



For Immediate Release

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Statement from September 11th Families' Association Tribute WTC Visitor Center

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Almost 10 years since the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. confirmed last night that terrorist Osama Bin Laden has been killed. On behalf of the September 11th Families' Association and Tribute WTC Visitor Center, we appreciate the persistent efforts to seek justice by the intelligence community and the US military. We sincerely thank those who willingly serve in harm's way to bring justice for the senseless acts of terrorism on 9/11.

Lee Ielpi, Board President of the Association, stated, "I am overwhelmed with emotion, it brings closure to a chapter." Ielpi lost his 29-year-old firefighter son Jonathan on 9/11. "Thank you to the Navy SEALs who put their lives in jeopardy and all of the military who serve to protect our freedoms at home and abroad. The dedication of our country and our allies to pursue Osama Bin Laden and his followers after so many years shows the resolve to protect the free world."

"One man is dead; let's pause and remember the people who died because of him and the people who died in the pursuit of him." Gerry Bogacz, survivor, 1993 bombing, and 9/11 World Trade Center attacks, 82nd floor, Tower 1.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 changed our world. The death of Osama Bin Laden is a significant step forward in the fight against terrorism, but not the end. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the thousands of active military service men and women who remain in harm's way.

Maureen Basnicki, a Canadian 9/11 widow of Ken Basnicki who worked on the 106th floor of Tower 1, is a volunteer at the Tribute Center. She shares her personal story with visitors at the Center and this morning stated, "24 Canadians as well as innocent citizens from 92 countries were killed on 9/11. Along with our American 9/11 families, friends and neighbors, we share the relief that Osama Bin Laden will no longer be able to lead al-Qaeda. However Bin Laden's death does not end the threat of terrorism."

We will never forget. At the Tribute Center, we as a united community will continue to educate future generations who were young children almost 10 years ago about the events of 9/11 so that we as a country united with our allies will remain vigilant.

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The Tribute Center, opened in September 2006, was created by the September 11th Families' Association to share the personal stories of victims, survivors, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and residents of Lower Manhattan and those affected by the events of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. To date the Tribute Center has welcomed over 2 million people, sharing the personal experiences of people directly touched by the events of 9/11.

About the Tribute WTC Visitor Center

The Tribute WTC Visitor Center is located at 120 Liberty Street along the south side of the World Trade Center site. The center was created by the September 11th Families' Association to share the personal stories of victims, survivors, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and residents of Lower Manhattan. By engaging visitors in the authentic experiences of those most affected by the events of February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001, the center's five galleries and its walking tour program convey the courage, loss, heroism, and grief of those who responded to the tragedy. For more information visit www.tributewtc.org.

Explore the Tribute Center classroom materials www.tributewtc.org/programs/toolkit.html

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