PRESS SUMMARY

Coverage around the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks

Ten years after the attacks of 11 September 2001, "Remember 9/11" is being repeated in all quarters of the US. More than merely being remembered on this the tenth, or any, anniversary, for some of us 9/11 has become the pattern indelibly absorbed into the fabric of our lives. But more important than remembering the day, is the legacy of 9/11, which, I fear, is a legacy of forgetting rather than remembering.

This report was prepared by:
This packet includes a summary of the press earned by September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows (PT) around the 10th anniversary of the September 11th Attacks.

The information included in this press packet provides an overview of PT-related media coverage surrounding the anniversary. Due to widespread coverage by dozens of local, national, and international outlets, links will be provided when possible, however many live TV/Radio broadcasts and international outlets do not have easily-accessible links. The four prominent placements below are shown in full:

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<th>Outlet/Article</th>
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TV/Radio Coverage Highlights (NYC/National/International):

David Potorti on PBS’ Need to Know:

Talat Hamdani on the New York Time's Portraits Redrawn:

Rita Lasar and Donna O' Connor on Democracy Now’s Memorial Broadcast:
http://www.democracynow.org/blog/2011/9/12/9_11s_footprint_on_america_democracy_now_on_pacifica_radios_memorial_broadcast

Gloria Williams on New York 1:
http://manhattan.ny1.com/content/142051/9-11-a-decade-later--interfaith-coalition-to-encourage-religious-tolerance-on-september-11th

Valerie Lucznikowska on New York 1:
http://www.ny1.com/content/145441/9-11-a-decade-later--reading-of-victims--names-up-for-debate-after-10th-anniversary-ceremony

Andrea LeBlanc, others on PBS Newshour’s 9/11 Video Quilt:
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/multimedia/september-11-responses/

Phyllis Rodriguez on Voice of America

Eric Leinung on WNYC’s Radio Rookies:

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NEW HAVEN — David Potorti recalls his mother's pain when his brother Jim was killed in the World Trade Center. Clutching her stomach, she cried out: "Jim. Jim. Jim."

She said something else that made a lasting impression on him: "I don't want anyone else to feel the pain I'm feeling right now."

Potorti channeled that grief into becoming a peace activist, joining a group of other relatives of Sept. 11 victims who responded to the attacks by spreading that message and working to prevent others — including civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan — from enduring the same kind of suffering.

Experts say it is not surprising that some of the families most directly affected by the attacks wanted a nonviolent response.

Sandro Galea, a Columbia University professor who has studied behavior after natural disasters and Sept. 11, said people generally exhibit "very pro-social behavior" after a disaster, contrary to the "myth" that they panic and act irrationally.

"I would consider efforts to promote less opportunity for human conflict and human suffering to be the ultimate in pro-social behavior," Galea said.

For Potorti, the conviction that war was not the answer only grew as he watched the country celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas while dropping bombs in Afghanistan. He joined a group called Sept. 11 Families For Peaceful Tomorrows, enduring shouted insults such as "The `60s are over!" as he participated in peace marches.

"It was an odd time to be marching for peace through cities so directly affected by the catastrophe of 9/11, a time when people would yell in anger out of car windows and express their disbelief to our faces," Potorti, of Cary, N.C., wrote in recounting his experiences on the group's website.
The Sept. 11 families would have an important impact on the peace movement, bringing legitimacy and credibility to anti-war protests and helping to attract mainstream support, said David Cortright, director of policy studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame.

While the families condemned terrorism, they also emphasized a need for a response that didn't lead to war and the casualties it would create, Cortright said. "I think their message was a powerful one."

Members of Peaceful Tomorrows spoke out at vigils, churches and school groups. The group advocated an international effort to bring those responsible for the attacks to justice in compliance with international law. A few even traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan to highlight civilian casualties from the wars fought in the names of their loved ones.

Colleen Kelly, a New York nurse whose brother, William Kelly Jr., was killed in the World Trade Center, said she wrestled with feelings of revenge, too, and felt relief when the American military recently killed Osama bin Laden. But Kelly, who was among activists who traveled to Iraq two months before the war, said she related to civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq who would be killed in any war.

"There are now families on the other side of the world who feel like my family," Kelly said.

