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## Remembering September 11

The Mass 9/11 Fund has worked through the years to provide our families with a respectful day of commemorative events. As in year's past, we are fortunate to have tremendous support from the offices of Governor Charles Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Attorney General Maura Healy, Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo, and Mayor Martin Walsh.

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

## Mass 9/11 Fund 17th Anniversary Commemoration Events in Boston

8:30 a.m., Flag Lowering, Moment of Silence and Reading of Names, Front Steps of Massachusetts State House. ***This event is by invitation and RSVP is required.***

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 RSVP is required.***

This year, we are most privileged to welcome the distinguished Andrew H. Card Jr., White House Chief of Staff under President George W. Bush, as our Keynote Speaker. You will recall that Mr. Card informed President Bush of the breaking events in New York City on the morning of September 11, 2001.



11:00 a.m., Family reception at the Taj Hotel. Trolley service is available from the State House to the Taj Hotel. ***This event is by invitation and RSVP is required.***



1:00 p.m., Wreath Laying Ceremony, Boston Public Garden, 9/11 Garden of Remembrance, immediately followed by the One Mission and Red Cross Blood Drive Day of Service events.. ***This event is by invitation and RSVP is required.***

Students from Hull High School will be our volunteer facilitators throughout the day.

**Mass 9/11 Staff**

Alyse R. Mazerolle, Director of  
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**In Memoriam**

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Mary J. Kakas  
Loretta W. Kowal

**Simplified RSVP**

Our simplified electronic invitation was emailed on July 19. It contains one large button for each of the four events listed above. You must respond for each event separately, but can print one ticket that covers all the events you plan to attend. Each of the four responses can list up to 20 attendees of whom four can be invited guests who are not family members. Every attendee must have their own printed ticket due to State House security protocols, and will receive an identification lanyard when they present the ticket at their first event. Kindly respond promptly, and remember to list any family members who are not on email.

The commemoration events are expensive to produce and we must pay for family members who sign up for the luncheon in particular but do not attend. We appreciate your help in minimizing our losses by providing accurate numbers and informing us as soon as possible—and no later than August 28—if anyone in your party changes their mind.

**Family Participation**

We are very busy finalizing details for the 17th Commemoration. Happily, the name reader, bell ringer, and MC roles are already filled.

As always, you are welcome to provide information for listing events held in honor of your loved one, such as by your family foundation, on [massfund.org](http://massfund.org). August 17th is the deadline for providing your information. Please send your request to Iris Friedman at [iris.friedman@massfund.org](mailto:iris.friedman@massfund.org). It should include the following: a very short blurb describing the event, what, when, where, address, person to contact, and a link to the website, poster, or further information such as press releases.

**Announcing Our Very Own  
Commemorative Bell**

The Mass 9/11 Fund now has its very own bell to ring during the Reading of Names ceremony! The handsome bell is engraved with our logo and the words *We Remember*. Best of all, we no longer have to transport borrowed bells to and from the State House.

## Media Requests for Interviews

We typically receive many media requests, especially for radio interviews on and around 9/11, and this year promises to be no exception. If you're interested in speaking to the media, kindly respond to Alyse Mazerolle at [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org). Please provide the necessary contact information, including your email address and mobile or home phone number. In addition, you must explicitly state that the Mass 9/11 Fund has your permission to share this information with credentialed requesters even if you have done so in past years.

Your immediate response is required once you receive the email from Alyse. It is extremely important that Alyse has the information ahead of any requests because reporters do not provide much advance notice and their schedules are tight.

## One Mission Day of Service Event

Going forward, the Mass 9/11 Fund will increasingly emphasize Community Service. With that in mind, we are planning an event in support of a wonderful charity named One Mission ([www.onemission.org](http://www.onemission.org)). Their cause is doing whatever it takes to get pediatric cancer patients through treatment. One Mission's programs make living in the hospital less lonely and stressful, bring joy in a time of fear and uncertainty, and give kids and their loved ones the support they need to get through the emotional and financial challenges of treatment. A new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that pediatric cancer rates are the highest in the Northeast, with Massachusetts having the 12th highest rate in the country.

