



America's Heroes



Creating "Living Memorials" In Honor Of Those Lost On September 11

(NAPSA)—Since September 11, citizens from around the country have been searching for positive ways to pay tribute to those lost. Several days after September 11, Michigan resident Bob Van Oosterhout e-mailed one of his senators, Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), with a unique way to promote national healing: ask Americans to conduct community volunteer projects in dedication to all of those lost on that tragic day.

Working with Sen. John Kyl (R-AZ), Stabenow co-authored the Unity in the Spirit of America (USA) Act, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on January 10, 2002. The USA calls for The Points of Light Foundation, and its national network of nearly 500 Volunteer Centers, to oversee the initiative, in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service. It also calls for the creation of an equal number of community-based volunteer projects across the country as there were lives lost during the September 11th attacks. Each project will be dedicated in the name of an individual and must be registered by September 11, 2002 and largely completed by December 31, 2002.

The intention of the USA is to encourage Americans to remember those lost, respond to the attacks in a positive way, and rebuild local communities through volunteer service.

"People have been asking what they can do for our family," said Joan Scheffold, wife of Fred Scheffold, Battalion Chief, Fire Department, City of New York. "Now we can ask them to volunteer to make things better in their communities in my husband's memory."

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A national service initiative will pay tribute to the victims of the September 11 attacks.

ber 31, 2002. While many of the volunteer activities included under the USA initiative will be projects already planned, identifying them with those lost will give those projects an added level of meaning.

"I commend the United States Congress for passing the Unity in the Spirit of America Act to honor the Americans who lost their lives on September 11th by encouraging, organizing, and recognizing men and women who selflessly give to others," said President Bush.

Major partners include Disney-Hand and Ronald McDonald House Charities. In addition, the Foundation has established a family advisory council, comprising half a dozen family members representing those lost, to advise working with the families.

For individuals and groups looking for a place to start with a volunteer effort, there are two national service days that will take place before the end of the year: Make a Difference Day (October 26) and National Family Volunteer Day (November 23).

Projects will be registered through a Web site devoted to the USA initiative (usa.pointsof-light.org) or via telephone at 1-800-VOLUNTEER.