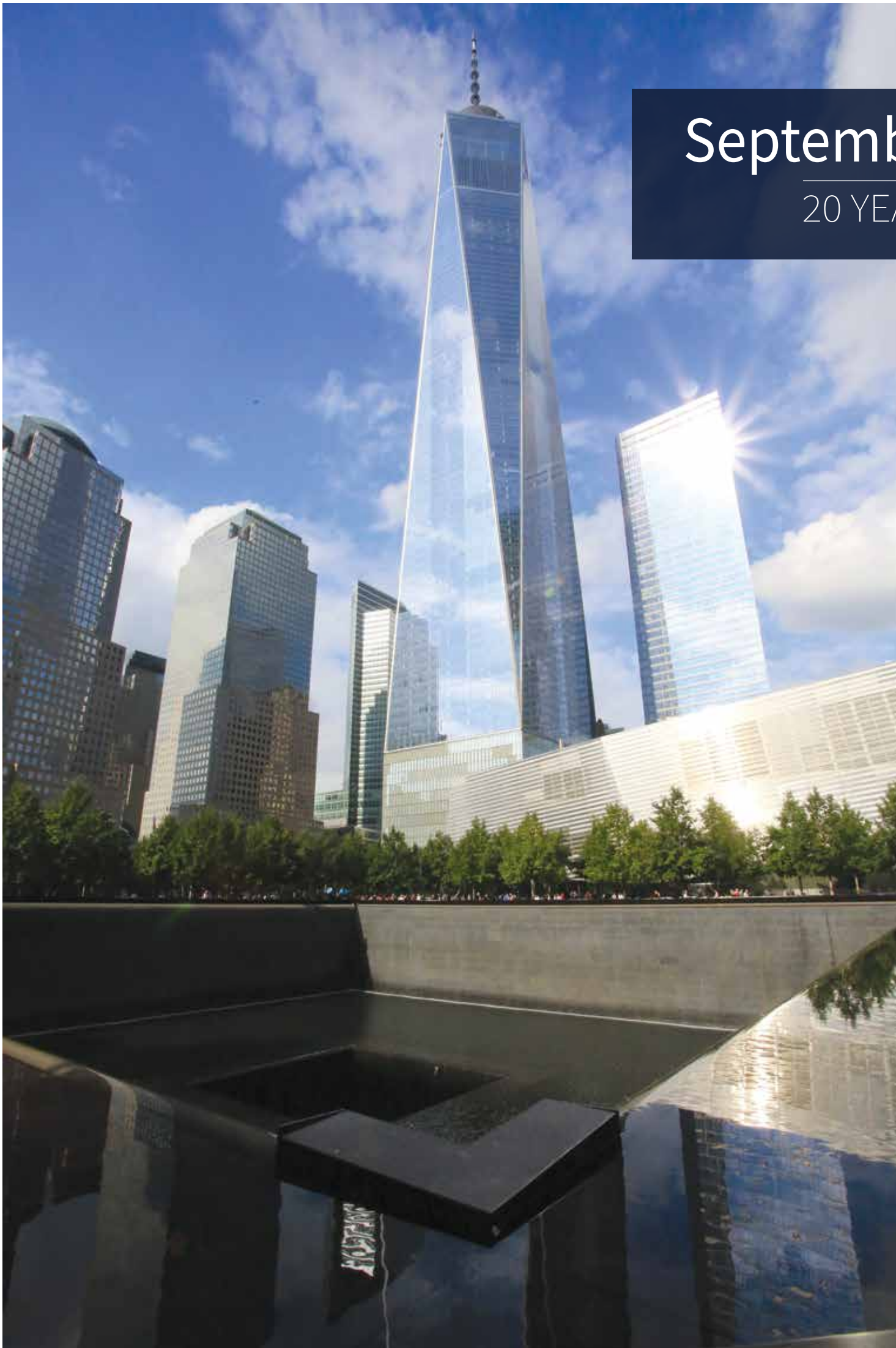


September 11, 2001
20 YEARS LATER



Honoring the Heroes of Flight 93

Jody Greene's father, Donald Greene, was one of 40 passengers and crew on Flight 93 who gave their lives fighting back against four terrorists who likely planned to crash the airliner into the U.S. Capitol.

