



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ALBANY, N.Y. 12232
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JOAN McDONALD
COMMISSIONER

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

September 15, 2011

Dear Friends:

Sunday marked the tenth anniversary of a tragic day. Under a clear blue sky that seemed incongruous with the events that unfolded, our world changed on September 11, 2001. The New York State Department of Transportation was not spared. Our friends See Wong Shum, Ignatius Adanga, and Charles Lesperance were taken too soon from us. To their families, I extend my personal condolences and those of the men and women of the Department of Transportation. To the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council family, I know you still feel a deep sense of loss. You too are in our thoughts.

Our meeting today is being held in a room dedicated to the memory of Charles, Ignatius, and Shum. Their memory lives on through the September 11th Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning, a living tribute that was created in their honor to continue their passion for learning and dedication to regional planning.

We are also moving forward in our efforts to rebuild lower Manhattan and ensure that we never forget those we lost on that tragic day. Where there once was devastation, there are now buildings and a new transit center under construction. Downtown is a growing, bustling community that will again have a stunning centerpiece, rising out of the ashes.

We are proud that our work on Route 9A continues to be woven around and through the work of the Memorial Foundation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, helping them with their great work and building our own grand pedestrian promenade and urban boulevard at the same time.

In our actions and our hearts, we will not forget our three friends and colleagues and all the people lost on September 11, 2001.

Thank you for being with us today as we look back on the first five years of the September 11th Memorial Program, look forward to rebuilding lower Manhattan, and resolve to always remember.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan McDonald".

Joan McDonald
Commissioner