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In April 18th's NY Time's NY Today column, James Barron recounts the story of Mr. Antonio Dorsey Pratt's photo being found on the 9/11 Living Memorial site.

A last photo finds its place



Antonio Dorsey Pratt, left, in the last photo for the wall of 9/11 victims at the National September 11 Museum.

Photo courtesy of Jordan Freeman

Soon the wall of photographs at the National September 11 Memorial Museum on the site of the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan will be complete. The single missing image has been tracked down.

It shows Antonio Dorsey Pratt, who worked for Forte Food Service and was assigned to the cafeteria at Cantor Fitzgerald when the first plane crashed into the north tower on Sept. 11, 2001. He was one of the 2,753 people killed at the trade center that day.

Over the years the museum had assembled photos of all but a few of the victims. In 2016, when there were seven left to find, The New York Times published an article that led officials from the Department of Homeland Security to turn over five photographs from the agency's files. Last month, New York Today covered the discovery of one of the remaining two, a photograph of Albert Ogletree, who also worked in the Cantor Fitzgerald cafeteria.

It turned out that the image of Pratt had been located in 2020 and forwarded to another organization — Voices Center for Resilience, which had started a digital archive project in 2006 and had amassed nearly 90,000 photographs of the people killed at the trade center in 2001, along with the six victims (and the unborn child one of them was carrying) who died in a bombing there in 1993. Voices posted the picture of Pratt on its website, but the find went unnoticed when the museum was shut down early in the pandemic and later, when the staff was preoccupied with preparing for the 20th anniversary of the terror attacks.

Mary Fetchet, a co-founder of Voices and its executive director, said the group had heard from Jordan Freeman, who had been the director of vocational services for a Brooklyn-based housing and social services agency in the 1990s.

"I remembered that I had a photo of him," Freeman said, "but I didn't know where."

Going through items stashed in a linen closet, he opened a shoebox and saw photographs from the 1990s. One showed Pratt working as a supervisor at a snack shop the agency ran.

"He was a class act," Freeman said. "Very smart, very motivated, very caring, friendly, compassionate. One of the reasons we promoted him to be in a supervisory capacity was he worked well with other clients in the program."

He scanned the photograph and sent it to Voices last fall. After the article appeared in New York Today, Voices obtained a release from Jordan giving Voices permission to turn the original print over to the museum, and Fetchet delivered it to Alice Greenwald, the museum's president and chief executive.

Jan Seidler Ramirez, an executive vice president of the museum and its chief curator, said the original would be copied for mounting on the wall. She said that when museum officials saw the photograph on the Voices website, they were struck by Pratt's warmth.

"There he was, smiling," Ramirez said. "We all thought, what a way to conclude this long search."

See The New York Times article here.