They saved many lives that day while sacrificing their own when the plane crashed in Shanksville, Penn. If you want to honor those valiant passengers, Jody Greene knows how.

A NEW PURPOSE

Greene was 6 years old when her father died on Sept. 11. Every year since then her family has returned to the crash site in Shanksville, now site of the Flight 93 National Memorial.

"As I have grown, so has my relationship with this place," Greene wrote in the USA Today. "In recent years, I've found the experience of watching children visit the memorial to be particularly moving. As I overhear the questions asked to parents and the National Park Service rangers who staff the site, I'm reminded of the Flight 93 National Memorial and the Visitor Center's purpose."

For this generation, she continued, the site is as much about education as it is about remembrance, offering each young visitor the opportunity to learn about the events of that day and the heroes of Flight 93.

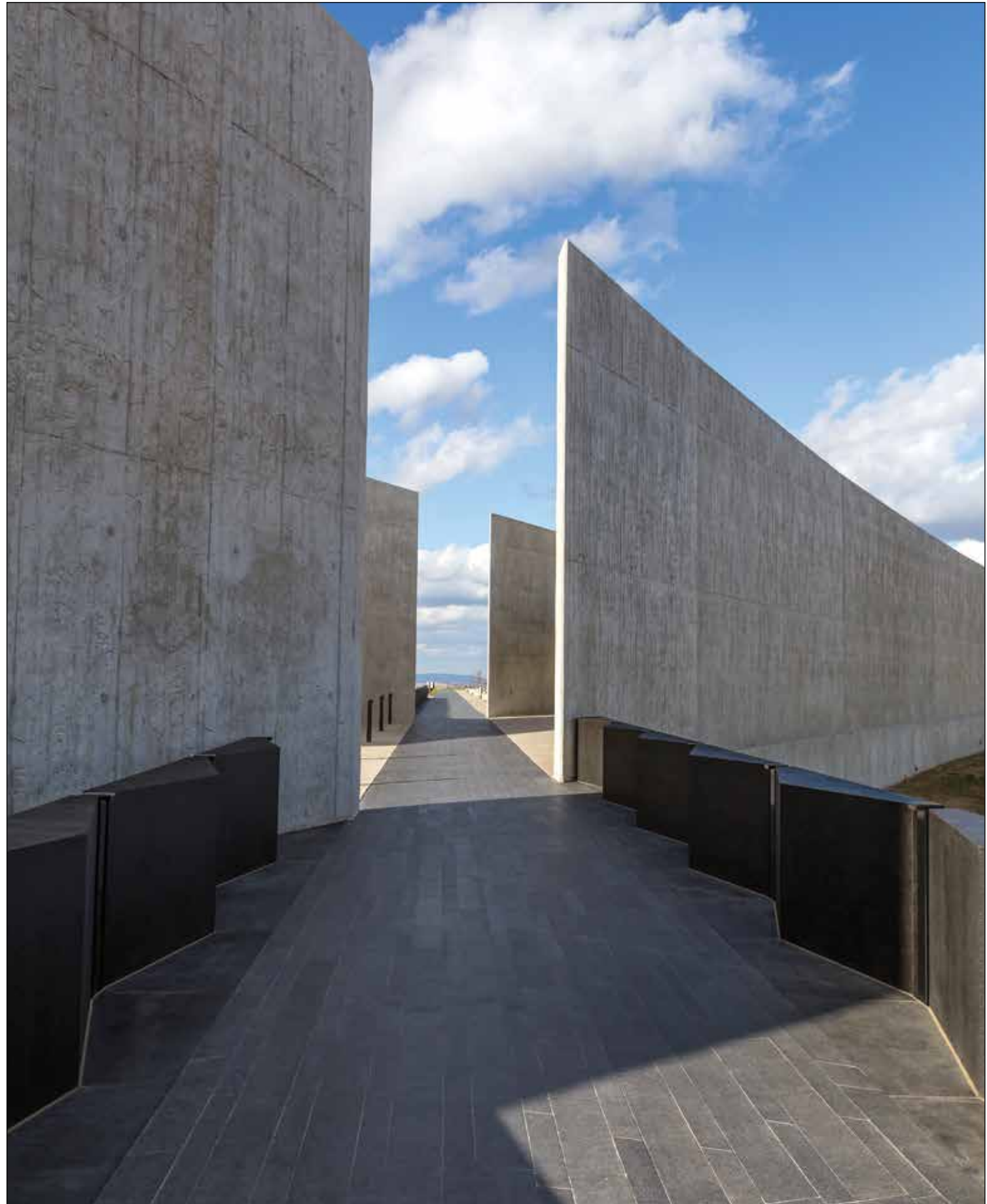
Millions of children have no reference point to Sept. 11. Yet, they must know what happened at this sacred site. Greene is on a march to make sure the heroes of Flight 93 never be lost to history.