Kelly said she and other Sept. 11 families received many emails and letters of support for speaking out against war.

"It did give people permission to feel those same feelings and verbalize that," she said.

Peter Gadiel, whose son was murdered on Sept. 11, is among the Sept. 11 families who have taken a harder line and clashed with Peaceful Tomorrows. He is president of Sept. 11 Families for a Secure America, arguing illegal immigration was at the heart of the plot, and says the war on terror was necessary.

"You don't stop violent people by being nice," Gadiel said.

Debra Burlingame, whose brother Charles was the pilot of the hijacked plane that crashed into the Pentagon, co-founded a group called Keep America Safe and has spoken in support of the war on terror. Among other things, she joined other victims' relatives who testified in court in Germany in 2003, urging the judges to give the maximum sentence to a Moroccan charged with helping the hijackers.

By contrast, Terry Greene, a Cambridge, Mass. resident whose brother, Donald Greene of Greenwich, Conn. was killed in the attacks, was among the first to appeal for calm in letter to the local newspaper days after the attacks.

"Certainly we must prevent those who perpetrated this violence from launching any further attacks," Greene wrote. "At the same time, the last thing that our family wishes to see are any more innocent lives lost and their families torn apart out of panic, misplaced anger, or hateful prejudices."

April Naturale, director of disaster services for the Mental Health Association in New York who has worked with Sept. 11 families, said those that have advocated for peace provided an extraordinary example of resilience.

"I think it's a natural, innate ability that we have to try to heal ourselves by coming together in a peaceful way," Naturale said. "There must be something about us as humans that knows we won't survive otherwise."
In Love With Death

Years of grieving and war. But recall, too, the hour of human decency.

By JIM DWYER Published: September 8, 2011

Outside, the desert sky had been darkened by a sandstorm. In the tent, an Army officer pulled up a chair. It was early in the invasion of Iraq, late March 2003. With the war postponed on account of weather, there was time to talk. As I remember, the officer was a lieutenant, wary of reporters, but squirming with curiosity.

“Sir,” he said. “I wonder if I could ask you something about New York.”
He had heard that people were speaking against the war at big gatherings in the city.

“How could that be?” the lieutenant asked. “After all they went through? New Yorkers?”

In the middle of a desert, half a world away from anyone who might argue, I gave the first answer that came to mind: “I think they don’t see that Iraq had anything to do with 9/11.”

Today, no one in a desert tent, or anywhere, would wonder about protests against the Iraq war.

That is the way of things with anniversaries.

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Climb the ladder of years, and the view from a decade up is startling. On the near ground, you can see the rubble and loss of war in a place where we had no quarrels that could not have been managed otherwise. In the distance, you can take in the earliest response to 9/11, by men and women who helped one another that morning, who used their last calls to speak of gratitude and love.

With a single glance across time, you behold the profane and the sacred in all their contrapuntal power.

Mounted on the horrors of 9/11, the war in Iraq multiplied them; dead innocent Iraqis succeeded dead innocent Americans at a ratio thought to be more than 30 to one. Yet the only unambiguously useful responses to the day — as we know now, after 10 years, tens of thousands of lives and trillions of dollars — were made in those early minutes, in deeds not visible to the outside world.

And so, to review:

In Stairway A of the south tower, a stranger tore a strip from his shirt to stanch the bleeding of Keating Crown, who had been wounded by the second plane and was hobbling down 78 flights on a broken leg. A few floors below, Nat Alcamo, a Marine-turned-banker, saw high-heeled shoes that had been had kicked into corners of the stairway landings.
And much later, when Theresa Leone got home to the Bronx that night, she found an empty plastic cup in her bag that had been handed to her hours earlier, filled with water, by some unknown, unremembered face on the Bowery who saw her trudging north and knew she was thirsty.

If humankind had an army, that bloody cloth on Keating Crown’s head could have flown as its flag, and that stranger on the Bowery would have been its quartermaster.

Between 14,000 and 17,000 people in the towers, old and young, fat and fit, able-bodied and not, marshaled themselves into evacuations that were undirected, unrehearsed and orderly. A firm hand on an elbow, giving strength to wobbly legs. A soothing voice that said chemotherapy was hard but these are just stairs and you can do it. The double-file line of strangers that folded into a single line to make way for someone who had to get down first.

