

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, March 7, 2008

#### HISTORIC VESEY STREET STAIR REMNANT TO MOVE ON SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 9, the historic Vesey Street Stair Remnant, known as the Survivors' Stairway, will move to a temporary storage area at the World Trade Center site in preparation for its eventual placement in the Memorial Museum. Preparation work will be taking place through the course of the weekend.

(Please note: To clarify an earlier report, there will be no ceremony, just construction work taking place on Sunday).

The Survivors' Stairway is the sole vestige above ground of the World Trade Center, a major 20th century architectural complex and engineering achievement credited with stabilizing and re-engineering the economic life of Lower Manhattan.

The Stairway was used as a vital route to safety on the morning of September 11, 2001 and is an authentic artifact that bears witness to the events of September 11. In late 2007, a resolution was reached as a result of collaboration among the Memorial & Museum, government agencies, preservationists, survivors, and the downtown community, to preserve the Stairway.

Through this agreement, the full run and scope of the stairs will be installed along the main stairway of descent in the Memorial Museum, allowing visitors to experience the artifact from the same perspective as the individuals who escaped on September 11.

The preservation and placement of the Stairway will speak to the core message that we are all "survivors" of 9/11. After the attacks of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent rescue and recovery effort, the Survivors' Stairway was declared one of the historic elements of the World Trade Center site.

In 2004, a programmatic agreement signed by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, the Lower Manhattan Emergency Preservation Fund, and various preservation and civic groups, ensured that all rebuilding projects over the next ten years preserve the surviving historic elements at the site.

To that end, the Memorial & Museum and the Port Authority are working closely with preservationists to ensure the best possible care and installation of the Stairway.

For the past three months, work crews have been preparing the stair for transfer. The work includes completing the steel bracing support beneath the stairs, extracting the connector plate and transferring it to temporary storage.

On Sunday, March 11, 2008, the full run of stairs, along with its supportive bracing, will be moved to an interim location along Vesey Street at Greenwich Street. The stair remnant originally weighed 175 tons and stood 22 feet tall.

To prepare for the move, the concrete base of the Stairway was removed, reducing its total weight to 65 tons and an elaborate steel bracing and cradling system was installed. The Stairway now stands 21 feet high and 64 feet long.

It will be moved by a 500T hydraulic crane from its present foundations to a flatbed transporter that will remain in temporary storage at the site. This summer, the Stairway is expected to be transferred to the Memorial location at the site.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to realize the Memorial quadrant at the World Trade Center site. The organization is responsible for raising the funds and overseeing the design for the project and will program and operate the Memorial & Museum located on 8 of the 16 acres of the site.

The Memorial will remember and honor the thousands of people who died in the horrific attacks of February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001. The design, created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two pools that reside in the footprints of the original Twin Towers, surrounded by a plaza of oak trees. The Arad/Walker design was selected from a design competition that included more than 5,000 entrants from 63 nations.

The Museum will display monumental artifacts associated with the events of September 11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery that are central to telling the story of September 11 and its aftermath. It will communicate key messages that embrace both the specificity and the universal implications of the events of 9/11; document the impact of those events on individual lives, as well as on local, national, and international communities; and explore the continuing significance of these events for our global community.

Donations can be made through and more information can be found at the Memorial & Museum's website, [www.national911memorial.org](http://www.national911memorial.org), or by calling 1-877-WTC-GIVE.

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