

# A Memorial

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*noun*

something designed to preserve the memory of a person, event, etc.

## National September 11 Memorial & Museum

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The National September 11 Memorial is a tribute of remembrance and honor to the 2,977 people killed in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center site, near Shanksville, Pa., and at the Pentagon, as well as the six people killed in the World Trade Center bombing in February 1993.

### The Pools

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The Memorial's twin reflecting pools are each nearly an acre in size and feature the largest manmade waterfalls in North America. The pools sit within the footprints where the Twin Towers once stood. The names of every person who died in the 2001 and 1993 attacks are inscribed into bronze panels edging the Memorial pools. The water falls from this ledge, briefly collects, then descends into a dark void in the center of each pool, a powerful reminder of the largest loss of life resulting from a foreign attack on American soil and the greatest single loss of rescue personnel in American history.



## The Names

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Names are stencil-cut into the parapets, allowing visitors to create paper impressions or rubbings of individual names. At night, light shines up through the voids created by each letter of a name. Every day, a single, white rose is placed on the 9/11 Memorial pools at the names of the victims whose birthdays would have been celebrated on that day. The names are not arranged in lists. The names are in groups that reflect the relationships between the people who dies. According to Edith Lutnick , the executive director of of one of the funds that helped create the memorial, "Your loved ones' names are surrounded by the names of those they sat with, those they worked with, those they lived with and, very possibly, those they died with."



## The Trees

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Trees are an important symbol at the memorial. A Callery pear tree became known as the "Survivor Tree" after enduring the September 11, 2001 terror attacks at the World Trade Center. In October 2001, the tree was discovered at Ground Zero severely damaged, with snapped roots and burned and broken branches. The tree was removed from the rubble and placed in the care of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. After its recovery and rehabilitation, the tree was returned to the Memorial in 2010. New, smooth limbs extended from the gnarled stumps. The tree stands as a living reminder of resilience, survival and rebirth. Each year, the 9/11 Memorial gives seedlings from the Survivor Tree to three communities that have endured tragedy in recent years. The communities have committed to nurturing these trees to serve as landmarks symbolizing resiliency and hope.

Swamp white oaks were picked because of their durability and leaf color, which ranges from amber to a golden brown - and sometimes pink. The trees can grow to reach heights as tall as 60 feet. Trees of this type are never identical, growing to different heights at different speeds and changing leaves at different times, a physical reminder that those lost were individuals. English poet and clergyman George Herbert once said storms make oaks grow deeper roots. Swamp white are "tough as nails," said Wayne Dublin, vice president of Bartlett Tree Experts. Crews selected and harvested trees planted at the 9/11 Memorial from within a 500-mile radius of the World Trade Center site, with additional ones coming from locations in Pennsylvania Washington, D.C., areas affected on September 11, 2001.



The memorial was designed by architect Michael Arad and landscape architect Peter Walker, who were selected from 5,201 entries from 63 countries as the winner of the competition to design the memorial at the site of the World Trade Center attack. They named the memorial *Reflecting Absence*.

### **The Memorial Glade (interview with architect - <https://newyork.cbslocal.com/video/4163640-9-11-memorial-architect-talks-about-evolving-design/>)**

The glade and path through it honor first responders who later got sick or died after inhaling toxins at the World Trade Center site. The path is located on the southwest side of the memorial plaza, at the approximate site of a temporary ramp that first responders used during the cleanup effort. The path includes six large battered stones that appear to jut up and out of the plaza as if violently displaced, and convey strength and resistanc". Several pieces of debris from the original World Trade Center were also placed along the path.

### **Tribute in Light**

Tribute in Light appears every year from dusk to dawn on the night of September 11. It has become an iconic symbol that both honors those killed and celebrates the unbreakable spirit of New York.

### **9/11 Attack Timeline**

<https://timeline.911memorial.org/#Timeline/2>



Fitzgerald

# Our Memorial Activity

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We will spend a portion of this anniversary of 9/11 building a small memorial here at West to individuals directly affected by 9/11. We talk a lot about primary sources history classes, documents, images or artifacts that provide firsthand testimony or direct evidence concerning an historical topic. A great effort has been made to collect the memories of people who experienced the attack directly. Below you will find links to links to some of those recorded memories.

First we can honor them by listening to their memories. Then we will capture our appreciation of their experience in a found poems built from their words. We will post these poems in the hallway with both their names and our names.

You can work alone or with one other person with whom you feel you can work honorably, in keeping with the spirit of our effort.

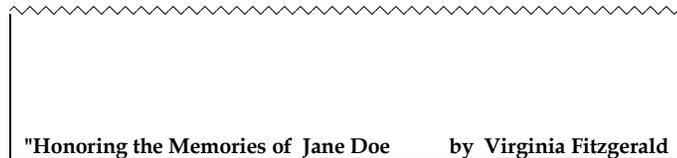
Listen to a few of the recorded memories and chose one person to honor.

Come up to the front and write your name down next to that person's name, as we hope to represent as many as we can.

Compile a list of 20-50 words, both individual words and phrases, that powerfully capture the essence of the experience the person describes.

Arrange those words in a way the supports and enhances their meaning for our memorial's audience.

Write the person's name in the left corner in a title "Honoring the Memories of Jane Doe" and your name (s) in the bottom right corner.



Mount your poem on black, red, or blue paper.

Hang it in hall.

Oral History Archives

<https://www.911memorial.org/oral-history-archives>

Our City Our Stories

<https://www.911memorial.org/our-city-our-story-podcast-series>

Reflecting on 9/11

<https://www.911memorial.org/reflecting-911>