

Vechnaya Pamyat, Eternal Memory

The Memorial Ceremony proceeded to its conclusion as Master of Ceremonies Michael Pelliccio of the Bayonne Fire Department called upon Municipal Council President Sharon Nadrowski and Fire Chief Weaver to lay the wreath at the base of the Tear of Sorrow monument. This was followed by Consul General Ovsyannikov placing a large bouquet of roses beside the wreath. The Schiller Institute NYC Chorus was joined by Kevin Maynor in the singing (in Russian) of the prayer, *'Vechnaya Pamyat'* ('Eternal Memory').

Father John Fencik of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA then offered the Prayer of Commendation, closing with the chant:

In blessed repose, grant You total rest, O Lord
To the souls of your faithful departed servants,

And make eternal their memory.
Eternal memory. Eternal memory.
Blessed repose. Eternal memory.
May He bless you, Almighty God,
Descend upon you, and remain with you
For all times.
Amen.

As the Color and Honor Guards again moved to the front of the monument, with the American and Russian Federation flags included in parade, New York City police officer Kevin Shaw sang "God Bless America." The Colors were then retired, members of the public were invited to lay white carnations beside the wreath, and the Memorial Ceremony was brought to a close.

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Remarks of Ambassador Antonov to 9/11 Memorial

H.E. Anatoly Antonov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States, sent the following message to the participants at the memorial ceremony paying tribute to the victims of the 9/11 attacks, at the Tear of Sorrow monument in Bayonne, NJ, on September 12, 2021.

Dear friends,

These days we mourn the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. I would like to express my sincere condolences to the nearest and dearest of all those who lost their lives two decades ago because of inhuman actions of terrorists.

Nearly 3,000 people died as a result of the barbaric hijacking of four passenger planes and the following attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Among the victims were citizens of the United States as well as dozens of other countries, including our compatriots—Russians and immigrants from the former U.S.S.R.

Right after the tragedy, Russia expressed its full solidarity with the Americans. Our country has also experienced horrific human tragedy from massive terrorist attacks, which took lives of hundreds of innocent people.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was the first

world leader to call his American colleague, George W. Bush after those terrorist attacks. "I bow to the victims' memory, and admire New Yorkers' courage," wrote the Russian leader on the Memorial Wall at the site of the collapsed Twin Towers of the World Trade Center during his visit to the U.S. in November 2001.

The 9/11 tragedy has shown that terrorism is a common global threat. Any attempts to create isolated "islands of security" in the modern interconnected world are ephemeral and doomed to failure. The victory over terrorists can be achieved only through joint efforts of the entire international community. There is no place for carelessness and double standards in this regard. It is unacceptable to divide terrorists into the good and the bad.

Vladimir Putin as well as Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov have stated multiple times that cooperation in counterterrorism meets the interests of both Moscow and Washington. Interaction in this sphere can save lives of hundreds of people.

The Tear of Sorrow monument testifies to the unity of our peoples in the face of the global terrorist threat. This memorial epitomizes grief, which the Russians share with the Americans.