



NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11  
MEMORIAL & MUSEUM  
AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Tuesday, August 26, 2008

**MAJOR EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE THIS SEPTEMBER TO SUPPORT  
THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**  
*Public Invited to Sign Steel Beams to be used in Construction*  
*First Annual "Notes of Hope" Dinner to Feature Denis Leary and John Mellencamp*

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today announced major events this September to support the Memorial & Museum. For four days around the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks, the public will be invited to sign steel beams that will be used in the construction of the project. The first annual "Notes of Hope" dinner will be held Tuesday, September 9, featuring Denis Leary as Master of Ceremonies and John Mellencamp performing. Last year, the Memorial & Museum traveled around the country to 25 cities in 25 states with steel beams. Tens of thousands of people became a part of history by signing their names and sharing their thoughts and reflections on 9/11 through "Notes of Hope."

Chairman Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said, "Signing the steel beam is a special opportunity for people to contribute to this national tribute and to be a part of history. In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, our city and our nation faced unspeakable tragedy, but we responded with unprecedented unity and resolve. Now, that same spirit is making it possible to build the Memorial & Museum."

"I want to thank Denis Leary, John Mellencamp and Lola Astanova for participating in our first annual benefit event – The "Notes of Hope" dinner. This benefit will help us continue to build support for the Memorial & Museum. The event is also an opportunity to recognize a number of individuals including, Robert De Niro, Craig Hatkoff, Jane Rosenthal, John Zuccotti, and John Whitehead for the work that they have done to help revitalize Lower Manhattan and build the Memorial & Museum," the Mayor said.

Memorial & Museum President Joe Daniels said, "There is truly national participation in the building of the September 11 Memorial & Museum. As the tour made its way through 25 states last year, tens of thousands of Americans joined us in support of our country's tribute. We hope that people in the New York area will join us this September leave their mark on the Memorial."

"We are proud to have Denis Leary, John Mellencamp, and Lola Astanova involved in the "Notes of Hope" event. In addition to his comedic talent, Denis Leary has raised millions to support the families of the firefighters killed on 9/11 through his Fund for New York City's Bravest. John Mellencamp's legendary music represents America's heartland and has touched people across the country. I know Lola Astanova's renowned performance of our national anthem will be an appropriate and moving experience. We're grateful for the participation of these celebrated entertainers in what is sure to be a poignant and memorable evening," Joe Daniels said.

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## ***Public Invited to Participate in Historic Beam Signing***

Opportunities to sign the Memorial steel beams will be available during four days around the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. The beams are approximately 37 feet in length, and weigh close to four tons. In addition to participating, visitors will be able to preview plans for the Memorial & Museum currently under construction at the World Trade Center site.

The steel beam-signing events will take place on Thursday, September 4 at the Meadowlands in New Jersey for the Giants season opener; Wednesday and Thursday, September 10 & 11 in Battery Park in Manhattan; and Sunday, September 14 at Meadowlands for the Jets opening home game.

On September 10 & 11, the beams will be available for signing from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the north side of Battery Park at Battery Place between Greenwich Street and Broadway, in Manhattan.

On September 4, the beams will be available for signing outside of Gate D at the Meadowlands from 2 p.m. through the end of the first quarter of the Giants-Washington Redskins game. Kick-off for the game begins at 7 p.m. On September 14, the beams will be available for signing at the Meadowlands from 2 p.m. through the end of the first quarter of the New York Jets-New England Patriots game. Kick-off for the game begins at 4:15 p.m.

The steel beams were manufactured by South Carolina-based Owen Steel Company and are part of the structural steel for the Memorial & Museum. In May 2007, the Memorial & Museum selected Owen Steel to supply, fabricate, and erect the steel for the project.

## ***"Notes of Hope" Dinner to Feature Denis Leary and John Mellencamp***

The Memorial & Museum's first annual benefit, the "Notes of Hope" dinner, hosted by Chairman Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at Cipriani Wall Street. The program includes prolific entertainer Denis Leary as the Master of Ceremonies, a performance by renowned musician John Mellencamp, and the piano virtuoso Lola Astanova performing Vladimir Horowitz's rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" on the maestro's famed Steinway piano.

A number of prestigious individuals will be honored at the benefit. Tribeca Film Festival founders Robert De Niro, Craig Hatkoff, and Jane Rosenthal will be presented with the Distinction in Rebuilding award; Brookfield Properties Chairman John E. Zuccotti will receive the Distinction in Corporate Citizenship award; and Founding Chairman of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum John C. Whitehead will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Recognition.

Denis Leary said, "I am happy to do my part to build support for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. We must always remember the countless stories of bravery and sacrifice that marked that day. This tribute will honor the lives of the thousands of victims and celebrate the courage of the 343 firefighters lost in the line of duty on September 11, 2001."

Denis Leary is a renowned actor, comedian, writer, and director whose multiple nominations for Best Actor and Best Writing Emmy awards all involve his work on the critically acclaimed FX Drama "Rescue Me", about NYC Firefighters and their struggles to survive after the events of September 11, 2001. In the wake of the tragic Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse Fire in December of 1999, which killed six firefighters including his cousin Jerry Lucey and childhood friend Lt. Tommy Spencer, Leary formed The Leary Firefighters Foundation, dedicated to providing fire departments with funding and resources for up-to-date equipment and training.

