Dear Family Members and Victims of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks,

I would like to recount for you the efforts made by New Jersey to protect its citizens since September 11th, 2001. I have also shared these in my testimony before the Independent 911 Commission which met at Drew University on November 19th to illustrate how New Jersey has, in many respects, set the national standard for designing and implementing a comprehensive security strategy. In that effort, the state has partnered with the private sector which holds nearly 90 per cent of our critical infrastructure — including the nation’s highest concentration of oil refineries, oil storage facilities, and pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing facilities.

Some of the ways the State is working with the private sector to make our state more secure include:
◆ The New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force was created in the weeks after the Sept. 11th attacks. This body, unique to New Jersey, represents intergovernmental collaboration at its highest level. The Task Force is chaired by Attorney General Peter Harvey and consists of cabinet-level officials charged with significant security responsibilities. These individuals gather regularly to focus on the most pressing security issues confronting our state: counter-terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and bio-terrorism — among others.
◆ The Task Force’s Infrastructure Advisory Committee (IAC) is comprised of representatives from New Jersey’s 23 industry sectors. The various IAC groups meet regularly among themselves to share information and security strategies. They also meet regularly with the Task Force and their liaisons in the state agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Protection for the chemical sector and the Department of Health and Senior Services for the healthcare sector.
◆ During the last two years, the Task Force and the IAC have worked closely with industry to develop “Best Security Practices.” These recommendations focus on prevention, mitigation, and response to and recovery from terrorist activities. They include considerations such as:
   ❖ Site-specific vulnerability assessments
   ❖ Target hardening and mitigation measures
   ❖ Protocols for background checks
   ❖ Protocols related to security
   ❖ Protocols for adjusting security measures based on changes in the Homeland Security Alert System
   ❖ Communications protocols
   ❖ Crisis response
   ❖ Contingency and continuity plans
◆ In 2002, the IAC sectors all submitted Best Security Practices to the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force for review. Now we have embarked on a second generation of industry Best Security Practices. After they are approved by the Task Force, they are sent to my office for final approval. In every case, I direct the appropriate Cabinet Office to work with the industry sector and to monitor progress towards full implementation of the Best Security Practices. In this second generation, we have already approved 13 of the 23 sectors’ recommendations. We are working in partnership with private industry to get these practices in place as quickly as possible.
◆ New Jersey has also established a relationship with the Business Executives for National...
Security (BENS). A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted between BENS and the State Office of Emergency Management to provide a database of business sector volunteers and resources that could be deployed during an emergency.

◆ Working alongside the Task Force is the Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT), created within the Attorney General’s Office through Executive Order last year. Under the direction of Sidney Caspersen, a 25-year veteran of the FBI who headed that agency’s Office of Intelligence Community Support for New York City, the OCT has taken significant steps toward fulfilling its mandate to identify, detect, and deter terrorist-related activity in New Jersey. OCT is my chief liaison to the Federal intelligence and law-enforcement communities; it has forged close ties with the Office of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Department of Energy, and the Transportation Security Agency.

◆ The New Jersey Law Enforcement Counter Terrorism Training program has trained thousands of state and local police officers across the state.

◆ In concert with the Department of Homeland Security, New Jersey has implemented buffer zone protection plans for a number of the state’s high-risk chemical facilities. To test our plans, we conducted New Jersey’s first buffer-zone protection plan tabletop exercise. The Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force and the Office of Counter-Terrorism are now working with the Department of Homeland Security to expand their training on buffer zone protection to critical infrastructure sites in the chemical and petroleum industries identified by the State.

◆ OCT is also sharing information and intelligence with the private sector about potential threats. In the past year they have sent out more than 80 bulletins and alerts to various industry sectors. They have developed a secure Web site for infrastructure protection that serves as a statewide clearinghouse for information. And they have deployed a high-speed notification system called “The Communicator!” that automatically sends alerts to an unlimited number of individuals, groups, or teams by phone, pager, fax, and e-mail.

◆ The State is also working with the private sector through the Medical Emergency and Disaster Prevention and Response Expert Panel (MEDPREP). It’s a collection of the State’s health experts drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, such as emergency medicine, infectious diseases, and hospital care. Through MEDPREP, we’ve become the first state to have a 24/7 Bioterrorism Rapid Response team to provide medical expertise for suspected bioterrorism events. And we are the first state to install 800 MHz non-interruptible radios in all of our acute-care hospitals. The New Jersey Hospital Communications Network interconnects 85 such hospitals with the State government and one another, allowing reliable interoperable communication in the case of a large-scale terrorist event or natural disaster.

