

Remember

9/11 Memorial website honors victims, heroes

Fifteen years. Children born in September of 2001 are now entering high school and leaving childhood and innocence behind.

Fifteen years. That's how long the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have been raging. While officially declared over, U.S. troops are still engaged in hostilities in both countries. More than 6,000 U.S. troops have died, and tens of thousands have been wounded, in the long and costly conflicts. The price tag to wage the wars, treat the veterans, replenish the military, and pay social and economic costs is estimated at a staggering \$4 to 6 trillion and counting.

Fifteen years. That's how long it's been since the worst terrorist attack on the United States in history. Its impact still reverberates.



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InSites

Tomorrow is the 15th anniversary of 9/11. It's a time for remembrance and reflection. If you can't get to one of the memorials at the sites of the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon or Shanksville, you can visit **911Memorial.org** to see the efforts that have been made to honor the victims of that dark day.

The website is the online presence of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, which is at the site where the twin towers once stood in lower Manhattan. While it's primarily dedicated to the attacks on the World Trade Center — in 2001 and 1993 — it also has a lot of information and imagery on the Pentagon and Shanksville attacks.

As an extension of the physical site, the website has information on visiting the memorial and museum. You can purchase tickets online for a specific date and time to the museum. The memorial is free with no reservations required. There are directions to the site and information on groups, tours, accessibility and more. Descriptions of the exhibits, photos and a virtual tour give you a good idea of what to expect.

The website offers information about the design and meaning of the museum, memorial and the various features of both. The process of selecting designers, exhibits, materials, landscaping and more is explored.

Devoted to remembrance

But the website is not solely devoted to the museum and memorial. It also contains content devoted to remembering and archiving the events of 9/11.

Some of the most powerful content is audio and video recordings made by survivors, rescue workers and family members of victims. Their deeply personal accounts remind you that it was real people — with family, friends and loved ones — who died that day, not just numbers in the news.

There are three interactive timelines in the Teach + Learn section of the website. One focuses on the September 11 attacks in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania. The second one focuses on the recovery efforts at Ground Zero in Manhattan, and the third goes back to the World Trade Center bombing in 1993.

All three timelines feature a combination of text, image, video and audio that chronicle the tragic and heroic events. For those of us old enough to remember 9/11, viewing the timelines will bring back some of the same powerful emotions felt when watching the events unfold live. We've seen some of the footage many times already, but it still packs a terrible gut punch, especially when accompanied by audio of the shocked people watching it as it happens. You're reminded once again of how surreal that day was.

The Teach + Learn section also has tools for educators. There's educational programs, lesson plans, teaching guides and more. One section deals with how to talk to young children about 9/11. Anyone who had grade schoolers in 2001 remembers struggling with how to explain the inescapable, horrific news coverage to them in ways they could deal with.

911 Memorial has an understated design with muted colors and simple typography. The navigation is fairly straightforward, though I ran into occasional issues trying to get back to the home page from some inside pages. The quality of the images, video and audio varies due to the circumstances some of it was made under:

This site is a valuable resource to help us remember a day we wish we could forget.

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Coming Sunday

The events of 9/11 redirected the lives of some area residents. Don't miss their stories in The Sunday Times.

