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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As we approach the 15th Anniversary Commemoration, I would like to take a moment to again thank members of our Family Advisory Committee, fellow Board Members and our Operations Director, Alyse Mazerolle, for the significant time and heartfelt efforts contributed to assure a meaningful Commemoration and the related Education initiatives we are seeking to launch before the start of the school year.

As we discussed, there is a real need to educate our children about September 11, 2001, our ongoing remembrance efforts, and the lessons learned from 9/11. Linda Gay, our Board VP and family member, is spearheading our Mass 9/11 Fund Education curriculum initiative. The Education Committee has been reaching out to many volunteers who offered to help with educating students and is in the process of developing a documentary for use in our high schools. Education continues to be a major focus of the Mass 9/11 Fund in 2016 in addition to preparing for the milestone 15th year anniversary.

We also want to welcome Beth Chambers, LSW, to our Board of Directors. Beth is no stranger to our Mass 9/11 Family and has assisted us over the years in many ways with our education and advisory services.

We welcome your input on ways that we can improve upon the Commemoration and hope you and your family will be able to attend a very meaningful program. Please email [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org) if you have suggestions or want to get involved in planning for our 15th year Commemoration and Education Committee. We value your time and input and are here to serve our Mass 9/11 family needs.

Sincerely,  
Faith Arter



September 11th Survivor Tree—Boston Public Garden

**Mass 9/11 Staff**

Alyse R. Mazerolle, Director of  
Operations and Programs

**Family Advisory Committee**

Teresa Mathai, Chair  
Karin Charles, Vice Chair  
Christie Coombs  
Iris Friedman  
Diane Hunt  
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**In Memoriam**

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Loretta W. Kowal

**REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11th**

The Mass 9/11 Fund has worked through the years to provide our families with a respectful day of commemorative events. This year, for the milestone 15th Anniversary, we are fortunate, as in previous years, to have tremendous support from the offices of Governor Charles Baker and Mayor Martin Walsh.

In addition to the customary events in Boston, cities, towns, and organizations across the Commonwealth are acknowledging the day. Please check [www.massfund.org](http://www.massfund.org) for additional information.

**Mass 9/11 Fund 15th Anniversary Commemoration Events in Boston**

7:30 a.m., Wreath Laying Ceremony, Boston Public Garden, 9/11 Garden of Remembrance.

8:30 a.m., Flag Lowering, Moment of Silence and Reading of Names, Front Steps of Massachusetts State House

9:30 a.m., Commemoration Observance & Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery, Massachusetts State House Chambers of the House of Representatives. This event is by invitation and R.S.V.P. is required.

11:00 a.m., Family reception at the Taj Hotel. This event is by invitation and R.S.V.P. is required.

Trolley service is available from the 9/11 Garden of Remembrance to the State House, and from the State House to the Taj Hotel.

The Taj Hotel Boston is kind enough to offer us a block of rooms at a discounted rate. If you would like to reserve a room at the Taj Hotel, you may call or email the Reservations Team directly. Please reference the **Massachusetts 9/11 Fund** to make your reservation at the special rate of **\$319** a night plus tax for a one-bed room, and **\$369** a night plus tax for two-bed rooms. The Reservations Team is available Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 7:00pm and Saturday 9:00 – 5:30pm. They are reachable by phone, **1-877-482-5267** or via email: **taj.boston@tajhotels.com**. **The cutoff for date this special rate is August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

We mail the formal invitation in July. Please respond by the deadline. Please know that staging the Commemoration event is expensive and we must pay for family members who R.S.V.P. for the reception but do not attend. We appreciate your help in assisting us to minimize our losses by providing accurate counts and informing us if anyone in your party knows they will not attend after all, as soon as possible and no later than **September 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**Family Participation**

We seek volunteers for the following roles. We encourage family members who have not participated before to volunteer this year. Please get in touch with us (Karin at [karin.charles@massfund.org](mailto:karin.charles@massfund.org)) as soon as possible if you are interested

in any of the following opportunities. We will give you all the information that you need to prepare you for each role. The Commemoration Committee makes these decisions and those of you we cannot accommodate this time, we will keep in mind for future years.