◆ The Infrastructure Advisory Committee and the Task Force-created Domestic Security Exercise Support Team have begun exercises and training simulations that incorporate both public and private sector players. The State Board of Public Utilities, for example, has already run tabletop exercises with the Water and Energy sectors to determine how to best maintain continuity of operations in the face of a terrorist attack. Early next month, the Department of Environmental Protection will be participating in a similar tabletop exercise with the petroleum industry.

◆ The Board of Public Utilities is also currently working with the IAC to review the results of the August 14th blackouts. That incident provided an excellent test case for the new spirit of cooperation between public and private sectors. Through close communication with the utility – PSE&G in this case – we were immediately able to get State Police resources to support local police services based on information we were receiving from the utility on a minute-to-minute basis.

◆ On November 15th, New Jersey and the Port Authority, along with the Federal Office of Domestic Preparedness and over 600 hundred local, county, and state first responders from 70 agencies, staged one of the largest full-scale emergency exercises in New Jersey history. The exercise simulated the release of biological and radiological agents at Port Newark. Although we await formal after-action reports, from all accounts the exercise went well. I mention this exercise because it’s a good example of the cooperation needed at all levels to prepare for future acts of terrorism.

Victims’ Tree

Construction workers and several other building tradesmen have erected a 40 foot tree in memory of all who were lost on September 11, 2001. It will be on display at the Intrepid Museum, Pier 86 12th Ave. & 46th St. adjacent to the intrepid 9/11 memorial. The tree bears 3000 white lights as symbols of angels. A special ornament for each victim has been donated. Many other ornaments, collected over the past two years have also been hung on the tree. The tree will remain at the Intrepid for public viewing until Sunday, January 4, 2004.

You may also view “Intrepid Remembers 9/11,” an exhibit dedicated to the heroes and victims of September 11, 2001, at the same location: Intrepid Hangar Deck Pier 86 12th Ave. & 46th St. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The Cost is: $13, $9 for Seniors, Students, Veterans and U.S. reservists, $6 for children ages 6-11 and Free under 2. For more information, please call 212-245-0072.
Victims Compensation Fund (VCF)

The Filing Deadline remains December 22, 2003. Special Master Feinberg does not have the authority to extend this deadline. Only Congress can do that, and so far, it has declined to do so. Currently, there does not appear to be any chance that it will.

To meet the deadline, you must file Part A, the Eligibility section of the Fund application. Part A of the application asks only for general information such as name, address, decedent’s or injured’s name, telephone, Social Security number, place employed, and your Social Security number. Filing Part A of the application protects you from missing the December 22nd deadline. You will then be assigned a case manager to help you and/or your attorney complete the filing.

By filing Part A before December 22nd you will retain your right to the Fund. However, if you are still not certain about participating in the Fund, you have until your claim is deemed “substantially complete” by your case manager to change your mind and withdraw the application in order to participate in a lawsuit. Your right to file a lawsuit in a court of law is waived once that determination of “substantially complete” is made. See Frequently Asked Question No. 9.4 at the Fund Web site: www.usdoj.gov/victimcompensation/faq.html.

As of December 1, 2003, 3,696 claims had been submitted. This represents about 65 to 70 % of the eligible claims. Fund administrators are hoping for 95% participation.

If you have any questions about the Fund’s process, eligibility requirements, or if you are in need of an attorney, you can also call the Fund at 888-714-3385. For international callers, call collect at: 212-625-1645.

To obtain a copy of Part A:

- call 888-714-3385
- download it at:
  - Compensation Form for Deceased Victims: www.usdoj.gov/victimcompensation/forms_deceased.html
  - Compensation Form for Personal Injury Victims: www.usdoj.gov/victimcompensation/forms_injury.html

To submit the completed Form:

- By Regular Mail, send to:
  Victim Compensation Fund
  P.O. Box 18698
  Washington, D.C. 20036-8698

- By Overnight Delivery, send to:
  Victim Compensation Fund
  1900 K Street, NW, Suite 900
  Washington, D.C. 20036
  202-822-4485

VCF Related Conflict Resolution

Safe Horizon Mediation Program: Mediation may assist through providing a neutral setting where parties can present their concerns to an unbiased mediator informally. Mediators do not make decisions; rather they help parties discuss their views and create effective solutions. For more information, e-mail: or call Alan Gross at 212-760-1333.

