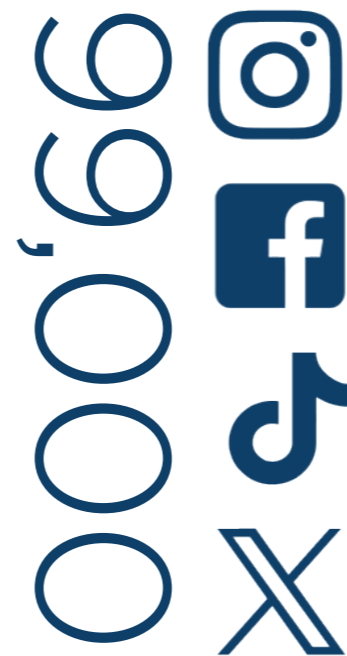
25,500,000 to **911memorial.org**

**100,000**

Participants in expert-led tours



RECIPIENT



Number of new social media followers

Enjoy a video of 2025 highlights.



1,000,000

Participants, from all **50 states, six territories, and 32 countries**, in the Anniversary Digital Learning Experience



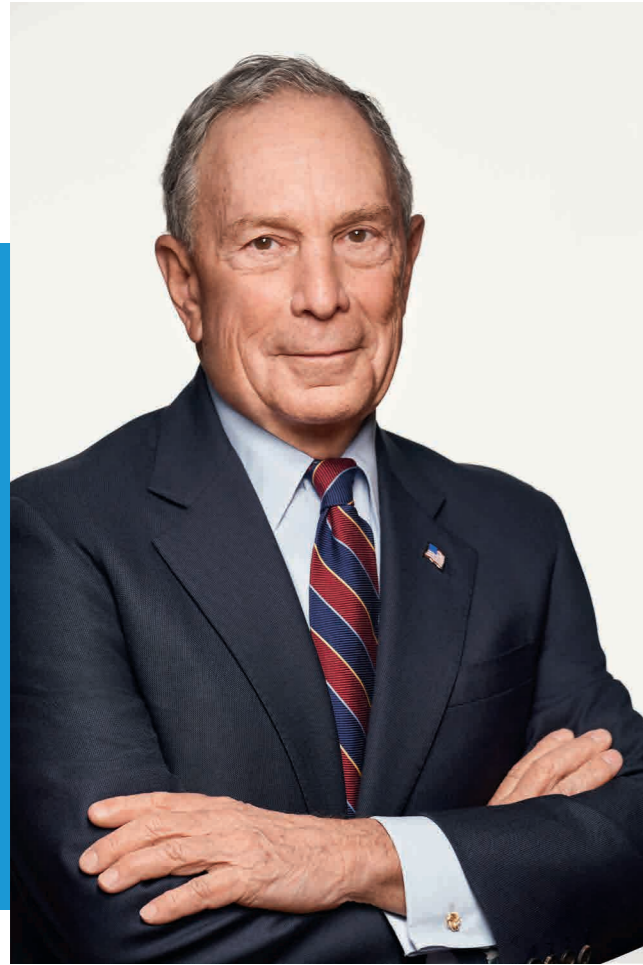
Participants in **public and professional programs**

11,000



1,290

Number of artifacts added to the collection



### A Message from the Chairman of the Board

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum honors the nearly 3,000 people killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. It commemorates the heroism of those who risked and gave their own lives, so that others might live. And it teaches new generations how, on the darkest of days, the best of humanity triumphed over the worst.

As we approach the 25th anniversary of 9/11, that mission to remember and inspire is increasingly urgent. Nearly 100 million Americans are too young to remember the attacks, making our work to ensure that the lessons endure ever more important.

Over the past year, we welcomed 11.3 million visitors to the Memorial and 2.4 million to the Museum. We also dedicated a new installation honoring those who served in the military after 9/11, beginning with the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command Memorial. Listing the names of some of the more than 7,000 U.S. service members who died in combat, it stands as a solemn tribute to their sacrifice.

Expanding access to the Museum, especially for local residents, remains an important priority for us. With generous support from the Carnegie Corporation, we offered free admission to New Yorkers on the first Sunday of each month in 2025, drawing nearly 9,000 New Yorkers, many for the first time. And thanks to support from the Wilf Family Foundations and the Gary Sinise Foundation, our free student programs reached 67 percent more students across the tri-state area. Our Institute for Educators

also brought teachers from across the nation together for professional development in July - including, for the first time, a teacher born after 9/11. On the 24th anniversary of the attacks, our 9/11 Anniversary Digital Learning Experience reached more than one million students and educators worldwide.

I am grateful to Memorial and Museum's outstanding team, led by president and CEO Beth Hillman, and to the many donors whose generosity makes everything we do possible. Together, we will honor the solemn vow we made a quarter-century ago: Never Forget.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg



### A Message from the Chairman of the Board

In 2025, with the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks fast approaching, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum remained steadfast in its essential work of remembrance, education, and tribute. Our commitment to honoring those who were killed, affirming the unity, service, and compassion that defined our response, and educating a new generation about the lessons of that day felt more vital than ever.