THE FLIGHT 93 HEROES AWARD

The Flight 93 Heroes Award is inspired by brave acts of the passengers and crew members of Flight 93. It is particularly relevant as the 20-year anniversary approaches.

"This anniversary offers a uniquely teachable moment to share the story of those who fought back against terrorists on Flight 93 and to continue their legacy by honoring and celebrating those who today embody that same spirit," Greene wrote.

To nominate someone for the award, visit Flight93Friends.org.



Imperial War Museum Marks 20 years

The Imperial War Museum in London is planning to mark the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which claimed the lives of almost 3,000 people.

According to the museum's website, the goal is to mark the anniversary of the attacks and explore their global legacy.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

"9/11 Twenty Years On" will be the first time the museum has taken a close look at 9/11. Louise Skidmore, head of contemporary conflict, told the Guardian:

"And the reason we are choosing to mark the 9/11 anniversary is because it is an event that really did have a global impact. Beyond just the geopolitical, it went into numerous aspects of our social, economic and cultural lives."

The collection examines NATO's collective defense Article 5 — an attack on one is an attack on all — as well as the invasion of Afghanistan, the global war on terror and the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"It radically changed both foreign and defense policies across the globe," said Skidmore. "But, also, so much on the home front, like



anti-terror legislation, increases in surveillance, changes in attitudes towards civil liberties, air travel."

ON DISPLAY

Objects on display will include girders from the twin towers, artwork, remains of a car damaged in a suicide car

bomb attack in central Baghdad and a union flag rescued from Ground Zero.

With in-person and online events, the museum will present personal accounts from survivors, including those involved in the wars that followed the attacks.

"We are really hoping to be

able to make it as global as possible, and participatory through the idea of where were you, and how has it shaped your life," Skidmore said.

The museum already has launched "9/11: A Global Story," an online project gathering personal stories of how

9/11 impacted people then and now. The website asks: "Many of you will remember exactly where you were when the 9/11 terrorist attacks occurred. But what happened afterwards and how is it relevant to us today?" Share your story at www.iwm.org.uk/form/911-a-global-story.

How the U.S. has Changed

The fact that the U.S. changed forever on Sept. 11, 2001 is undeniable. Anyone who lived through the day's events and the aftermath sensed the changes.

Twenty years later, much of life has returned to its routines, but the marks left by the terrorist attacks remain.

WARS

The United States has been at war constantly since Sept. 11, 2001. Within a month of the attacks, U.S. forces invaded Afghanistan in pursuit of al-Qaeda, which claimed responsibility for the attacks. In 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq as part of the War on Terror. The war in Afghanistan, which drew to a close in mid-2021 as the U.S. finally pulled all of its troops out of the country, is the longest-running war in the country's history.

Brown University's Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs lists the following effects of the post-9/11 wars.

- More than 801,000 people have died due to direct war violence, and several times as many due to the reverberating effects of war.
- More than 335,000 civilians have been killed as a result of the fighting.
- About 37 million war refugees and other people have



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been displaced.

- The costs to the U.S. for these wars has been over \$6.4 trillion.

FLYING

The effects on air travel were intense immediately following Sept. 11. Commercial flights in the U.S. were grounded for days, and when they did resume, security was tight. Travelers have seen long lines, full body scans and other screening measures, and restrictions on items they can carry onto airplanes. The Transportation Security Administration grew to a massive size as it took over

security duties that had previously been performed by private companies. The changes have made air travel more burdensome for travelers and at times infringed on their privacy.