VCF Related Financial Resources

The Financial Planning Association would like to remind you that it has over 300 financial planners available to talk or advise families or individuals impacted by the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. They are assisting families and victims free of charge. The pro bono planners do not give investment advice. Rather, they are helping people make decisions about important matters that will affect them and their loved ones. The advice is neutral, not product or service oriented. If you or anyone you know would like information about any financial management topics, please contact Clara Lipson, Director of Pro Bono Services, Financial Planning Association:

- Voice: 212-493-3482
- Voice: 800-322-4237 x 7147
- Fax: 212-493-3688
- email: clara.lipson@fpanet.org
- Web: www.fpanet.org

You may also obtain free financial advice from the Referral Program established by several service providers at the following hotlines:

- American Express: 800-487-4297
- JP Morgan Chase: 800-403-5788
- Merrill Lynch: 877-262-8297
- Morgan Stanley: 800-767-7359
- Prudential Financial: 877-560-1809
- Salomon Smith Barney: 866-248-9356

Other VCF News

On October 28, 2003, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service issued Revenue Ruling 2003-115 which provides that periodic payments from the Fund in the form of “structured settlements” will also be tax-free to a claimant as long as the claimant elects a periodic payment option before the claim is substantially complete. (Payment of the lump sum award is tax free as well.) For more information, see Frequently Asked Questions 5.67 through 5.72 on the Fund website: www.usdoj.gov/victimcompensation/faq.html, consult a financial advisor or lawyer.
Holiday Visits to the WTC Site

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has arranged for families to visit the WTC site and descend the ramp on Sunday: December 21, 2003, December 28, 2003 and January 4, 2004, any-time between the hours of 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. An area will be designated for families to visit once they get to bottom of the ramp. Small items such as flowers may be left at the site. The entrance to the viewing area will be at Gate 7 located at the intersection of Liberty and Washington Streets. Someone will be there to open the gate for family members. As always, please be sure to know your loved one’s P, T or RM number and have identification.

In the same family viewing area, beyond Gate 7, the Port Authority placed a Christmas tree, donated by Carpenter’s Union # 608. Families are encouraged to hang an ornament on the tree in memory of loved ones. A menorah will also be placed there in accordance with the first day of Chanukkah.

As always, the two private Family Rooms are available. One is located in the Family viewing area at the site beyond Gate 7 and the other is on the 20th floor at One Liberty Plaza. Both are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Again, you will need to bring identification and your loved one’s P, T or RM number.

You may obtain a Medical Examiner’s photo ID card by visiting the Medical Examiner’s office at 520 First Avenue in New York any time between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. seven days a week. This card will provide you access to all 9/11 events and can substitute for other family identifiers such as the P or T number. The Medical Examiner would appreciate a phone call at 212-447-7884, but walk-ins will be accommodated.

Project Morris Nine Eleven

Project Morris Nine Eleven will hold a Family Feedback Brunch January 12th at 9:30 a.m. at the Morris County Human Service Building, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960. All families participating in that Project are invited to share their experience and suggestions for the future as well as to identify ongoing needs.

Remembrance Flag

This 9/11 Remembrance Flag was designed to honor and remember the thousands of heroes lost on September 11, 2001, who knowingly or not, gave up their lives for our freedom. The ultimate goal for the Remembrance Flag is to distribute them to the thousands of people who were affected by the September 11, 2001 tragedy. This includes the families who lost loved ones, the survivors, the rescue workers, the Armed Forces who are fighting to keep our country free from terrorism; anyone who has been directly affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

Proceeds made from the sale of Remembrance Flags to those not directly affected by the terrorist attacks are being used to support the donations. To date, more than six hundred flags have been donated to the families who lost loved ones. Also, proceeds from the sale of each flag have been donated to September’s Mission, as well as other non-profit organizations.

To donate or request a flag, visit: www.remembranceflag.com

Ongoing Exhibits

Recovery: The World Trade Center Recovery Operation at Fresh Kills

Part of the New York Historical Society’s “History Responds” series, this exhibition consists of 65 photographs and over 50 objects recovered from the destroyed World Trade Center. Collectively, they help to tell the story of what happened when the recovery effort moved beyond Ground Zero to Fresh Kills landfill.

Location: New York Historical Society
2 West 77th St., Central Park West
Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 212-873-3400.
911 Independent Commission

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks, also known as the Independent Commission, held its fifth public hearing at Drew University in Madison focusing on Private/Public Sector Partnerships for Emergency Preparedness. In addition to investigating the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Commission is charged with recommending ways to improve emergency preparedness in the aftermath of 9/11.

Former New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean, president of Drew University since 1990, chaired the hearing. Governor James E. McGreevey welcomed all in attendance and gave highlights of New Jersey’s public/private sector partnerships. Attorney General Peter C. Harvey, who chairs the State’s Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force and Sidney J. Caspersen, Director of the State’s Office of Counter-Terrorism also participated in the hearing.