They saved a day that could have been defined only by hate from the sky, instead of by the communal decency that resisted panic and reigned in the name of civilization.

On the way, they were met by swarms of firefighters, medics, cops, then an armada of ferries and workboats that had formed instantly to shuttle people away from the foot of Manhattan. Convoys of volunteers charged the other way to cut steel and make sandwiches and hold out their arms at hospitals, ready to give blood.

Still.

The losses were, as Rudolph Giuliani said prophetically, more than anyone could bear.

That morning, Anne Mulderry sat in the backyard of her home near Albany to wait for news about two of her eight children who worked in Lower Manhattan. Before long, she heard herself howling to the heavens.

Her son Stephen — scrappy college basketball player, family peacemaker — was, when last heard from, in a conference room on the 88th floor of the south tower with a dozen other people, all of them sharing a single phone to make their essential calls.

Much later, struggling to find consolation, Anne Mulderry saw that the choices she faced also confronted the larger world. “How to resist falling in
love with death was the question,” she said. “Depression and despair is one way of falling in love with death. Violence and aggression is another way.”

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There was every reason to chase down the 9/11 organizers before they could take more innocent lives. Osama bin Laden killed civilians before, promised to do it again, and did. Immediately, the hunt began for him and his deputies, with help from much of the world. Al Qaeda was a palpable danger. No soldiers in Afghanistan would have asked, in those days, about the doubts of New Yorkers.

By 2003, the Bush administration was ready to go into Iraq. Half the country believed, on the strength of hints and verbal feints, that Iraqis had a hand in 9/11. There was no creditable proof, but the emotional logic was impeccable: Saddam Hussein and his country had to pay.

Whatever about Congressional resolutions and stories of aluminum tubes that would turn into mushroom clouds, if you took away the collapsing towers, the brave firefighters climbing to their doom, the posters of the missing legions, there surely would have been no invasion of Iraq. At a news conference just before the war, President George W. Bush mentioned “9/11” eight times.

Once American troops were in Iraq, you might hear echoes of the date anywhere. In a desert tent: How could New Yorkers protest after what was done to them?

Or in Najaf, on April 2, 2003. A boy about 7 years old boldly walked up, kissed me and said: “America. Good.” Then he pointed to the sky and his mouth. They had been without water for four days. No stranger on the Bowery was filling cups for passers-by.

Yet another day, this time in a jeep with three soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army, the very people you would be glad to have as companions in the stairway of a burning tower. There was chat about a black Labrador dog named Winchester at home, of four boys and their teams, and then, abruptly, silence. Everyone looked out the window as we rolled past a crossroad. The bodies of 15 or 20 men were stacked on the shoulder. They were fully clothed except for their feet, which were bare, pink and naked under the desert sun.

In the corner of what staircase landing, in what tower, were the shoes that belonged with the soles of these dead?
Many months later, President Bush would say that inspectors had found no weapons of mass destruction. And no, he said, there was no evidence implicating Saddam Hussein in 9/11. The war was about freedom.

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In much the same way that Anne Mulderry would name the peril of falling in love with death, William Butler Yeats wrote of an earlier, bloody era in “Meditations in Time of Civil War.”

We had fed the heart on fantasies,

The heart’s grown brutal from the fare;

More Substance in our enmities

Than in our love

At vast cost in human capital, we carved 9/11 into the history of loss in other places, the enmities of a decade rising from the horrors of the day. But the majesty of that day does not belong to the chronicles of war. It lives in truths the size of atoms, nearly invisible and — one hopes — indestructible.

That morning, Raffaele Cava, age 80, was working on the 90th floor of the north tower. After the plane hit, no one could open the exits, so he went to another office and sat with Dianne DeFontes and Tirsa Moya. The hall floors were melting. Suddenly, two men in the stairwell pried open the door, walked in and ordered everyone to go. They were Frank De Martini and Pablo Ortiz, Port Authority employees who worked one flight down, and who took it on themselves to climb up and down 14 floors, getting scores of people out. They never left.

Tirsa Moya walked Raffaele Cava down all 90 floors.