One of One Mission's programs is Music Therapy. Music Therapy is the use of music by health care professionals to promote healing and enhance quality of life for patients. The therapy is used to encourage emotional expression, promote social interaction and relieve symptoms. There is some evidence that, when used with conventional treatment, music therapy can help to reduce pain and relieve chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. It may also relieve stress and provide an overall sense of wellbeing. One Mission funds a Music Therapist staff position exclusively for the oncology floor at Boston Children's Hospital..

In honor of September 11th National Day of Service and Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month, we invite you to join us in helping One Mission to care packages for families dealing with cancer. We will meet on the Boston Common immediately following the Wreath Laying ceremony to assemble these care packages.



In advance of the event, we are asking for your kind help in donating items needed for the packages. At this time, we would greatly appreciate donations of journals, notebooks, blank note cards, nice pens, and soft blankets. Other needed items are unscented hand or body lotion (please choose from Aveeno, CeraVe, Lubriderm or Eucerin). Donations can be delivered to or dropped off at either of these locations:

- Mass 9/11 Fund, 470 Atlantic Ave, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02110, to the attention of Alyse Mazerolle
- One Mission, 69 Milk St., Suite 300, Westborough, MA 01581, to the attention of Abby Porosky.

Please mention that your donation is for the September 11th Day of Service. Please contact Karin Charles at [karin.charles@massfund.org](mailto:karin.charles@massfund.org) with any questions. We sincerely thank you in advance for participating in such a worthwhile cause! And to all those who have already donated, thank you so much!

## Red Cross Blood Drive Day of Service Event

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive on September 11 exclusively for Mass 9/11 family members and friends. The Bloodmobile will be located at 15 Arlington Street, just outside the Taj Boston, from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. Appointments must be made in advance through [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), which provides full details. **Enter sponsor code TajBoston.**

Eligible donors with types O, B negative or A negative blood are especially needed, and are encouraged to make a *Power Red* donation. Power Red donors give a concentrated dose of red blood cells during a single donation, allowing them to maximize their impact.

Your blood donation is more than a unit collected at a blood drive, it's the gift of a life for patients in need: more birthdays, more laughter, and more love. Life is a gift, let's give more of it! We are counting on your support so please schedule your participation today!

## Prosecution Team Visit

Brigadier General Mark Martins and Karen Loftus, Director, Victim Witness Assistance Program, visited the Mass 9/11 Fund in Boston on June 30 to meet with families and update us on progress at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Hearings for the trial of the five codefendants of *United States v. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, et al* are ongoing, and the plan is that they will continue through 2019. Currently, the trial is expected to take place in 2020.

General Martins and Director Loftus explained what to expect during the trial, how the process works, and in particular how they are ensuring the defendants are treated lawfully (to head off appeals). They described the experience of visiting GTMO and the facilities, and assured us that family members receive much care and support. They also responded to family concerns during a Q&A session following the presentation.

Hearing sessions are scheduled for one or two weeks each month. Up to five family members may attend each session on site at Guantanamo Bay, and each one is allowed a support person. Family members who have never visited Guantanamo Bay have priority over those who have. Planned attendance is at capacity through November. If you are interesting in attending a hearing session after November, you may contact Director Loftus directly at [karen.v.loftus.civ@mail.mil](mailto:karen.v.loftus.civ@mail.mil).

Family members can also attend closed circuit television (CCTV) broadcasts of the hearing sessions at the Fort Devens military base in Devens, Massachusetts. If you would like to do so, please contact either Director Loftus or Alyse Mazerolle to schedule your visit.