Monica Gabrielle and Sally Regenhard, co-chairs of the Skyscraper Safety Campaign discussed skyscraper safety issues from the perspective of 9/11 family members.

Complete transcripts of the hearing will be posted on the Web site www.9-11commission.gov shortly. The website also contains a special family page. In addition, two liaisons are available to advise families of the Commission’s progress and answer questions or concerns: Ellie Hartz, who is the widow of a victim, and Emily Walker, who is a survivor of the attacks. Both may be reached at the Commission’s New York office, 800-862-0556; or at familyliaison@9-11commission.gov.

There have been many news reports regarding the Commission’s demands for documents which have resulted in an agreement with the White House that, the Commission’s Chair, Tom Kean and Vice-Chair, Lee Hamilton have stated, will allow the Commission to fulfill its statutory mandate.

The documents to be produced include several years worth of the President’s daily intelligence briefs, normally limited only to the most senior officials in the executive branch.

The agreement permits two representatives from the commission to check the documents and four representatives to examine all items of critical interest. The review team will consist of the Chair, the Vice Chair, Commissioner Gorelick, and the Executive Director, Philip Zelikow. Notes taken by the review committee will be kept at the White House and may be reviewed at any time by the team. The team will provide a summary to all the Commissioners and designated staff who in turn will be able to use this highly classified information to write the public report.

The Agreement provides that the summary is subject to limited White House review before it is shared with the full Commission. Also, in the event that the Commission does not obtain the material it needs, the agreement provides that it retains the right to take any action it deems appropriate.

The Family Steering Committee has taken the position that the full agreement between the Independent Commission and the White House should be released to the public; that all Commissioners should have access to the President’s daily briefings and that the Commission should explain why the agreement was chosen in lieu of issuing subpoenas to the CIA and Executive Branch. It has expressed the opinion that the agreement will prevent a full uncovering of the truth. Further, the Family Steering Committee objects to the Executive Branch. It has expressed the opinion that the agreement will prevent a full uncovering of the truth. Further, the Family Steering Committee objects to the Executive Director, Philip Zelikow on the basis that he has a conflict of interest because he participated in the transition at the National Security Council. Finally, they believe that the deadline for the Commission’s report, originally May 27, 2004, must be extended due to serious delays in accessing information from key agencies. See www.familysofseptember11.org/commission.

The Commission has also reached an agreement with the City of New York regarding access to documents sought by the November 21, 2003 subpoena issued by the Commission. That agreement permits the Commission unfettered access to unredacted 911 tapes and transcripts of firefighter oral histories seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Commission staffers may take notes but may not use individual statements contained in the tapes and transcripts in its public report unless permission is obtained from the individual.

For more information, consult the Commission’s Web site www.9-11commission.gov.
Family Group Information

Families of September 11
http://familiesofseptember11.org
Founded by victims’ families, FOS11 has a national membership base, which is also open to the families of people who die in related acts of terrorism, such as the anthrax attacks. Others interested in advancing the organization’s goals may join as associate members.

The group is active in supporting public policies that improve the prevention of and response to terrorism, in developing long-term partnerships with organizations who will provide mentoring and mental health assistance and in providing information about immediate concerns of family members, i.e. the memorial process in Lower Manhattan, ongoing information about recovery and assistance and legislation that directly affects the 9/11 families.

Voices of September 11th
www.voiceofsept11.org
Founded by a widow who lost her husband at the WTC and a mother who lost her son at the WTC, this non-profit organization provides information on family programs, resources, services and related events through e-mail distribution, Web site and newsletters.

September’s Mission
http://www.septembersmission.org
September’s Mission aims to support the development of a memorial park on the former site of the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon that will serve adults and children. If you use the code “MISSION” when ordering from 1-800-Flowers or 1-800-Flowers.com, September’s Mission will receive 10% of all net proceeds.

Pentagon Angels
http://www.pentagonangels.net
A soldier whose wife died in the Pentagon attack established this site for the families of those lost at the Pentagon, including those who were on American Airlines Flight 77. The site is not affiliated with the Department of Defense.

WTC United Family Group
http://www.wtcunitedfamilygroup.org
Founded by the brother of a World Trade Center victim, WTC United Family Group is a support and information network for the families and friends of the victims and survivors of the September 11 attacks.

9-11 Widows’ and Victims’ Families Association
www.911wvfa.org
Founded by the widow of a New York City firefighter, this organization’s chief goal is the dignified recovery of the victims’ remains from Ground Zero.

Give Your Voice for WTC Victims’ Families
www.giveyourvoice.com
Founded by the widow of a civilian killed at the World Trade Center, this group seeks to give families a voice in the recovery of remains and memorials to the victims.

