

SEPTEMBER 23, 2006

# Shown in tribute

Until the permanent World Trade Center Memorial and Museum are completed, artifacts from Ground Zero are on display at Tribute WTC Visitor Center, across Liberty Street just west of Church.

Spread out across two floors, the 6,000 feet of exhibit space contains pieces of the two planes that struck the towers, as well as a collage of photos and personal effects of 9/11 victims. Visitors have described the material as emotional, moving and touching. Here are some examples.



**SCARRED BANNER:** This flag was recovered from the pile in the early days after Sept. 11, leading center officials to conclude it came from a high floor in one of the towers or possibly from a pole on the roof. The Port Authority dedicated a flag pole in 1985 on top of Tower 1 to returning Vietnam veterans, for example. *Photo by Peter Arnell.*



**INTENSE HEAT:** Two handguns, believed to be .357 Smith and Wesson models that were stored in federal offices in the World Trade Center, were found forged together, an indication of the intense heat from fires started on Sept. 11.



**STORIES OF SONS:** John Vigiano, a retired firefighter from Deer Park, lost both his sons, firefighter John Thomas Vigiano, 36, right, and police Det. Joseph Vigiano, 34, at far right, in the attack. He would often visit the site during recovery efforts, and police officers or firefighters would approach him with stories about his sons. He asked that they put the stories into letters, which were eventually bound into books of about 250 pages each for members of the family.



**SURVIVOR'S BAG:** Jim Geiger walked down from the 51st floor of the North Tower and survived the attack. His computer briefcase, battered and dusty, was found in the rubble and returned to him by the NYPD. He donated it to the State Museum in Albany, which lent it to the center.





**LAST FRAME:** Photojournalist Bill Biggart, at right, took this image of the Marriott Hotel on West Street after it was cut in half by the collapsing South Tower. Moments later, he was killed by the collapsing North Tower. His damaged digital and film cameras were returned to his widow, Wendy Doremus.



**FAMILY PHOTOS:** Among the large collection of family photos at the center is one of Keithroy Maynard – a second-generation firefighter from Brooklyn who died on 9/11 – and his son, Keithroy Jr. Maynard was assigned to Engine Co. 33 on Great Jones Street in Manhattan, a company that lost seven members on 9/11. Attached to the photo is Maynard's high school ID card.



**EVERYDAY OBJECTS:** Jeep keys that belonged to Alfred Braca of Leonardo, N.J. He was 54 at the time of the attack and a vice president for Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th floor of Tower One. The keys were among the everyday objects, which included a bank statement, that were recovered with his body.



**BATTERED PROTECTION:** This helmet belonged to firefighter Jonathan Ielpi, 29, who responded to the Trade Center with his Queens company and died trying to rescue victims during the attack. This helmet and his coat were found two weeks after his body was recovered, an indication of the devastating force of the towers' collapse. *Photo by Peter Arnell.*