You could ask no more of human beings.
Muslim family remembers son who died a hero at Ground Zero - and can't forget the bias that followed

JUAN GONZALEZ - NEWS
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Friday, September 09, 2011

Talat Hamdani and her husband Saleem, Muslim immigrants from Pakistan, opened a newspaper and candy store on Manhattan Ave. in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, in 1985.

They saw that tiny store - and the endless hours of work it demanded - as their best hope to achieve the American Dream.

From the age of 7, Salman, the eldest of their three sons, spent his free time working beside his dad.

"There was this special bond between them," Talat Hamdani said yesterday, fighting back tears. "They were best friends."

Salman went on to attend Bayside High School, where all his friends called him Sal. He made the football team and loved "Star Wars," like so many American kids. He got a degree in biochemistry from Queens College.

Determined to help others, he got certified as an emergency medical technician and then became an NYPD cadet.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Salman headed for his new job as a researcher at Rockefeller University.

"He had left the Police Academy some weeks before and was hoping to get into medical school, so he took the job at Rockefeller," his mother said.

It was the last time anyone would see him alive.

When terrorists struck the twin towers that morning, the young man bravely rushed to the site to assist victims. For weeks afterward, his family searched desperately for him. Then in March 2002, his remains were identified in the rubble of Ground Zero.

Within days of his disappearance, the Hamdani family was devastated by sudden press reports from anonymous police sources that their son was suspected of possible ties to terrorists.
Reporters started milling around their home.

"They asked why my other son Adnan was head of the Muslim Students Association at his college," the mother said. "What is the crime in that?"

Anti-Muslim sentiment was so strong then that several relatives of the Hamdanis moved from their homes. They started changing the legal names of their children: from Mohammad to Mike, from Fatima to Myrna; one even changed his son's name to Ryan.

Saleem Muhammad grew so despondent after his son's death that his health deteriorated. He began refusing to take his medication. As he was dying in a hospital in 2004, a nurse told his wife, "he keeps crying out for someone named Salman."

The couple's other two sons both dropped out of college immediately after 9/11. One has refused for years to even talk about that day. The other wants nothing to do with Islam.

Ten years later, Talat Hamdani cannot believe how difficult life has become for so many ordinary Muslim Americans who had nothing to do with the 9/11.

In dozens of towns and cities, she notes, the building of Muslim mosques have sparked local resistance. Educated Muslims have more difficulty finding jobs. She hates to fly because of "the constant humiliation of random screenings that always seem to single me out."

Still, Hamdani refuses to stay silent.

"Ten years later, we have a civil rights movement that opposes dicrimination and abuse against Muslim Americans," she said.

By speaking out, she honors the sacrifice her son and so many others made that terrible day. She keeps alive the American Dream an immigrant couple had in that candy store in Brooklyn so long ago.

jgonzalez@nydailynews
NEW YORK (Reuters) – Andrea LeBlanc, whose husband died aboard one of the 9/11 hijacked planes, speaks out about alternatives to war — the path taken by the United States after the 2001 attacks.

The United States went to war in Afghanistan, whose Taliban leaders had harbored the al Qaeda network responsible for 9/11, the month after the September 11 attacks and then invaded Iraq in 2003. U.S. troops are still engaged in both wars.

LeBlanc, 67, said she is certain of one thing — her husband would not have wanted retaliation after the September 11 attacks.

“It depends what kind of culture we want and if we want kids to be thinking, caring, human beings, then they need to be given tools to imagine other ways,” LeBlanc, a retired veterinarian, said from her home in Lee, New Hampshire.

“Wars do not bring peace,” added LeBlanc, whose husband Robert LeBlanc taught cultural geography at the University of New Hampshire for 35 years. “So much of what’s happened has been at the expense of our own humanity.”

LeBlanc’s husband was aboard United Airlines Flight 175 that al Qaeda hijackers crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center in New York.