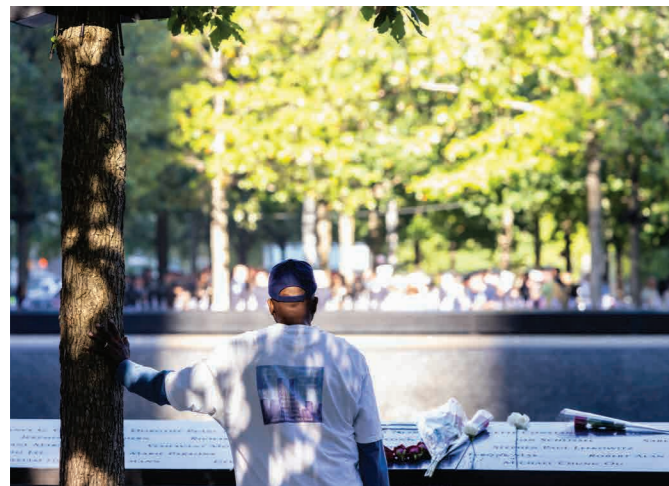
Together, we commemorated the 32nd anniversary of the February 26, 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 23rd anniversary of the formal end to rescue and recovery operations on May 30, 2002. On September 11, more than 5,500 family members gathered at the Memorial for our annual commemoration ceremony, joined by 200,000 viewers online. Our annual Remember the Sky digital campaign reached nearly three million social media accounts, garnering commemorative photos of skies around the globe on September 11.

Through 17,721 student field trips, 5,700 guided tours, 8,825 participants across law enforcement, military and first responders in 63 professional trainings, and more than 8,000 New York First Sunday attendees, we deepened the reach of our education programs, advanced our mission to inspire understanding and foster tolerance, and expanded initiatives to engage broader audiences. Our collection grew by 1,290 artifacts and 122 objects rotated onto view, all offering new perspectives on the lasting ramifications of 9/11.

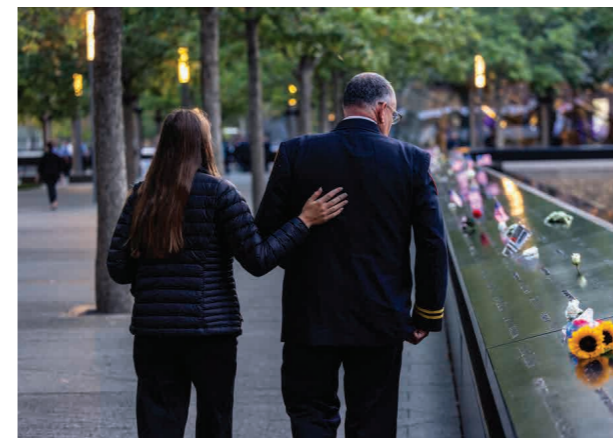
We extended the breadth of our storytelling through new content and new outreach. New exhibitions and installations explored the impact of 9/11 on the children of those killed and on those who enlisted to serve in the post-9/11 wars. The convening power of the museum brought together groups who share special bonds around 9/11, including a reunion of campers from America's Camp, a summer retreat in the Berkshires for youth directly affected by 9/11, and a celebration of the addition of the Puerto Rican flag, and the flags of other U.S. territories, to the Museum's display of the flags of the 90 countries from which 9/11 victims hailed. Servicemembers joined us in the Museum and on the Memorial plaza to reenlist, retire, and share their experiences in the armed forces, and first responders and survivors connected on site to honor and learn more about those suffering from 9/11-related health effects. None of our work would be possible without the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the commitment of our members and visitors, and the partnership of our lower Manhattan and New York City neighbors as well as the many leaders of the 9/11 community. As an institution funded almost entirely by private individuals, their ongoing support ensures we can fulfill our promise to never forget.

With tremendous appreciation,

Elizabeth L. Hillman  
President & CEO



# Commemorate



Every year on the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum stands at the forefront in honoring the memory of the day that forever changed our world. Central to our mission is the commemoration ceremony, when families of victims come together on the Memorial plaza to read aloud the names of the 2,983 people killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks and the February 26, 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Six moments of silence observe the times when the towers were struck and when they fell, the Pentagon was struck, and Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania.

## The 24th Anniversary Ceremony

The 24th annual commemoration ceremony on Thursday, September 11, 2025, brought together more than 5,500 family members, along with numerous dignitaries and elected officials. The ceremony reached over 200K viewers via live stream on our website and Facebook.



A moment of tribute also took place on the Memorial Glade, honoring those who are sick or have died from 9/11-related illness or injury, as well as all rescue, recovery, and relief workers. This gathering celebrated the strength and resilience of survivors and downtown community members. Participants included emergency response agencies throughout New York City, Manhattan Community Board Members, community groups involved in the 9/11 response, and representatives from the World Trade Center Health Program and September 11th Victim Compensation Fund.

## Welcoming the Community New York First Sunday and Community Day

On September 7, with support from a Carnegie Corporation grant, we hosted a special [New York First Sunday](#) event for members of the 9/11 community as well as New York residents. The meaningful evening included activities such as the Indoor Art Cart, guiding children through an age-appropriate activity exploring the Memorial & Museum’s symbolism; screenings of the [Anniversary Digital Learning Experience](#) film; and the chance to connect with partner organizations including [World Trade Center Health Program](#), [Victim Compensation Fund](#), [Crisis Response Canines](#), [First Responders Children’s Foundation](#), [Answer the Call](#), [Tuesday’s Children](#), and the [FDNY Fire Safety Education](#) team (with mascot Siren).



On September 10, the Museum opened exclusively for survivors of February 23, 1993 and September 11, 2001, and victim family members. It was also open to individuals who are sick or have died from 9/11-related illnesses and injuries, rescue and recovery workers, first responders, active-duty military and veterans, lower Manhattan residents and business owners, and active and retired flight crew members. Partner organizations attended to provide information and answer questions from community members.



## Benefit Dinner



Ahead of the 24th anniversary commemoration, we gathered our dedicated community of supporters for the annual 9/11 Memorial & Museum Benefit, reaffirming our shared commitment to our mission. 9/11 Memorial & Museum Chairman Michael R. Bloomberg served as dinner host, while actor, producer, and UN Messenger for Peace Michael Douglas emceed the evening. Three-time Grammy Award-winning artist Isabel Leonard delivered a moving performance.