*Prosecution team members (l-to-r): Jeffrey Groharing, Kiersten Korczynski, Edward Ryan, and Clay Trivett*



## Family Events



### Annual Fenway Park Outing Red Sox Versus White Sox



Members of the Mass 9/11 Fund family convened for the Red Sox game at Fenway Park on Sunday, June 10. Despite our boys having lost, 5-2, we enjoyed each other and the weather. What better way to spend an early summer afternoon? (Shown: Hayes-McGovern family)



## Boston Harbor Cruise



The Harbor Cruise on July 22 was a true delight, as usual. There were a few raindrops at the outset, but the sun came out and Boston was beautiful as we had hoped. (We can't control Mother Nature but this time the weather worked in our favor!) The food was delicious and there was an amazing selection of everything. Those in attendance had a memorable day and met new families. Thank you, Alyse for all your hard work in putting the cruise together and letting us share a lovely time.

(Shown: Sarah Gates, Doug Connors, Pamela Hayes, Bill Connors)

## 9/11 Memorial Museum Trip

We're planning another day trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in Lower Manhattan. Our bus is already chartered for Saturday, October 13. The plan is to arrive late morning. The group will enjoy a casual lunch at the corporate office, after which staff will make a brief presentation and escort us to the Museum for an afternoon of self-guided exploration.

Further details to follow! If you want to participate, watch for email from Alyse right after September 11. Signup is first-come-first-served with the proviso that those who have not gone with us previously have priority.



## Changes at the Mass 9/11 Fund

There are some operational changes happening at the Mass 9/11 Fund. As you may have noticed, we are shifting a lot of our attention towards Service and Education. We feel that it is important to give back to the community that has so graciously helped us throughout the years.

Following the Commemoration ceremonies, we are hosting two Day of Service Events. Please see pages 3 and 4 for more information on these events.

Over the last couple of years, the Education Committee has been sponsoring high schools in the area to educate students on the events of 9/11. The Board has decided that it is important to expand on these initiatives and redirect resources to support this mission. Consequently, the Mass 9/11 Board has made the decision to support the Education initiative by phasing out the position of Director of Operations and Programming. As a result, Alyse Mazerolle is leaving and her last day is October 31, 2018.

Alyse has enjoyed working with us and is sad to leave. Most importantly, she appreciates the connections and friendships she has made while working with us, and hopes to stay in touch with all at the Mass 9/11 Fund. Each of us on the Family Advisory Committee and the Board would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Alyse for her nine years of service and especially for her support of our families. We will be hosting a "Good Bye Party" for Alyse in the fall. Keep an eye out for more information.

## Does Your Loved One Have a Private Memorial?

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund website includes a [Private Memorials page](#). This page is continuously updated and the FAC still seeks your help. Does your family sponsor an award, scholarship, or event, or operate a foundation? Was a special venue created in honor of your loved one? Please send website addresses, summary information, to Iris Friedman ([iris.friedman@massfund.org](mailto:iris.friedman@massfund.org)). We'd also appreciate your checking the web page for obsolete or missing items. Thanks as always for helping with this effort!

## Send Us Your Updated Information

Seventeen years have gone by and even our youngest children who lost parents, aunts, and uncles are in college... and there have been many births since that day. We are constantly updating our database to ensure Mass 9/11 Fund communications reach everyone in the community. Please send any updates to your information to Alyse at [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org). If you feel you have not been receiving our electronic mail, please put [info@massfund.org](mailto:info@massfund.org) on your safe list to make sure your spam filter is not rejecting our email. Of course you reserve the right to opt out at any time.

## FAC Corner

### The Family Advisory Committee Needs You!!!

The FAC represents you, the families, so we encourage you to become more involved. Our meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month. We meet from noon to 2 pm at our office, located in the Independence Wharf Building, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston. In the past, some of you who work during the day have helped us in numerous ways from home. If you are interested in joining our endeavors on behalf of the Mass 9/11 community, we remain open to working with you to see what is convenient for your schedule. Your contributions and active participation in our work actualize the words *We Will Never Forget*. It has been 17 years since that tragic day we lost our loved ones and sometimes it feels like it was only yesterday! We need to honor our loved ones through remembrance and paying forward through service. We need your help to do so.

If you are interested in attending our meetings, calling in during our meetings, contributing from home, or discussing other options for participating in our working committee, please contact the Karin Charles, FAC Chair, at [karin.charles@massfund.org](mailto:karin.charles@massfund.org).