

PRESS RELEASE

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August 28, 2006

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MEMORIA PROJECT ANNOUNCES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION FINAL PERMANENT LOCATION CHOSEN IN HIGHLANDS, NJ

COMMUNITY CALENDAR ALERT: PLEASE POST EVENT DETAILS

Red Bank, NJ – August 28, 2006 – The Memoria Project today announced plans to mark the fifth anniversary of the events of 9/11 by holding a commemorative gathering at the memorial site in Veteran's Memorial Park, Highlands, NJ. In addition, the Project announced that the Council of the Borough of Highlands unanimously passed a motion to make the Veteran's Memorial Park the permanent home for the memorial.

The evening will begin with a picnic at 4:30PM on 9/11/06, with refreshments provided by the American Red Cross and the Highlands Business Partnership. Families, community members and local residents are all encouraged to attend. At 6:30PM, a small program will begin featuring guest speakers, local leaders and Father Kevin Keelan, who has counseled victims' families over the past five years. "We wanted to commemorate the 5-year anniversary with a celebration of life and healing," says Stephen Shaheen, President and artist behind the Memorial Project. "While holding the past close to our hearts, we recognize the important steps our community has taken to move forward after this tragic event."

It is with great excitement that the Project announces the final permanent location for the completed memorial will be Veteran's Memorial Park in Highlands. "Our all-volunteer organization worked through many design revisions and discussions with the Council and community groups to arrive at this decision. We are very pleased to stay here and happy to be embraced by the town. We look forward to working with the community to improve the park and prepare it to house this national tribute," says Evan Urbania, Executive Director of The Memoria Project.

The Memoria Project is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) New Jersey-based organization that was formed by community members shortly after 9/11. During the summer of 2002, The Memoria Project carved two 20-ton marble statues on Sandy Hook National Park. These statues were carved outdoors, where visitors and surviving family members could watch and participate. The Project ran over 35 educational programs surrounding the creation of these statues including programs on stone carving, lectures on art history and special programs for those who lost loved ones on 9/11. More information on the Project can be found at www.memoriaproject.com.

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