### We proudly recognized:

- **Jeh Charles Johnson**, Former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security: Distinction in Civic Innovation and Renewal
- **Paul & Marie Napoli**, Partners, Napoli Shkolnik PLLC: Visionary Distinction

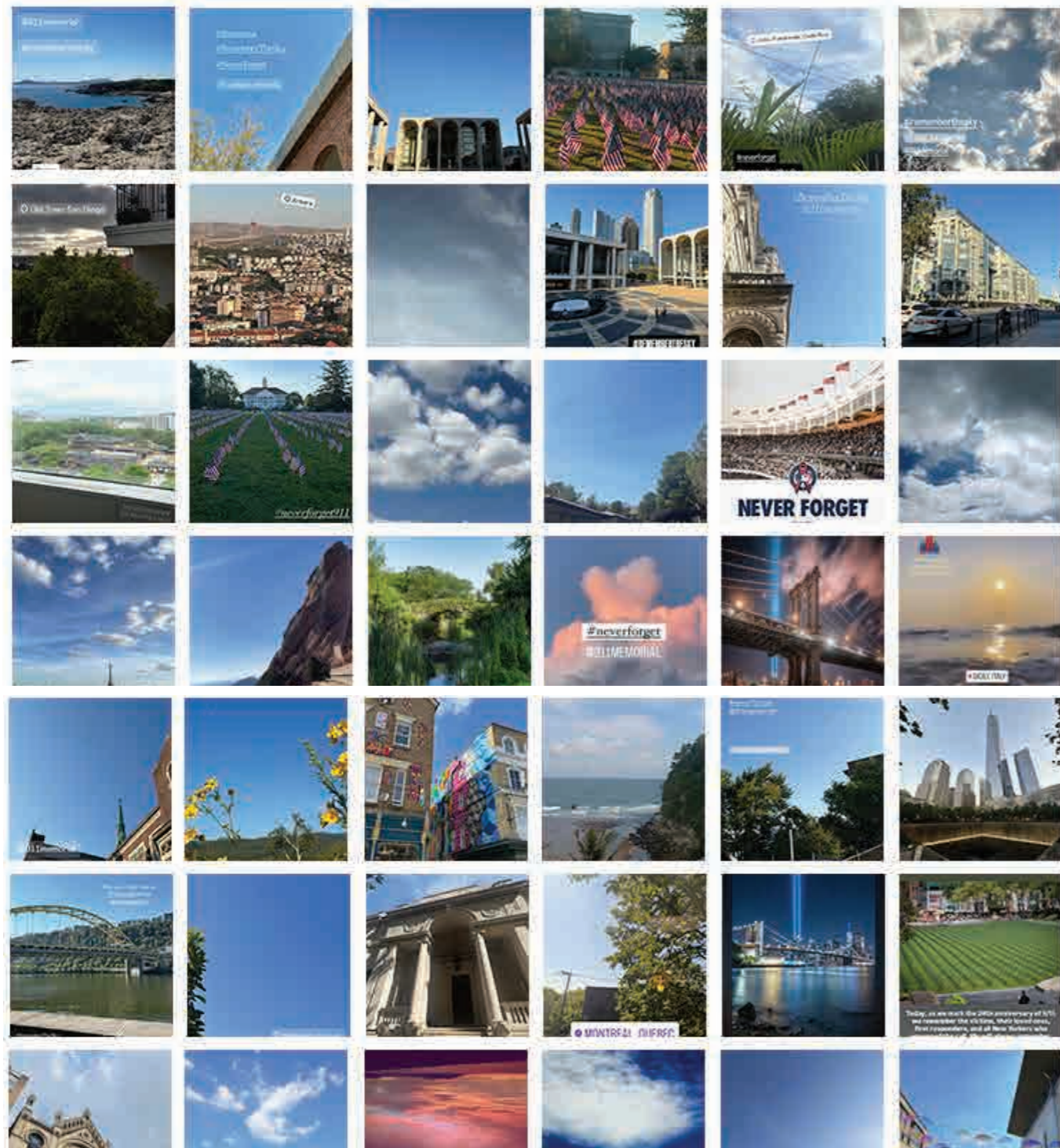
## Anniversary Digital Learning Experience

More than one million participants from all 50 states and 32 countries joined this year's Anniversary Digital Learning Experience. The program centered on a 30-minute film featuring eyewitness accounts and the personal stories of an FDNY first responder, a 9/11 family member, a U.S. Army veteran, and a former World Trade Center window washer.



## Remember the Sky

Our fifth annual Remember the Sky campaign invited the public to share a photo of the sky on September 11 on social media using #neverforget911 and #rememberthesky. This powerful act of collective remembrance reached nearly 3 million accounts across Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and X, uniting people around the world.



## The Never Forget Fund



Since 2021, The Never Forget Fund helped expand the 9/11 Memorial & Museum’s educational programming, ensuring we reach a new generation of Americans with no personal memory of September 11. To date, we’ve connected with 5.5 million students, teachers, and professionals. We invite individuals and organizations to join us in supporting The Never Forget Fund as we pursue our \$50 million goal—enabling us to educate 20 million students, train 100,000 professionals, and amplify stories of 9/11-inspired service across platforms.

## Tribute in Light

Tribute in Light, presented by Con Edison, once again shone from dusk on September 11 to dawn the next day. Each year, this public art installation is viewable within a 60-mile radius, its iconic twin beams of blue light honoring those killed and symbolizing the city's collective resilience.



