



Mayor Annise D. Parker

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Media Contacts:

Kim Stinebaker/Marta Fredricks
Dancie Perugini Ware Public Relations, 713.224.9115
kim@dpwpr.com; marta@dpwpr.com;
Janice Evans-Davis
City of Houston, 832.393.0800
janice.evans@houstontx.gov

**MAYOR ANNISE D. PARKER TO ANNOUNCE EVENTS TO COMEMMORATE THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH**
Community Service, Performances and Remembrance Opportunities top the List

Houston, TX – The City of Houston in partnership with Houston Grand Opera (HGO), Compassionate Houston and community leaders announce a weekend of activities to commemorate the 10th anniversary of one of the worst tragedies in America’s history, the September 11th attacks.

The City has planned events throughout the Houston area beginning on Friday, September 9, at noon in Hermann Square at City Hall. Mayor Annise Parker, joined by the Houston Police and Fire Departments, will lead citizens in a patriotic tribute to those who lost their lives that fateful day. In addition to a color guard and traditional inspirational music, the Houston Grand Opera will perform a commemorative song cycle by composer Jake Heggie and writer Gene Scheer, *Pieces of 9/11 – Memories from Houston*, commissioned by the HGOco’s Song of Houston project. The song-cycle tells the stories of Houston-area first responders who volunteered in New York, as well as those in our City affected by the attacks.

“So many lives were lost due to the acts of terrorism against this country ten years ago,” said Mayor Parker. “The anniversary of that tragedy stirs emotion and memories. I know the families who lost loved ones are still grieving. May they find solace in knowing that many grieve with them – not only here in Houston, but across this great nation. I urge Houstonians to join with the rest of the country in pausing for a moment of remembrance at noon, Houston time, Sunday, September 11.”

Houston’s participation in the September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance will include the 2nd Annual First Ladies’ Eco Bash on the Bayou. Houstonians are invited to join First Lady Kathy Hubbard and former First Lady and Port Commissioner Elyse Lanier in picking up trash along the banks of Braes Bayou at Hockley Street and Broadway Street. In addition, approximately 3,000 trees will be planted in memory of the number of lives lost on 9/11. A light lunch will follow at Brady’s Landing.

In partnership with the Port of Houston, Harris County and the City of Houston, the First Ladies Eco Bash is also supported by the Houston Parks Board, Trees For Houston, Keep Houston Beautiful, the Greater East End District, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Mayor’s Office of Special Events, Solid Waste Management Department and the Houston Fire and Police Departments.

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Houston's observance will culminate with the 9-11 Heroes Run (5K) on Sunday, September 11, at Ellington Airport. Opening ceremonies begin at 8:30 a.m. and will include Mayor Parker, a selection from HGO's musical tribute, *Pieces of 9/11, Memories of Houston* and combined color guards. The race will start at 9:03 a.m., the time the South Tower was attacked in New York ten years ago. Proceeds of the event will support the Travis Manion Foundation and Houston's Assist the Officer program.

Service Corporation International is offering a 9/11 Memorial Guest Book for those who want to share thoughts with the families of those who were lost. The website is available at www.dignitymemorial.com/911 or at kiosks placed at locations (Public Libraries, etc.) throughout the City.

Weekend of Events

Friday, September 9, 2011

Weekend Kick-Off and Tribute

- 12 p.m. in Hermann Square at City Hall (45 min)
- Mayor Parker and community leaders announce the weekend's activities
- Inspirational service at City Hall with music, readings, prayers, and placing of flowers in Reflection Pond
- Performance by Quintuple Bypass, the U.S. Army Medical Command Band from Fort Sam Houston. The traveling band is known for staging morale boosting performances and outreach efforts far from their base.
- Houston Grand Opera performs *Pieces of 9/11 – Memories from Houston*, a song-cycle by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer
- Combined Color Guard provided by the Houston Police and Fire Departments

Houston Remembers

- 7 p.m. at Discovery Green (1500 McKinney Street)
- Watch the Houston premiere of "REBIRTH," an award-winning documentary that follows the transformation of five people, over the course of seven years, whose lives were forever altered on Sept. 11, 2001.
- Houston Grand Opera performs selection from *Pieces of 9/11 – Memories from Houston*, a song-cycle by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer
- FREE; visit www.dignitymemorial.com/911 for more information

Saturday, September 10, 2011

First Ladies' Eco Bash on the Bayou

- 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. along Braes Bayou (Hockley Street at Broadway Street)
- The Eco Bash partners, the City of Houston, Harris County and the Port of Houston are supported by the Mayor's Office of Special Events, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Solid Waste Management Department, Houston Parks Board, Keep Houston Beautiful, Trees For Houston and the Greater East End District.
- Opportunities for volunteers to clean-up and plant approximately 3,000 trees in representation of the number of victims who perished on September 11, 2001.
- Houston Grand Opera performs selection from *Pieces of 9/11 – Memories from Houston*, a song-cycle by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer
- Flash and Trash Fashion Show produced by Neal Hamil Agency and garments provided by HCC design students

Annual September Concert Foundation

- 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in Cullen Hall at St. Thomas University
- A global celebration of music to reaffirm hope for peace and to celebrate life and universal humanity

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Compassionate Houston

- Log onto compassionatehouston.org to find volunteer and service activities organized by religious or other community groups/nonprofits throughout the greater Houston area

Sunday, September 11, 2011

9-11 Heroes Run

- 8:30 a.m. Pre-Event Ceremonies at Ellington Airport (Main Gate)
- Houston Grand Opera performs selection from *Pieces of 9/11 – Memories from Houston*, a song-cycle by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer
- 9:03 a.m. 5K run/walk to honor the fallen by challenging the living
- Proceeds of the event will support the Travis Manion Foundation and Assist the Officer of Houston
- \$25.00 Registration fee
- www.911heroesrun.com

9/11 National Moment of Remembrance

- 12:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. EDT)
- The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution (S. Res. 237) calling all Americas to join in a Moment of Remembrance. Stop and remember those lives lost on 9/11.
- www.lautenberg.senate.gov/stopandremember

HGO Song Cycle – *Pieces of 9-11 - Memories from Houston*

- 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Rothko Chapel (1408 Sul Ross Street)
- Houston Grand Opera performs selection from *Pieces of 9/11-Memories from Houston*, a song-cycle by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer

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