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In the wake of the events of September 11, 2001, The Leary Firefighters Foundation established The Fund for New York's Bravest to raise money for the families of the 343 firefighters who perished in the line of duty. The Firefighters Foundation threw a landmark New York City benefit, The BASH for New York's Bravest, to celebrate the Fire Department of New York. Through the success of The BASH and the overwhelming support shown by donors throughout the nation, The Fund for New York's Bravest raised over \$1.9 million before it was closed in 2003. Every dollar collected went directly into the hands of the families without any administrative costs. The BASH for New York's Bravest continues to honor New York's firefighters while raising funds to support their equipment and training needs.

John Mellencamp said, "No matter where you were on that day, every American was affected by the events of 9/11. All of us came together as one people in support of each other back then. The hope is that this national memorial will remind us again about how much we all have in common and at stake. I'm proud to support its creation."

Bringing together rock, folk, country, blues and R&B, John Mellencamp has sold more than 40 million albums and received 11 Grammy nominations and was, earlier this year, inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He received the 2003 Woody Guthrie Award (for exemplifying the ideals of the legendary folksinger) and, in 2001, was honored with Billboard's highest accolade, the Century Award for distinguished creative achievement. Last year, Mellencamp was awarded ASCAP Foundation's Champion Award, in recognition of his outstanding use of music in the service of humanity. Along these lines, Mellencamp journeyed to Washington, DC in 2007 and performed a live broadcast concert at Walter Reed Hospital for wounded service people.

The canon of hit songs, including "Pink Houses," "Hurts So Good," "Rain On The Scarecrow," "Authority Song," "Jack & Diane," "Small Town," "Cherry Bomb," "R.O.C.K. In The U.S.A.," "Peaceful World," "Crumblin' Down," "Human Wheels," "Lonely Ol' Night," "Check It Out," "Human Wheels," "Paper In Fire," "Your Life Is Now," and many others - have touched our lives as the artist continues to make his way. "Life Death Love and Freedom," produced by T Bone Burnett, was released earlier this summer and garnered the most enthusiastic reviews of any record he's released over the course of his four-decade long career. The New York Times called it "a brave album in the way it sets aside all his old consolations;" Time Magazine called it "his best in a decade;" Rolling Stone saluted the record as "one of the most compelling albums of [his] career" while USA called it "one of [his] finest efforts to date."

Mellencamp lives and records in Bloomington, Indiana, close to where he grew up. He is still, very much, an artist from and of the American heartland.

Lola Astanova said, "I am honored to perform Maestro Vladimir Horowitz's rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" on this eve of remembrance and hope. It will be a tribute to America and my beloved New York."

Born in the former USSR, Lola Astanova began performing at the age of eight, and today she follows in the footsteps of her idol, pianist Vladimir Horowitz in bringing her electrifying virtuosity, emotional depth and touching lyricism to America. Astanova has played concerts in Germany, France, Austria, Italy and Russia.

In 1996, she became a Laureate of the Second International Chopin Competition for Young Pianists in Moscow. Her performances at the Big & Small Hall of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory were featured in a Chopin Compilation album released by Zvuk Records. The same year, she played at the UNESCO event in Paris, France, and her performance was featured in a UNESCO documentary *Prodigies of the 20th Century*. In May 2004, Astanova made her major American debut at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC. Her first American album featuring music by Chopin, Liszt and Beethoven was released last year exclusively on iTunes.

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At The "Notes of Hope" dinner Astanova will perform on Horowitz's famed Steinway piano. Originally manufactured in 1941, the instrument has appeared on some of the largest stages across the globe, including two occasions at The White House for President Jimmy Carter in 1978 and President Ronald Reagan in 1986.

During the first leg of the Memorial & Museum's national tour in 2007, thousands of "Notes of Hope" were gathered from individuals in 25 states as they added their names to steel beams to be used in the Memorial's construction. The "Notes of Hope" range from written tributes to personal stories of where people were when the attacks occurred. They reflect the tremendous impact the attacks of September 11, 2001, had on people across around the country and the importance of building a Memorial & Museum that will preserve this shared history.

In April 2008, the Memorial & Museum announced reaching the \$350 million fundraising goal for the construction of the Memorial & Museum. Over \$217 million of the funds were raised in one year and a half toward this first phase of fundraising. More than 80,000 individuals contributed from all 50 states and 31 countries. An initial \$25 million fundraising goal has now been set to support Museum programming and the start of an endowment.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to realize the Memorial quadrant at the World Trade Center site. The organization is responsible for raising the funds and overseeing the design for the project and will program and operate the Memorial & Museum located on 8 of the 16 acres of the site.

The Memorial will remember and honor the nearly three thousand people who died in the horrific attacks of February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001. The design, created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two pools that reside in the footprints of the original Twin Towers, surrounded by a plaza of oak trees. The Arad/Walker design was selected from a design competition that included more than 5,000 entrants from 63 nations.

The Museum will display monumental artifacts associated with the events of September 11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery that are central to telling the story of September 11 and its aftermath. It will communicate key messages that embrace both the specificity and the universal implications of the events of 9/11; document the impact of those events on individual lives, as well as on local, national, and international communities; and explore the continuing significance of these events for our global community.

Donations can be made through and more information can be found at the Memorial & Museum's website, [www.national911memorial.org](http://www.national911memorial.org), or by calling 1-877-WTC-GIVE.

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