On the 24th anniversary of 9/11, we once again partnered with New York City Tourism + Conventions and buildings across the city who lit up their facades and rooftops in blue as a gesture of collective remembrance. This year, we were thrilled to welcome additional participants from across the Northeast and Midwest as well, extending the reach of this powerful tradition. They included 425 Park Avenue, Albany International Airport Gateway, Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, Bayonne Bridge, Bloomberg L.P., Empire Outlets, Empire State Building, Fairport Lift Bridge over the Erie Canal, "Franklin D. Roosevelt" Mid-Hudson Bridge, Goethals Bridge, Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, Grand Central Terminal — Pershing Square Viaduct, H. Carl McCall SUNY Building, Helmsley Building, Hudson State Historic Park (walkway), JFK Air Traffic Control Tower, Kosciuszko Bridge, Lake Placid Olympic Center, LGA East and West Parking Garage Facade, LGA East Substation, LGA Terminal C Headhouse, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Moynihan Train Hall, MTA LIRR — East End Gateway at Penn Station, New York City Hall, New York Comedy Club, Niagara Falls, the Oculus, One Vanderbilt, One World Trade Center, PAC NYC, the Phoenix at Deno's Wonder Wheel Park in Coney Island, Rockefeller Center, RXR Realty Buildings, State Education Building, State Fairground — Main Gate & Expo Center, SUMMIT; 100 Federal Street, 131 Dartmouth Street, Akamai, Atlantic Wharf, Berklee College of Music — Berklee Performance Center, Boston Chamber of Commerce, Boston City Hall, Causeway, Center Plaza, Equinox Building, Fenway Park, Information Place, Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, Municipal Building, Museum of Science, One Lincoln Street, Prudential Tower, Rowes Wharf, State Street — One Congress, UMass Boston — Integrated Science Complex, Winthrop Center Park (Boston); Capella Tower (Minneapolis); and Illuminate CLE and Terminal Towers (Cleveland).



## February 26, 1993

On February 26, we marked the 32nd anniversary of the 1993 World Trade Center attack, honoring the six victims killed and the thousands injured. More than 350 people attended the ceremony, which included an honor guard, a moment of silence, and the reading of the victims' names.



## May 30, 2002

In May, we gathered with agencies and community groups involved in the nine-month rescue and recovery mission at Ground Zero. Marking the 23rd anniversary of May 30, 2002, when the city formally concluded those operations, we assembled at the Memorial Glade to pay tribute to the bravery and dedication of all 9/11 rescue, recovery, and relief workers. The impact of that work endures, as tens of thousands of responders, survivors, and lower Manhattan residents continue to face illnesses linked to 9/11. Today, more lives have been lost to 9/11-related illness than were taken on the day of the attacks.



# Educate

## For Students

### On-Site and Virtual Field Trips

Our work to reach 100 million Americans born after 9/11 reached 67 percent more students in 2025, with our Education experts hosting on-site guided field trips for 10,000 students. Another 8,000 participated in virtual visits, throughout the year and surrounding the anniversary of September 11.

Thanks to generous funding from the Wilf Family Foundations, the Gary Sinise Foundation, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with City Council and the Department of Youth and Community Development, field trips and visits for New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut students were free of charge in 2025.

### Art Cart

The Art Cart, which offers hands-on activities and self-guided explorations that help children, families, and caregivers delve into the stories of 9/11 in an age-appropriate manner and better understand the meaning of the Memorial's design, welcomed more than a thousand visitors.



## For Professionals

### Educator Professional Development

Over the course of the year, we reached 1,290 educators through more than 30 sessions that highlighted underrepresented voices, first-person narratives, and tools for teaching the upcoming 25th anniversary of 9/11. We are grateful for the generous support of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with City Council.

We are proud to be a New York State Education Department-designated Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) provider, allowing teaching certificate holders to apply our professional development and trainings towards their required number of CTLE hours.



## Summer Institute for Educators

The third annual Summer Institute for Educators, which brought together 23 educators from 12 states and the United Kingdom, once again explored the Museum’s exhibitions and collections while centering on strategies for effectively discussing 9/11 with students. Participants attended expert-led sessions and worked on personalized professional development plans for use with their colleagues back home. This year’s Institute marked a meaningful milestone: the first teacher participant born after 9/11.



## Public Programs



Throughout the year, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum hosts a series of programs exploring the ongoing — and sometimes unexpected — impact of 9/11 on every aspect of society.

These powerful discussions, attended by a combined more than 2,200 guests, featured thought leaders, experts, authors, artists, and even performers. 2025 highlights included a look at Broadway’s response to the attacks; a live performance spotlighting the legacy of Welles Remy Crowther; an exploration of the ways comic books addressed 9/11; and, in partnership with The Moth, an evening of storytelling featuring veterans in their own words.

[Watch a 2025 public program highlight reel.](#)

*The 9/11 Memorial & Museum’s programs are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.*

## Professional Programs

Beyond our public program line-up, we reached 8,825 guests through 63 professional programs designed for law enforcement, the intelligence community, military, first responder agencies, government, academic, and private sector groups. These trainings weave the lessons of 9/11 into the history, identity, and missions of participating organizations. Of the more than six dozen trainings, 10 were held in partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation and five were pilot sessions of our corporate program Leading Through Crisis, which codifies the keys to successful crisis management — flexibility, empathy, communication, and culture — demonstrated after the attacks and still relevant a quarter century later.

Among the speakers providing in-depth interviews for Leading Through Crisis were Michael R. Bloomberg, Frank Bisignano, Kenneth I. Chenault, Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., Robert Iger, Jeh Charles Johnson, Dr. Kerry Kelly, Admiral William H. McRaven, USN (Ret.), and Caryn Seidman-Becker.



