

CT Helps

OFFICE OF FAMILY SUPPORT-*Serving Connecticut families who lost loved ones in the September 11th terrorists' attacks.*

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Governor Dedicates Final Phase of CT Living Memorial



In a simple, but moving outdoor service along the shores of Long Island Sound more than 300 people came to remember and honor Connecticut's 9/11 victims. Governor Rowland led the September 4th, memorial service at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, CT marking the second anniversary of the terrorists' attack.

Many of those in attendance gazed silently at the *Connecticut Remembers* Memorial Board where photographs of the victims and letters from family members were posted.

In dedicating the stone blocks bearing Connecticut's 150 victims, Governor Rowland told the audience of family and friends, "We honor you

best by remembering all this-to not only recognize what you have done and endured, but also what you have inspired. This is a just and powerful tribute to you."

Local girl scouts tolled a five-ton bell from the Bells of Remembrance Project once for each of the 150 victims honored. The haunting yet beautiful sound resonated throughout the cloud covered Park.

The bell ringing is a program of the Remembrance Project initiated by Brother David Schlatter, O.F.M., director of the Franciscan Center in Wilmington, Delaware. Each victim's name was read aloud and family members were given white roses to lay at the polished, granite block bearing their loved ones name.



Friends and family members were led by Governor Rowland and Lt. Governor Rell to view for

the first time the inscription of victims' names at the memorial site.

"9-11 was about people-people called to eternity and people left behind to cope with their loss," Governor Rowland said. "Unfortunately, we cannot change what happened, but we can change today, change tomorrow and make them better."

Shavaun Towers, of the prominent New Haven landscape architecture firm developed the overall design for Connecticut's September 11th Living Memorial. The State Department of Environmental Protection, which manages Sherwood Island Connecticut's first State Park, has plans of installing interpretive signs at the Memorial. Those wishing to support the preservation of the Memorial may contact Louis Pietig, president of the Friends of Sherwood Island at 203-454-2603.



Denise Scott, a 9/11 family member from Stamford, read a brief but poignant poem.



Four granite benches grace the shoreline memorial with its direct view of the Manhattan skyline. The benches donated by Catholic Charities of Fairfield County offer visitors to the Memorial comfort as they pause to remember and feel closer to the dead.

FCA NAMED RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE

The Family and Children's Agency, Inc. (FCA) was recently appointed Connecticut's representative for the American Red Cross's September 11th Recovery Program. The Norwalk based agency has been providing services to 9/11 families for two years. Those wishing more information may contact Andrew Steglitz at 203-855-8765 or email at ASteglitz@fcagency.org

MESSAGES FROM THE MEMORIAL BOARD

"I was immediately drawn to the memorial board. It is important for us all to remember those who were lost, as well as their loved ones. We also lost a family member on 9-11-01 and I understand how difficult this is. You all remain in my prayers."

" I am at such a loss for words. My heart breaks for the families and for our country." JAV

"The memorial brought tears to my eyes. I shall pray once again for the victims and their families. Thank you for the tribute."

"We forget the suddenness that usually accompanies death. Live today for tomorrow isn't promised."

"The pain that fills my eyes when I see how young they all were and how they are loved. I hug my children for them." J.R.

"The feeling of loss is far greater then words. My love, prayers, and thoughts will always be with you." M.F.

"Lord, please bless and draw close those who are left behind for without you no comfort will be felt. Be merciful. Holy spirit put your arms around and hold them close. Blessed mother intercede on their behalf. You alone know the pain of loosing a child. These parents need you."

"My heart cries for all of you. I wish I could reach out and comfort you all. Please know that your pain, this senseless tragedy has touched so many people and we are changed forever. With you in spirit." April

"May God's healing powers be upon those who lost their loved ones on 9/11. We will never forget. The only way to stop evil is for courageous and just people to confront it. God bless freedom."

For a Federal September 11th Victim Compensation Claim is December 22, 2003. Call 1-888-714-3385 for information or an application.

MOVING? Please let our Office know if your mailing address changes. This is important to us, as we want to continue to keep you informed. Thank you.