SURVEILLANCE

Americans also have seen their privacy encroached upon by surveillance measures related to the War on Terror. According to PBS, audits have shown the National Security Agency annually had read "56,000 emails and other communications by Americans with no connection to terrorism, and

in doing so, had violated privacy laws thousands of times per year." The scope of the problem came into focus in 2013, when CIA contractor Edward Snowden released classified documents regarding surveillance NSA programs.

IMMIGRATION AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT VIOLENCE

Sept. 11, 2001 had major impacts on immigration in the U.S. The creation of the Department of Homeland Security saw immigration agencies shuffled and strengthened. The number of annual deportations of immi-

grants doubled between 2001 and 2013, when it peaked, and while the numbers have declined, they remain much higher today than they were 20 years ago.

The aftermath of 9/11 also brought an increase in anti-immigrant violence, especially against Muslims. Although the 9/11 attacks were carried out by Muslim extremists, innocent Muslims in the U.S. found themselves the target of attacks. In 2000, the FBI reported that it had handled 12 cases of anti-Muslim assault. In 2001, that number was 93. Another spike — 127 cases — occurred in 2016.

Recovery Continues

Long after the debris from the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks was cleared, families of those who lived and worked in Downtown Manhattan are still grappling with the very real long-term consequences of that day.

Two major federal programs provide help to the victims, their families and others affected by the disasters that took place that day.

SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND

The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, according to its website, provides compensation to “individuals (or a personal representative of a deceased individual) who were present at the World Trade Center or the surrounding New York City Exposure Zone; the Pentagon crash site; and the Shanksville, Penn., crash site, at some point between September 11, 2001, and May 30, 2002, and who have since been diagnosed with a 9/11-related illness.”

The fund extends to those who helped clean up the disaster site in roles such as construction, clean-up, and debris removal, as well as people who lived, worked, or went to school in the affected areas.

In 2019, President Donald Trump signed a bill that per-



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manently extended and funded the program. The Congressional Budget Office said the extension would provide more than \$10 billion over a decade. It extended the deadline to file a claim to October 1, 2090.

To learn more, visit www.vcf.gov.

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH FUND

The World Trade Center Health Program is a limited

federal health program administered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program pays for certain health care services to first responders who helped with rescue, recovery, debris cleanup and related support services between Sept. 11, 2001 and July 31, 2002, as well as people who worked, lived or attended school or daycare in the World Trade

Center area. The program, which has no co-pays, deductibles or out-of-pocket expenses for covered treatments is authorized to operate through 2090.

Services are offered at clinics in the New York metropolitan area, and at a nationwide network of health care providers. According to the CDC, people who were exposed to the conditions in the area on and after 9/11 might have a related health condition and not know

it. Common issues include chronic cough, heartburn and anxiety. Health care providers who participate in the program are experts at diagnosing and treating related health conditions.

Treatment data gained through the program is used to help identify related conditions and help health researchers understand the full effects of 9/11 on public health.

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/wtc.

Learning about 9/11

One great way to mark the anniversary is to educate yourself about what happened on September 11, 2001. Even if you lived through that day, you can likely learn something new by doing some research.

Here are some resources to get you started.

- Read biographies of the victims of 9/11 at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial's website at www.pentagonmemorial.org/explore/biographies.

- Read tributes written by others, and write your own tribute, at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum's Digital Remembrance Wall at www.neverforget.org/remember.

- Take a digital tour of the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial at www.defense.gov/Experience/Pentagon-Memorial.

FOR TEACHERS

The 9/11 Memorial & Museum offers resources to help teachers bring the stories of 9/11 heroes into their classrooms.

Offerings include interactive lesson plans for students in grades 3 to 12 that address the attacks, their ongoing repercussions and the history of the World Trade Center.

For example, one lesson plan aimed at grades three through five is titled "Local Heroes" and asks: "What is a hero and how can people show gratitude to those who act heroically in their own communities?"

Another aimed at sixth- through eighth-graders is titled "American



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Anxiety After 9/11" and discusses the question, "How did 9/11 affect Americans' sense of safety?"