# Inspire

## The Visionary Network

The Visionary Network - founded in 2020 to deepen the next generation's connection to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and its mission - is more vital than ever as we approach the 25th anniversary of the attacks. This group brings together people between the ages of 21 and 45 for advocacy, service, and commemoration, playing a crucial role in sharing the legacy of 9/11, its repercussions, and the ongoing impact. In 2025, we welcomed 179 new members, bringing our total to more than 600. We welcome Visionaries throughout the year with special networking events, exclusive content, and a range of speaking and storytelling opportunities.





### 2025 Visionary Highlights

- Three Coffee & Conversation events featuring insightful dialogues with special guests, including Jay Winuk, co-founder of 9/11 Day, and Karl Chan, Chief Development Officer of the Bowery Mission.
- A December 2 reception for members of the global diplomatic community, held in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of International Affairs and featuring a welcome from Commissioner Aissata M.B. Camara.
- Seven memorial beautification projects across New York City in recognition of the 24th anniversary, where Visionaries cleaned and restored local community memorials by planting flowers, maintaining grounds, and reflecting on those killed on 9/11 and those who later died from 9/11-related illnesses. Made possible with support from 9/11 Day and AmeriCorps.

## The 13th Annual 5K

Nearly 4,000 walkers and runners joined the annual 9/11 Memorial & Museum 5K, presented by RXR, on Sunday, April 27, 2025. The course follows the historic path rescue and recovery workers traveled to Ground Zero following the attacks. Participants pay tribute to those killed, the first responders, and all who aided in New York’s recovery. The 2025 event raised over \$700,000 in support of our mission.

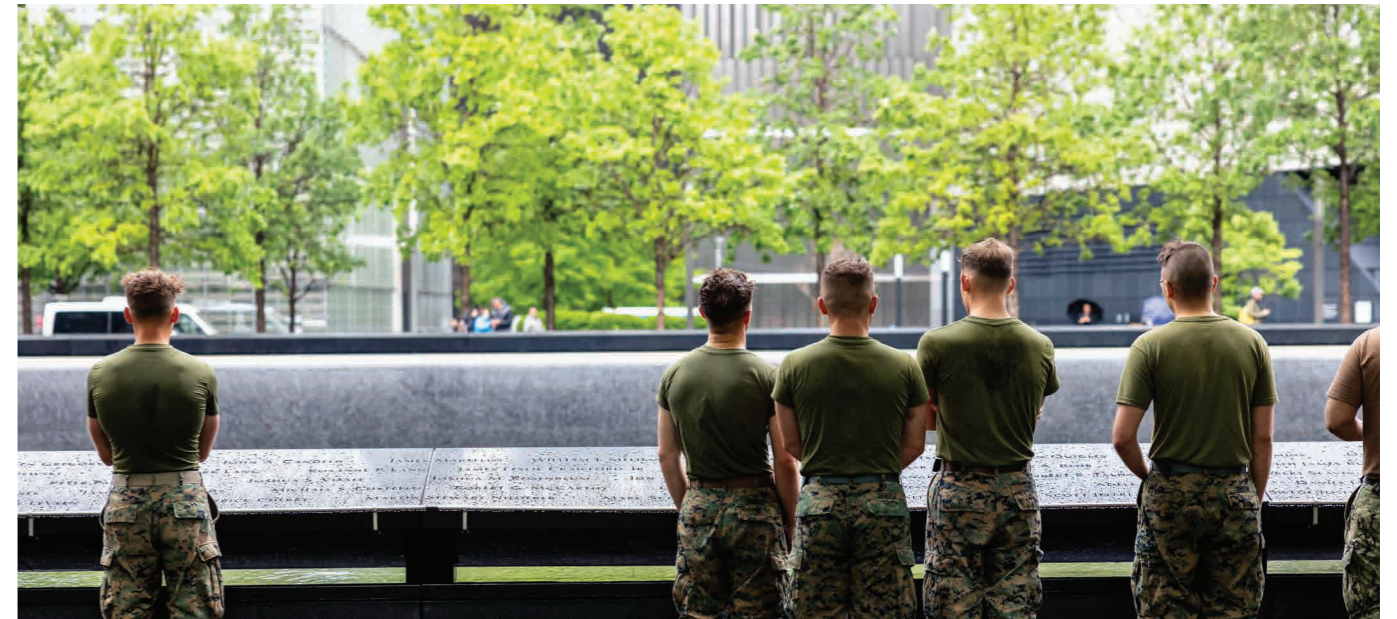


## Legacy of Service

On July 30, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum hosted its third annual Legacy of Service, showcasing how individuals embraced service following the September 11, 2001 attacks. Made possible in part through support from 9/11 Day and AmeriCorps, the evening featured former U.S. Army Captain Patrick Dowdell, whose father, FDNY Lt. Kevin Dowdell, was killed in the line of duty on 9/11, and reinforced his desire to serve in the military. Attendees also heard from Patti Quigley, eight months pregnant when her husband Patrick was killed aboard United Flight 175 on 9/11. To pay forward the kindness and empathy she received after 9/11, Quigley co-founded Beyond the 11th, a charitable organization serving widows affected by war and terrorism, and worked with Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation to provide educational opportunities for young girls in Afghanistan. Both stories will be featured in the Museum's 25th anniversary exhibition, In Their Honor, opening to the public on September 12, 2026.