**Volunteer name readers**—Every year, on the steps of the Massachusetts State House, we read the names of the more than 200 loved ones with MA, NH and RI connections who lost their lives on 9/11. If you or someone in your family is interested in reading names this year, please send us your name and contact information. We try to include as many families as possible. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate. We will help you with pronunciation and rehearse with you. If your loved one's name has been mispronounced in the past, please get in touch with us and provide the correct pronunciation.

**Bell ringer at the State House during the Name Reading**—One family member rings the bell at pre-determined intervals of the Name Reading ceremony. We rehearse with you, and another family member will prompt you during the ceremony.

**Master of Ceremonies at the House Chambers Commemoration Event**—We will help you prepare a script for the program and will go over this with you.

Our FAC Vice Chair, Karin Charles, is coordinating the flow of information regarding the commemoration and family participation. Please express your interest in participating in the event to Karin at [karin.charles@massfund.org](mailto:karin.charles@massfund.org) by **August 1st**. We work hard to accommodate requests, but given the logistics and extensive work involved in planning the commemoration, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to honor any late requests.

We greatly appreciate your input and participation as we plan for the 15th Annual Commemoration.

### **Updating the Video Montage**

The moving video montage of our loved ones, projected on two large screens in the House Chambers, is a focal point of the Commemoration. This is an amazing tribute to our loved ones and we continue to encourage families to provide photos of their loved ones if they are not already in the montage.

We are grateful to Ken London and his colleagues at the Cramer agency who are doing the work to update the montage. This year, with their expertise, we are hoping to replace the voice-over remembrances spoken by family members, with new updated ones.

## **EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Education Committee, chaired by Linda Gay, Second Vice President, continues to refine the training program for family members interested in presenting the approved Education Program along with their personal 9/11 stories. Our next presentation takes place this fall at Burlington High School.

To enhance our presentations, we've hired the Cramer agency to develop a documentary encompassing the experiences of representative children, first responders, and survivors. We're also in the process of engaging a graphic designer to develop handouts that illustrate the events of 9/11 and provide the timeline.

Please contact any member of the Education Committee if you're interested in becoming a Family Presenter. Also see the Education pages on [www.massfund.org](http://www.massfund.org). We welcome comments!

## FACES OF REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Gina Johnson, a local talented artist who volunteers her time to create a portrait for each Gold Star family, is currently sketching portraits of our loved ones. The requested portraits will be completed after the 15th Anniversary. Participating families will receive the original sketch, and copies will be displayed on our web site. For more information on Gina's work, see [www.operationhometies.com](http://www.operationhometies.com).

## FAC CORNER

### Join Our Family Advisory Committee

FAC members are pleased to volunteer their time on behalf of Mass 9/11 families. We meet in Boston, generally monthly, between March and November. Our efforts include producing the three times yearly newsletter, organizing social and service events, and planning the Annual Commemoration. The committee work is an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Some remote participation is possible, as are special projects for those who would like to help out but cannot make the larger commitment. Please give this some consideration and contact Karin Charles ([karin.charles@massfund.org](mailto:karin.charles@massfund.org)) if you are interested.

### Send Us Your Updated Information

We are constantly updating our database to ensure Mass 9/11 Fund communications reach our families. Please send us the email addresses and telephone numbers of young adults and other family members who are interested in registering with us so they can receive important information and know about opportunities to participate in upcoming events. All registered family members also receive the invitation to the Commemoration at the Massachusetts State House and family luncheon on September 11. Please send updated information to Alyse Mazerolle at [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org). Family members can opt out of receiving communications from us at any time.

If you are registered but not receiving email, please ensure [info@massfund.org](mailto:info@massfund.org) is on your safe list.

### Do You Have Something to Share?

If you wish to contribute a letter, article, or news item for publication in an upcoming quarterly newsletter, please do so by emailing it to [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org). Each piece submitted will be reviewed and, if approved by the Family Advisory Committee, will be published in an upcoming newsletter.