

GOOD MORNING.

REMEMBER. HONOR. REFLECT. CONTEMPLATE. RECOGNIZE.
COURAGE. SACRIFICE. MEMORY. COMPASSION – WORDS USED SO OFTEN
BY SO MANY BUT NEVER WITH SUCH MEANING AS WHEN ATTACHED TO
THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11TH.

THIS MORNING, WE RESUME A JOURNEY THAT STARTED LONG
BEFORE THE LAUNCH OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE MEMORIAL
COMPETITION, A JOURNEY THAT, IN A SENSE, BEGAN WITHIN MOMENTS
OF THE ATTACK...IT BEGAN WITH THE FIRST FLOWER LAID GENTLY ON
THE STEPS OF TRINITY CHURCH...THE FIRST CANDLE TO FLICKER IN
UNION SQUARE PARK...THE FIRST HEARTFELT MESSAGE INSCRIBED ON
THE VIEWING PLATFORM OVERLOOKING GROUND ZERO.

THAT JOURNEY CONTINUED ON APRIL 24 OF THIS YEAR, WHEN THE
LOWER MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LAUNCHED WHAT
BECAME THE LARGEST DESIGN COMPETITION IN HISTORY FOR A
MEMORIAL AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE. THE TREMENDOUS
RESPONSE REFLECTS A FAITH IN HUMANITY THAT TRANSCENDS
GEOGRAPHY OR NATIONALITY. FROM ACROSS SIX CONTINENTS, 63
NATIONS AND 49 STATES, 5201 INDIVIDUALS ANSWERED THE CALL TO
HONOR ALL THOSE WE LOST ON SEPTEMBER 11TH AND IN THE 1993
BOMBING. THEIRS WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGE, BUT THEY DID NOT
FACE IT ALONE. TO GUIDE THE WAY, THEY HAD A BLUEPRINT - THE HOPES

AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PUBLIC, EMBODIED IN THE COMPETITION MISSION STATEMENT AND PROGRAM.

I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LMDC'S FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS, WHO DEVELOPED THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE MISSION AND PROGRAM OVER A YEAR AND A HALF AGO. THE COURAGE YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN THE FACE OF SUCH PROFOUND PERSONAL LOSS SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION TO EVERY ONE OF US. THANK YOU.

USING THAT PROGRAM AND MISSION STATEMENT AS A STARTING POINT, WE ENGAGED IN A GREAT PUBLIC DISCOURSE THAT RECALLED THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF THE VERY DEMOCRACY THAT CAME UNDER ATTACK ON SEPTEMBER 11TH. FOR MORE THAN 18 MONTHS, THE LMDC JOINED WITH MANY OF YOU - FAMILIES, RESIDENTS, CIVIC LEADERS – AS WELL AS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS AROUND THE WORLD. IN MEETINGS, E-MAILS, DISCUSSIONS, AND TENS-OF THOUSANDS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS, TOGETHER WE SHAPED THE BLUEPRINT THAT WOULD GUIDE THIS COMPETITION.

THAT BLUEPRINT ENSURES THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHERE THE TOWERS ONCE STOOD, AND NEVER FORGET EVERY INDIVIDUAL WHO DIED DURING TWO NATIONAL DAYS OF TRAGEDY. THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A CONTEMPLATIVE PLACE FOR QUIET REFLECTION, AND A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE KNOWN ONLY TO GOD.

TODAY, WE COME TOGETHER TO SEE HOW EIGHT FINALISTS GAVE FORM TO THOSE POWERFUL IDEAS. THE FINALISTS WERE SELECTED BY AN INDEPENDENT JURY THAT DEDICATED HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF THEIR TIME TO REVIEW THE SUBMISSIONS. I WANT TO THANK OUR JURY MEMBERS FOR LENDING SUCH EXPERTISE AND INSIGHT TO THIS EFFORT. I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT HAS BEEN TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS. I ALSO KNOW IT WILL NOT GET ANY EASIER. YOU HAVE MANAGED THIS PROCESS WITH DIGNITY AND GRACE, AND I HAVE THE FULLEST CONFIDENCE THAT AS WE MOVE FORWARD, YOU, AND YOU ALONE, WILL CHOOSE A TRULY FITTING MEMORIAL. I ALSO WANT TO THANK ANITA CONTINI, LMDC'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMORIAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAM, WHO HAS DONE AN EXPERT JOB SEEING THIS COMPETITION THROUGH.

AND I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO SUBMITTED PROPOSALS. YOUR VERY PARTICIPATION IS A MONUMENT TO OUR SHARED LOSS.

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN, WHO IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, HAS GIVEN A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE ON BEHALF OF LOWER MANHATTAN, AFTER HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN DECADES OF SERVICE ON BEHALF OF OUR NATION. BEFORE THERE WAS AN LMDC, BEFORE THERE WAS A SITE PLAN, BEFORE THERE WAS A MEMORIAL COMPETITION, THERE WAS JOHN WHITEHEAD, WHOSE WISDOM LIT THE PATH THAT BROUGHT US HERE.

CHAIRMAN WHITEHEAD.

CONCLUSION

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL OF YOU TO DISCOVER THESE EIGHTS DESIGNS. I WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THEM, BECAUSE I COULD NOT DO THEM JUSTICE. INSTEAD, I WILL LET THEM SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. NOT EVERY QUESTION HAS BEEN ANSWERED, PARTICULARLY HOW WE RECOGNIZE THOSE WE LOST, NOR CAN EVERY QUESTION BE ANSWERED TODAY. FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING WILL EVOLVE OVER TIME, AS WILL THE MEMORIAL. IT IS ONLY THROUGH THIS PRISM OF TIME THAT THE MEMORIAL CAN BE JUDGED. THE MEMORIAL FINALISTS YOU WILL SEE TODAY REFLECT THE PUBLIC'S ASPIRATIONS AND AS SUCH, THE FINALISTS TELL US AS MUCH ABOUT OURSELVES AS THEY DO ABOUT THOSE THEY SEEK TO REMEMBER AND HONOR.

WHICHEVER MEMORIAL THE JURY SELECTS, WHEN THEIR WORK IS DONE, WE WILL HAVE CREATED A LIVING 16-ACRE MEMORIAL. WE WILL HAVE RECLAIMED OUR PROUD SKYLINE WITH THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE WORLD, A NEW SYMBOL OF OUR NATION'S RESILIENCE. WE WILL HAVE RESTORED LIGHT AND LIFE TO A PLACE MADE DARK BY EVIL. WE WILL HAVE MET TERROR WITH CULTURE, AND HATRED WITH HEALING. WE WILL HAVE RESTORED THE ECONOMIC ENGINE THAT WILL FUEL OUR RESURGENCE. AND WE WILL HAVE CREATED A SANCTUARY WITHIN A

CITY, A SPECIAL PLACE TO LOOK BACK WITH HEAVY HEARTS, AND
FORWARD WITH GREAT HOPE - A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

THANK YOU.