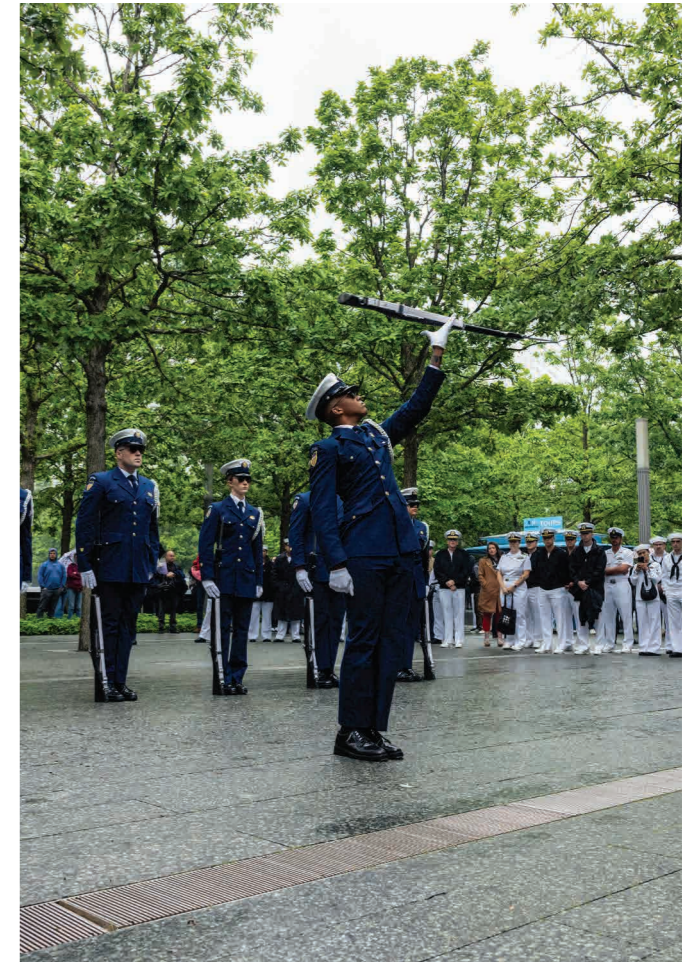


## Honoring Those in Uniform



### Fleet Week

For the thousands of Marine, Navy, and Coast Guard personnel who descend upon New York for Fleet Week each spring, a stop at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum remains a long-standing tradition. The Memorial hosted a number of reenlistments and promotion ceremonies, where service members pledged to continue serving our country, surrounded by the names of those killed on 9/11. On May 22, we welcomed 200 Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and first responders who participated in the annual Lower Manhattan Freedom Run, a tribute to all who serve and protect this country. The run culminated in a moment of silence near the North Pool.



## New on View: Military Memorial

We proudly unveiled a new installation that will rotate Global War on Terror military memorials, honoring the more than 7,000 U.S. service members killed and 50,000 wounded in that two-decade long conflict. First to be featured is the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command Memorial, paying tribute to those who lost their lives in missions such as recovering wounded comrades under fire, guiding airstrikes amid enemy forces, or flying into hostile territory at night to insert or extract special operations teams. On September 18, to mark the new installation and its own birthday, the Air Force held a mass enlistment ceremony on site, with AFSOC General Michael E. Conley in attendance.



## Salute to Service

Each November, just ahead of Veterans Day, we recognize veterans, military service members, and their families. Events this year included a powerful conversation focused on the transition from military service to private sector leadership, led by Vivian Greentree, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Head of Corporate Citizenship at Fiserv, president of the Fiserv Cares Foundation, Navy veteran, and military spouse. We also hosted veterans participating in the Travis Manion Foundation's Community Summit, whose leaders spoke about bettering community engagement among military veterans. On Veterans Day, volunteers from Team Red, White, & Blue, alongside our corporate partners TD Bank and PMI, placed more than 250 yellow roses on the names of those who served in the Armed Forces. Later that day, our staff and volunteers including Beth Hillman — an Air Force veteran herself — marched in the iconic New York City Veterans Day parade carrying a large American flag.



