

May 30 Commemoration – 5/30/2025

Beth Hillman Remarks

[COLOR GUARD AND PIPES AND DRUM PROCESS IN. NATIONAL ANTHEM PERFORMANCE. RINGING OF THE BELL.]

Good morning and welcome. I'm Beth Hillman, President & CEO of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

We've gathered today to mark the 23rd anniversary of the official end of the nine-month rescue, recovery, and relief operation that took place here at this site after 9/11, and to pay tribute to those who are suffering with or have since died from health effects related to their service in that historic effort.

Before we begin our program, let me ask all of you gathered to come into the Glade pathway—this dedicated space flanked by six stone monoliths, each inlaid with World Trade Center steel, created to honor you.

I'm privileged to lead the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and to be here with you in recognition of the compassion and service, and selflessness and resolve, of all the people who came from across country and around the world to help in this city's darkest hour. You gave us hope when we needed it most. And you began the work to transform this site into a place of healing, remembrance, and education for the generations that followed.

Because of your unwavering commitment 23 years ago and because of the widening effects of the 9/11 attacks, tens of thousands of responders, construction workers, volunteers, lower Manhattan community members, and survivors have been stricken with illness, and tragically, many have died from those illnesses. It is our solemn responsibility to support those who continue to suffer—by telling your story of resilience and by helping the world understand that the 9/11 story continues to unfold.

Before I introduce our first speaker, I want to briefly acknowledge the elected officials and distinguished guests in attendance today, including FDNY Commissioner Robert Tucker and Chief of Department John Esposito, Office of

Emergency Management Commissioner Zachary Iscol, as well as New York City Department of Sanitation Acting Commissioner Javier Lojan.

The response to this site nearly 25 years ago involved so many – too many to name – but I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the leadership and members of the agencies, unions, and organizations represented today including: the FD.NY, NYPD, PAPD and Port Authority, the City departments of Design and Construction, Sanitation, Correction, Buildings, and Parks, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Transit Workers Union—Local 100. The Red Cross and Salvation Army organizations and hundreds from Buildings and Trades—iron workers, boilermakers, electricians, teamsters, operating and structural engineers, sheet metal workers, carpenters, laborers, and so many more. I also want to thank the representatives from the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund in attendance -- we are grateful for what you do to help take care of those who came to help all of us.

Today we're joined by two leaders who continue to serve this community. First, is Dr. Kerry Kelly who has supported so many of you as a physician, medical officer, native Staten Islander, and friend.

Dr. Kelly served as a medical officer in the New York City Fire Department for 37 years, including 24 years as Chief Medical Officer of FDNY. She responded to this site on 9/11 and has worked tirelessly to ensure proper monitoring and treatment for her fellow responders ever since – first, on the job and then, at the World Trade Center Health program after her retirement from the FDNY in 2018. Thanks to Dr. Kelly, and thanks to so many of the advocates and friends here today, I've seen up close how critical that program continues to be and how it delivers essential services that this community needs each day. More than 140,000 people are now enrolled in the World Trade Center Health program, which depends on federal support. We fulfill our promise to never forget 9/11 and those who responded through this essential program.

Dr. Kelly, we are grateful for your leadership as a 9/11 Memorial & Museum trustee and for your unwavering service to New York City and all those affected by 9/11.

[DR.KELLY REMARKS.]

Thank you, Dr. Kelly.

Next, I want to introduce Logan Miller, who will read the inscription that frames the Memorial Glade where we're standing.

Originally from Bayside, Queens, Logan was seven years old when his uncle, New York State Supreme Court Officer Sergeant Mitchel Scott Wallace, was killed at this site on 9/11. After 9/11, Logan's grandfather, Kenneth Wallace, worked in lower Manhattan and in 2016, passed away from a 9/11-related illness. Since then, Logan and his family have been steadfast in their commitment to preserve the memories of the Wallaces and of all of those killed on 9/11. That is why he joined our Visionary Network Leadership Council, which works to help a new generation understand the ongoing impact of 9/11.

Mr. Logan Miller.

[LOGAN READS INSCRIPTION.]

Thank you, Logan.

Today's ceremony will conclude with the playing of Taps. Afterward, I invite everyone to take a moment to reflect and honor this community, and to lay a flower in tribute to all who have perished.