

# The Memoria Project

CREATING A LASTING TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> • ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY IN THE PROCESS  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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**The Memoria Project, Inc.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**September 3, 2003**

## **THE MEMORIA PROJECT & MONMOUTH CTY. FAMILY MEMBERS OF 9-11 VICTIMS SPONSOR 2nd ANNIVERSARY CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**

Thursday, 9/11/03 - 7:00 P.M. - Veteran's Memorial Park - Highlands  
THEME: COME HEAL WITH US

**Highlands, NJ** - The Memoria Project invites New Jersey residents to participate in a special candlelight vigil ceremony to help the community continue healing from the horror of the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks. Being sponsored by The Memoria Project on Thursday, September 11th, the public and family members of 9/11 victims will gather in front of the Memoria Project centerpiece sculptures presently located at Veteran's Memorial Park in Highlands. The peaceful and reflective program will begin at 7:00 p.m., rain or shine.

When completed, The Memoria Project will feature two large Twin Tower sculpted columns surrounded by five, large, black granite stones, symbolizing the Pentagon. The masterpiece work will bear the names of all who died on September 11th. Designed by New Jersey artist **Stephen Shaheen** and sculpted by Italian stone carvers Marcello Sennati and Ampelio Rinaldi, the marble for the 13-foot high central figures originated in the same Vermont Quarry that supplied the marble used in the United States Supreme Court building and the Jefferson Memorial. Since Spring 2002, fundraising has been underway by the non-profit to complete the sculpture and find a permanent "home" along the NJ coast.

"On behalf of the Memoria Project, I thank all the residents of Greater Monmouth County for supporting the family survivors of September 11's terrorist attacks," said **Joanne E. Smith**, Little Silver, Memoria Project Board member and widow of Karl Smith, killed at Cantor Fitzgerald on 9/11. "We invite the public to join us in a wonderful healing ceremony marked by both silence and compassionate, caring words of remembrance and love on September 11th in Veterans Park in Highlands."

"Having the service in Highlands where the sculptures are housed, is appropriate" stated **Carla Cefalo-Braswell**, President of the Highlands Business Partnership (HBP). "We were a triage center for the 9/11 disaster as well as having the Seastreak Ferry terminals here. Seastreak was instrumental in running continuous ferry service during that terrible time." The Highlands Business Partnership is a Special Improvement District dedicated to the revitalization of the Highlands Boro. The HBP is taking an active role in helping the Memoria Project raise the funds necessary to complete the memorial. Members of the Highlands Council, including Mayor Rick O'Neill, as well as the VFW and American Legion will be participating in the 9/11 service. Highlands' residents are encouraged to attend as well. For HBP information call 732-946-2711.

Please contact **Evan Urbania**, Memoria Project Executive Director, at 866.657.8663 or visit the Project's updated website at [www.memoriaproject.com](http://www.memoriaproject.com) to learn more about the candlelight vigil and the sculpture being created by The Memoria Project.

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