## Our Dedicated Volunteers

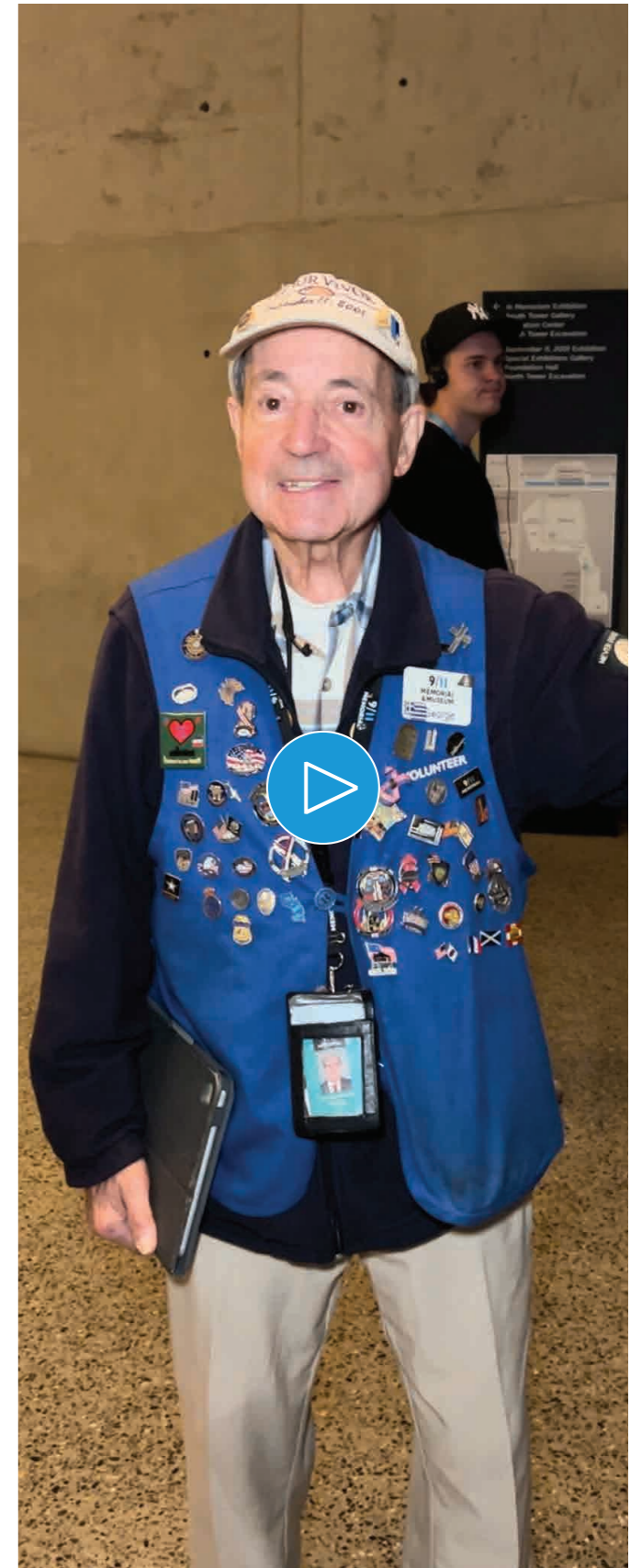


Our volunteers play a crucial role in fulfilling our mission. In 2025, had more than 260 active volunteers, our highest number since 2020, with 40% coming from the 9/11 community. We remain extremely grateful for the tireless and inspiring dedication of this group, nearly 100 of whom celebrated a decade or more of service this year. Each year in April, we show our appreciation through a series of Global Volunteer Month activities, culminating this year in a thank-you ceremony hosted by President and CEO Beth Hillman, with special guest speaker Trustee Anthoula Katsimatides.

### Volunteer Spotlight: George Mironis

After more than a decade and 3,000 hours of service, 9/11 survivor and beloved Museum volunteer George Mironis retired at age 86. George was working as an office manager on the 48th floor of the North Tower when the plane struck. He felt the floor shake, gathered his coworkers, and headed down the stairs to safety. George survived, but he lost 16 friends and 23 coworkers that day.

Since becoming a Visitor Services Associate in 2012, George has welcomed thousands of visitors, sharing his story with compassion and kindness. Known for handing out candy and carrying the names of those he lost, George regularly visits the Memorial to honor their memory. His courage, warmth, and dedication have helped countless visitors connect deeply with the story of 9/11. Thank you, George, for keeping their stories alive.



## Caring for the Pools

### South Pool Refurbishment

Following the successful refurbishment of the North Pool in 2024, the South Pool underwent phase two of the Memorial’s restoration project to preserve the integrity and visual impact of architect Michael Arad’s design. With funding from the Department of Energy, the granite walls were cleaned and sealed, and the pool floor was repainted to its original deep black. The underwater lighting system was upgraded with high-efficiency LEDs to enhance the cascading waterfalls. Additionally, the South Pool received extensive structural work: the steel support structure and strainer baskets surrounding the lower void were removed and reinstalled, damaged waterproofing around drain pipe penetrations was replaced and flood tested, and concrete pavers and rubber base mats were restored. This comprehensive refurbishment ensures that the reflecting pools continue to serve as a place of beauty and reflection for generations to come.



### TODAY Profiles “Reflecting Pool Custodians”

TODAY’s Craig Melvin joined the overnight custodial team for a rare behind-the-scenes look at the 9/11 Memorial to witness how they care for this “sacred site.” Led by Jim Maroon, who witnessed the attacks firsthand, the dedicated crew meticulously maintains the reflecting pools and bronze panels bearing 2,983 names—removing debris, polishing nameplates, and preserving the memorial with profound reverence. “It’s more than a job,” Maroon told TODAY. The custodians, including 23-year-old Billy Finch, who was born after 9/11, opened up about the greater purpose they feel in their work, transforming what was once devastation into a beacon of hope for the millions who visit each year.



**WORKERS HONOR THOSE LOST ON 9/11**



## Honors & Awards



### ARIVAL Tour Review Spotlight Award

The 9/11 Memorial & Museum has been named one of North America’s Top 150 rated experiences in the 2025 Arival Tour Review Spotlight Awards, based on independent analysis of hundreds of thousands of guest reviews. This recognition reflects our sacred mission and the onsite team whose compassion and dedication bring every visitor’s experience to life.

### U.S. News & World Report

The 9/11 Memorial & Museum was named one of the 26 Best Museums in the U.S. by U.S. News & World Report. The prestigious recognition highlights institutions that offer exceptional experiences and are considered “not to be missed.” This honor underscores the Museum’s vital role in preserving the history of September 11, 2001, honoring those who were killed, and exploring the ongoing impact of the attacks.



## Expanding Our Reach

### New York First Sundays

Thanks to continued support from the Carnegie Corporation, we expanded our inaugural free New Yorker admission program New York First Sundays, giving New Yorkers a complimentary opportunity to experience the Museum as a community on the first Sunday of each month. This new, more convenient time slot helped boost participation, connecting New Yorkers with one another and the spirit of community that enveloped our city after 9/11. Nearly 9,000 New Yorkers visited in 2025 via this program, nearly quadrupling participation from the previous year’s 2,200 visitors.