Rather than feeling anger, LeBlanc said she felt hopelessness and despair over the inevitable retaliation by the United States.
**Other Coverage:**

**High-Visibility Coverage:**

(Terry Rockefeller mentioned)


http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-gouldwartofsky/america-the-amnesiac-on-r_b_957254.html

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/talat-hamdani/a-decade-after-its-time-t_b_955829.html
(Talat Hamdani)

(David Potorti)

http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2011/sep/06/impact-9-11-america
(Andrea LeBlanc)

(Andrea LeBlanc)

(Talat Hamdani)

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/need-to-know/culture/six-words-for-911/11274/#6
(Loretta Filipov and David Potorti)

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(Talat Hamdani)

http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/2011/09/03/2011-09-03_voices_from_then_now_stories_about_911_from_the_families_that_experienced_the_m.html
(Talat Hamdani)

(Talat Hamdani)

(Anne Mulderry)
(Eric Leinung)

(Loretta Filipov)

(Loretta Filipov)

(Phyllis Rodriguez)

(Phyllis Rodriguez)

**Audio/Video Coverage:**

German Film (Eng): http://www.planet-schule.de/sf/filme-online.php?reihe=1152&seite=1&film=8702  
(Adele Welty)

(Andrea LeBlanc)

(Nancy Meyer)

(Nancy Meyer)

http://www.wmur.com/remembering-911/29132889/detail.html  
(Andrea LeBlanc)


http://www.wgbh.org/programs/The-Callie-Crossley-Show-855/episodes/Wed-September-7Terry-Rockefeller-Peaceful-Tomorrows-31401  
(Terry Rockefeller)

http://buffalo.ynn.com/content/911_ten_years_later/556491/remembering-one-of-9-11-s-victims/  
(Donna O’Connor)

http://interfaithradio.org/audio/feed  
(Donna O’Connor)

http://www.mediafire.com/file/3e621v8s84ka/Terry%20Rockefeller.mp3  
(Terry Rockefeller)

No Link: KPFA National Lawyers Guild Radio Show, September 1, 2011
(Valerie Lucznikowska)

(Valerie Lucznikowska)

(Anne Mulderry)

No Link, KPFK, Sojourner Truth Show, September 13, 2011
(Andrea LeBlanc)

No Link, NY 1, September 8, 2011
(David Potorti)

No Link, NBC 4, September 8, 2011
(David Potorti)

**Regional and Community Coverage:**

http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/article_6fd27b11-ceed0-5fa2-8df3-c7de207f4a67.html
(Nancy Meyer)

(Nancy Meyer)


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http://www.boonvilledailynews.com/sept11/x919537487/-The-proudest-days-I-ve-had-as-an-American
(Donna O’Connor)

http://www.newsday.com/opinion/oped/keeler-fighting-for-civilians-post-9-11-1.3141334
(Colleen Kelly)


http://www.norwoodnews.org/id=3899&story=op-ed-ten-years-after-911-the-last-word-is-love/
(Colleen Kelly)

(Anne Mulderry)

spent last decade learning how to live with loss
(Loretta Filipov)

(Talat Hamdani)

(Colleen Kelly)

(John Titus)

(Phyllis Rodriguez)

**Foreign Coverage:**

http://www.daserste.de/gottunddiewelt/beitragsdyn-uid,57vz1mszxeaa8q5-cm.asp (Documentary Film)
(Adele Welty)


http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1109/S00142/peaceful-tomorrows-reflects-on-10th-anniversary-of-attacks.htm

(Donna O’Connor)

http://www.diariolasamericas.com/noticia/114897/1/0/piden-el-cierre-de-guant%C3%A1namo-en-el-d%C3%A9cimo-aniversario-de-su-apertura
(Valerie Lucznikowska)

(Terry Rockefeller)

http://www.indiawest.com/readmore.aspx?id=4086&sid=1
(Talat Hamdani)

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http://impreso.milenio.com/node/9023702
(Talat Hamdani)

(Paul Arpaia)


http://www.QUEDIT.com/detail/9-11-the-day-that-changed-my-city-13939105.html
(Bob McIlvaine)


http://www.lettera22.it/showart.php?id=11830&rubrica=64

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http://noticiaspe.terra.com.pe/noticias/11-de-septiembre-10-anos/noticias/0,,O15289094-E18381,00-Familiares+de+Victimas+Anos+despues.html
(Terry Rockefeller)

Blogs, Posts, and Mentions:

http://humanecollectionblog.blogspot.com


http://ourjourneytosmile.com/blog/2011/09/%E2%80%98what-was-911%E2%80%99/

http://behindthelinespoetry.blogspot.com/2011_08_01_archive.html

(Nancy Meyer)

(Talat Hamdani)