WTC Families for a Proper Burial
http://mywebpages.comcast.net
This group, founded by several parents from New Jersey, is dedicated to ensuring that the ashen remains of their loved ones, currently held at Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, will be returned to the WTC site and buried with dignity in a place of honor and respect. To view the group’s online petition, please visit: www.familiesforproperburial.com.

Coalition of 9/11 Families
www.memorialfor911.com
The Coalition, composed of some of the 9/11 family groups, advocates for the preservation of the “footprints” at the World Trade Center Site to bedrock and for the designation of the site as a national historic memorial.

Skyscraper Safety Campaign
www.skyscrapersafety.org
Founded by a mother who lost her firefighter son and a widow who lost her husband, both in Tower Two at the World Trade Center, this organization has focused on advocating for (and securing the implementation of) improved safety measures such as evacuation procedures, code compliance and fire fighting safety as well as the general safety of all who live and work in high-rise buildings.

New Jersey Counter-Terrorism Tip Line
Governor James E. McGreevey is urging citizens to report suspicious behavior related to terrorism to a statewide telephone tip line. Public Service Announcements are on the air advising that, while government is working hard to keep New Yorkers safe and the State is measurably safer than it was a year ago, government can’t do it alone. If you see something suspicious, report it. Call toll-free at 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ. The Attorney General’s Office of Counter-Terrorism is coordinating this effort.

Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families
Ground Zero Memorial Design Competition

The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation has selected eight (8) memorial competition finalists from the 5,201 design submissions received from 63 nations and 49 states. The choices are on display at the World Financial Center Winter Garden, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily, until a winning design is chosen. For directions to the Winter Garden, visit www.worldfinancialcenter.com.

You may also view the eight finalists by visiting the LMDC site at www.mesite memorial.org/finalists.html. The site allows you to browse through images of the finalists’ designs, including images of their three-dimensional models, key design elements and animations of their concepts. You may also comment on them. If you have any questions concerning the LMDC you can visit the Web site: www.renewny.com or contact Anthoula Katsimatides at 212-587-9646; akatsimatides@renewny.com.

The Ground Zero Memorial design competition was launched in April 2003 based on the Memorial Mission Statement developed by two separate volunteer committees comprised of family members, residents, survivors, first responders, arts and architecture professionals and community leaders. The jury panel which selected the finalists was comprised of 13 including world renowned artists and representatives of the New York Governor and Mayor. The competition followed a public outreach program which included a mailing to all families of victims of the February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, meetings at which the public could speak directly to jury members and outreach to community groups. A compilation of all comments was delivered to each jury member.

The finalists’ designs have generated both praise and criticism. There have also been reports that the final memorial will be different from any of the eight final choices based on statements made by an LMDC spokeswoman that the finalists are being asked to clarify and address technical issues raised by the jury. In addition, the Municipal Art Society (MAS) has collected 2,700 public comments which tend to express the desire to combine various details from the designs. Your comments may be submitted at the LMDC website. All of the findings from MAS workshops and the website will be compiled into a summary report and submitted to decision makers. The jury is expected to announce a winner by the end of the year.

Library Resource: Commemorative Joint Meeting of Congress

U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg has sent a copy of the Commemorative Joint Meeting of Congress held in September 2002 at Federal Hall in New York City to each county library in New Jersey. The joint session was held in remembrance of the victims who perished in the September 11th 2001 Terrorist Attacks. The book is a compilation of federal governmental proceedings during that special session of Congress including speeches made by members of the 107th Congress.

Legislative Update

These bills were scheduled for votes just prior to press time. To learn their current status, please check the New Jersey Legislature’s Web site at: www.njleg.state.nj.us.

◆ S-1234 – License Plate Memorial Fund: Establishes a September 11th Memorial License Plate and dedicates fees from the plates to support a memorial and victims injured in attack. Reported from Senate Committee with Amendments; received a second reading in the Senate and is ready for a vote.

◆ S-1924 – Provides for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to remove the victims’ ashes and transport them in special containers to Ground Zero to be buried under a future Memorial. Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

◆ A-2753 – Identical to S-1924: Received a second reading in the Assembly and is ready for a vote.

New Jersey’s Loss

According to New York City Medical Examiner’s comprehensive list of World Trade Center victims, New Jersey lost nearly one-fourth of all victims killed that day (691 of the 2,819).
This photo was sent by the Marines of Baker Company, part of the only Marine Infantry Battalion left in Iraq. They wanted to do something to pay tribute to their fallen comrades and to “let the world know that WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN and are proud to serve our country.”