Search for lesson plans by grade level and theme on the organization's website at <https://www.911memorial.org/learn/students-and-teachers/lesson-plans>.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Encourage your child to look for a book about 9/11 at the library or

bookstore. Here are a few to consider:

- **Ten True Tales: Heroes of 9/11**, by **Allan Zullo**. This paperback Scholastic book tells 10 true stories of real-life heroes during the attacks on 9/11, at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Penn. Recommended for grades 7-9.

- **What Were the Twin Towers?** by **Jim O'Connor and Who HQ**. This paperback book tells the history of the Twin Towers, how their construc-

tion changed the New York skyline, and why they were destroyed. Recommended for ages 8-12.

- **Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of John J. Harvey**, by **Maira Kalman**. This book for younger children tells the story of the John J. Harvey, a fire-fighting boat that was destined for the scrap pile before it helped put out the fires at Ground Zero when the fire hydrants in the area were inoperable. Recommended for ages 4-8.

Marking 20 Years

As the grim 20-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks approaches, the memorials set up at each site prepare to mark the significance of the day.

The 9/11 Memorial and Museum's activities are designed to "share the history and lessons learned with a new generation, teach them about the ongoing repercussions of the 9/11 attacks, and inspire the world with memories of our fortitude, strength and resilience," according to its website. "Despite our shared grief in the aftermath of 9/11, hope, resilience, and unity lifted us up as a nation. Twenty years later, these lessons are more important than ever."

Here's a roundup of some of the planned events.

THE 9/11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

Annual commemoration. The memorial will continue its annual practice of reading the names of the victims aloud and observing six moments of silence marking major events of the day.

Tribute in Light. This year, the memorial will expand its annual Tribute in Light, during which the sky above the city is illuminated from dusk on Sept. 11 until dawn on Sept. 12. This year's event will be citywide, when buildings across the city



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will be lit up in blue.

The Never Forget Fund. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum also has launched the Never Forget Fund in advance for the anniversary. The initiative is intended to support the organization's educational programs "and preserve its signifi-

cance as a sacred place of remembrance, reflection and education."

Anniversary in the Schools Webinar. A free webinar for schools will include a film highlighting first-person accounts of the attacks, and allow viewers to interact with

museum staff via live chat. It will be available on-demand beginning Sept. 10.

FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The Memorial will hold its annual September 11 observance at Memorial Plaza. The

names of the passengers and crew members will be read, the Bells of Remembrance will be rung, and a wreath will be placed at the Wall of Names. The ceremonial gate to the crash site will be opened and family members will walk out to the crash site.

Welles Crowther: A 9/11 Hero

Welles Crowther was a 24-year-old equities trader at Sandler O’Neil and Partners on the 104th floor when United Airlines Flight 175 hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

He called his mother and left a voicemail: “Mom, this is Welles. I want you to know that I’m OK.”

HELPING MANY TO SAFETY

After that call, however, Crowther’s instinct as a former volunteer firefighter as a teen kicked in. He made his way down to the 78th floor sky lobby and became a hero to strangers known only as “the man in the red bandana.”

According to Mic: “Amid the smoke, chaos and debris, Crowther helped injured and disoriented office workers to safety, risking his own life in the process. Though they couldn’t see much through the haze, those he saved recalled a tall figure wearing a red bandana to shield his lungs and mouth.”

“He had come down to the 78th-floor sky lobby, an alcove in the building with express elevators meant to speed up trips to the ground floor. In what’s been described as a ‘strong, authoritative voice,’ Crowther directed survivors to the stairway and encouraged them to help others while he carried an injured woman on his back. After bringing her 15 floors down to safety, he made his way back up to help others.”

‘HE’S DEFINITELY MY GUARDIAN ANGEL’

“Everyone who can stand, stand now,” Crowther told survivors while directing them to the stairway exit. “If you can help others, do so.”

Crowther was credited with saving at least a dozen people that day.

Crowther’s body was later recovered alongside firefighters in a stairwell heading back up the tower with the “jaws of life” rescue tool, according to Mic.

“He’s definitely my guardian angel — no ifs, ands or buts — because without him, we would be sitting there, waiting [until] the building came down,” survivor Ling Young told CNN.

