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**Media Alert**  
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***USS NEW YORK: In Tribute***  
***Exhibition opening at the Tribute WTC Visitor Center***

On **Friday, October 30, 2009**, at **10:00 AM**, the Tribute WTC Visitor Center will open a new exhibit, *USS NEW YORK: In Tribute*.

*USS NEW YORK: In Tribute* explores the unique qualities and attributes associated with steel, a metal central to the formation of modern New York, and transformed in this ship into a symbol of the strength and humanity of our nation. In the Tribute Center tradition of "Person-to-Person History," the exhibit invites visitors to "Meet the Builders," "Meet the Crew," and learn about naval traditions such as Mast Stepping. Decode the meaning of the USS NEW YORK crest and learn more about the fascinating technology behind this newly-launched, amphibious transport ship. Inter-actives, videos, audio stories and compelling artifacts allow visitors the feeling that they are at the launch.

The exhibit also explores the personal meaning of how the steel was delicately recycled, the personal dedication of the Northrop Grumman shipbuilders and the emotional ties for the USS NEW YORK crew.

Quotes from the keynote speakers at the opening are as follows:

"The steel beams that were used to build the USS New York demonstrate that we can recover from a terrible tragedy and create something positive. We are doing the same thing at the World Trade Center site by working diligently every day to build the Memorial to honor those who lost their lives on 9/11." – Chris Ward, Executive Director, PANYNJ

"There's going to be a day when this ship will be in service and...maybe 50 years from now, long after us, people will want to know exactly where the steel came from. It came from the World Trade Center." – Mark Schaming, Director of Exhibits, New York State Museum

"Forged from 7 1/2 tons of World Trade Center steel and the dedication of its many shipbuilders, the *USS NEW YORK* naval ship honors our heroes both past and present. That unique history is presented in this exhibition, allowing countless visitors to understand the impact of 9/11 and the emotion that surrounded the creation of the ship, helping to preserve the memory of 9/11 with purpose." – Joe Daniels, President, 9/11 Memorial & Museum

"USS New York (LPD 21) unites our nation's past, present and future like no other warship. So long as we have dedicated forces fighting to preserve freedom the world over, we will always have Sailors and Marines serving side-by-side working to defend that freedom in honor and memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11. It's just like the ship's motto says, "Strength forged through sacrifice. Never forget.""  
-- Lieutenant Commander Suzanna Brugler, United States Navy

"As a family member I feel that by having this exhibit honoring the USS New York, its builders and crew we are also paying tribute to our loved ones. We are upholding our message to never forget and that we're standing strong for them." - Lee Ielpi - September 11th Families Association, Co-Founder Tribute WTC Visitor Center

The exhibition *USS NEW YORK: In Tribute* will be open at the Tribute WTC Visitor Center until Spring 2010. While the exhibition is open, visitors will periodically be invited to write notes to the USS NEW YORK crew.

For downloadable pictures of the exhibit, please visit <http://www.tributewtc.org/press/index.php>. For any further information about the USS NEW YORK, please visit [www.ussny.org](http://www.ussny.org).

***About the Tribute WTC Visitor Center***

*The Tribute WTC Visitor Center is located at 120 Liberty Street along the south side of the World Trade Center site. The center was created by the September 11th Families' Association to share the personal stories of victims, survivors, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and residents of Lower Manhattan. By engaging visitors in the authentic experiences of those most affected by the events of February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001, the center's five galleries and its walking tour program convey the courage, loss, heroism, and grief of those who responded to the tragedy.*

*The Tribute WTC Visitor Center is open seven days a week: Mondays, and Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 10AM to 6 PM; Tuesdays from noon until 6 PM; and Sundays from noon to 5 PM. Walking tours around the perimeter of Ground Zero are also conducted daily. For further information please visit our website, [www.tributewtc.org](http://www.tributewtc.org). For school or group reservations of 10 or more people, please contact Tribute Visitor Services at (866) 737-1184.*

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