# Sharing and Preserving Their Stories

## “Drawing Meaning: Trauma and Children’s Art After 9/11”

“Drawing Meaning: Trauma and Children’s Art After 9/11”, which opened in 2025, examines how young artists from around the world used art to heal themselves and others as they expressed complex thoughts and feelings about the 9/11 attacks. The installation features drawings created by children in the immediate aftermath of September 11, from high school students to children just old enough to fingerpaint, as they channeled their sadness, confusion, fear, and hope. Some works thanked first responders, others were steps in the healing journey of those whose loved ones were killed. Through these poignant artworks, the installation examines the psychological impact of 9/11 on children and art’s role as a therapeutic tool. The drawings serve as powerful historical documents, capturing a child’s view of a day that forever changed their world.



## Collection Acquisitions

In 2025, we acquired over 1,290 new items (highlights to follow), expanding our total collection to more than 83,072 artifacts that keep the lessons and legacy of 9/11 alive.

### Jim MacMillan, “First Light — September 12”

*Gift of Jim MacMillan*

Jim MacMillan, a photojournalist on staff at the Philadelphia Daily News in 2001, traveled by train from Philadelphia to Newark, NJ on 9/11 to document the escalating disaster at the World Trade Center. After circumnavigating multiple security barriers, he managed to access Ground Zero late that Tuesday evening. Just as dawn broke on September 12, MacMillan set up his camera on the second floor of a partially collapsed building nearby, angling it east to capture the first glint of sunrise over the ruins. The resulting image, titled “First Light,” was selected as the Philadelphia Daily News’ featured photo, printed as a full wrap around the entire front and back pages of its September 13 issue.



## Todd Stone, “Tribute in Light”

*9/11 Memorial & Museum Purchase*

In 2006, the rebuilt 7 World Trade Center opened as the first new high-rise at the original World Trade Center site. Developed by Silverstein Properties, it included free studio spaces for artists, hoping their presence would reflect and contribute to Lower Manhattan’s renewal. Downtown artist and resident Todd Stone, who has lives a few blocks north of the World Trade Center, was selected for this inaugural residency. From both his 7 WTC studio and his Tribeca loft, Stone documented the transformation of Ground Zero, focusing on the emerging Memorial and the evolving skyline. The 2007 watercolor proposed for acquisition depicts an evening view from his loft, featuring the illuminated 7 WTC, the Municipal Building, and the annual Tribute in Light. Influenced by the post-9/11 loss of electricity and later commemorative light installations, Stone’s “Downtown Rising” series blends skyscape, architecture, and memory. The work reflects a shift from trauma toward cautious hope, offering a personal meditation on remembrance, resilience, and collective renewal.



## Shadowbox Containing Salvation Army Credentials, Belonging to Haydee Cleary

*Gift of Kristen Cleary*



Yonkers native Kristen Cleary volunteered with the Salvation Army at Ground Zero alongside her mother, Haydee Cleary, from January to May 2002. The two women served food and coffee, distributed clean clothes, and interacted with recovery workers, fostering a comforting environment for all who passed through. In 2003, Kristen presented her mother with a handcrafted shadow box to honor their joint, shared tenure at Ground Zero. It contained the New York Yankee’s Fire Department/Police Department baseball cap that Haydee wore during her service, along with her Salvation Army credentials and lanyard. Haydee died in 2010 of 9/11 related uterine cancer at 64 years old. After her claim for Victim Compensation Fund benefits for her late mother was denied, Kristin advocated for the CDC to recognize uterine cancer as a 9/11-related illness. That campaign prevailed, and uterine cancer was added to the list of covered illnesses in 2023.

## Australian Red Cross Uniform, ID badge, and Name Tag Belonging to Flight 77 Victim Yvonne Kennedy

*Gift of Simon Kennedy in memory of Yvonne Kennedy*

Born in Punchbowl, Australia, Yvonne Kennedy joined the Australian Red Cross in 1976 as a First Aid Instructor. She rose to the position of commandant and received a Distinguished Service Medal upon retiring from the humanitarian organization in December 2000. In August 2001, Yvonne began a global tour of North America and the Arctic. On September 11, while enroute to Hawaii, she boarded American Airlines Flight 77 in Washington, D.C. Yvonne was 62 years old at the time of her death. In 2025, her son, Simon, donated one of Kennedy's Red Cross uniforms, in addition to a uniform hat and her original credentials. Other personal objects associated with Kennedy's life and Red Cross career have been donated to and exhibited by the National Museum of Australia.



## William Hayes Military Collection

*Gift of William Hayes, FDNY/USAF Retired*



On 9/11, William Hayes was an FDNY firefighter with Ladder Company 45 on 181st Street in Washington Heights and an active-duty Army National Guardsman. He arrived at the World Trade Center site shortly after the North Tower had collapsed and remained at Ground Zero for 3 straight days, subsequently participating in recovery efforts for an additional month. Hayes deployed to Afghanistan with the National Guard in 2007, bringing with him an FDNY Missing in Action flag that he acquired shortly after the 9/11 attacks. He also packed a t-shirt memorializing fellow National Guardsman, Army Sgt. Christian Engeldrum, the first FDNY firefighter to die in Iraq since the start of the U.S.-led war. At the time of his deployment, Hayes had already completed 20 years of military service. Motivated to extend his service as a direct result of the 9/11 attacks, he remained on active-duty status for an additional 12 years. Hayes continued to carry the FDNY MIA flag and displayed the Engeldrum memorial t-shirt in his Bagram and Kandahar sleeping quarters as well. Other items that comprise his donation to the 9/11 Museum consist of an Unexploded Ordnance Identification Card, an Afghanistan Visual Language Survival Guide, and a paracord bracelet worn by Hayes during his service. William Hayes' collection stands as a meaningful assemblage of materials that document the Global War on Terror through the personal experiences of a military veteran and FDNY firefighter who was directly inspired and impacted by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

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