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**NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW SPEAKERS SERIES PROGRAM
TO PROBE CURRENT ISSUES AND DISCUSS TOPICS RELATED TO 9/11**

*Pulitzer-prize Winning New York Times Reporter David Rohde, who Escaped Taliban Captivity, Will
Recount His Story as Part of the Public Series at 9/11 Memorial Preview Site*

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today announced the launch of “9/11, Today and Tomorrow,” a dynamic new public program featuring speakers who will explore issues relevant to 9/11 and its continuing impact on the world in which we live. The speakers will cover topics including challenges of post-9/11 security, the trial of 2001 attack mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other current subjects related to the ongoing implications of the September 11, 2001 attacks. The first evening program in the series will begin on March 31 at 6:30 p.m. with StoryCorps founder Dave Isay at the 9/11 Memorial Preview Site, located at 20 Vesey Street in Lower Manhattan.

The wide-ranging lecture series is designed to illustrate the residual effects of 9/11, discuss ongoing implications and educate the public about the 9/11 Memorial. With September 11, 2001 as the backdrop, speakers will discuss how 9/11 continues to influence foreign affairs, culture, literature, the world community and the media.

The first four events in the series are scheduled for March 31, April 28, May 19 and June 23 at the 9/11 Memorial Preview Site. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with the speaking program starting at 6:30 p.m. Each program is expected to last at least an hour, allowing time for the audience to ask questions of the speaker.

“The Memorial and Museum’s core mission is two-fold: to honor the victims of September 11 and to preserve the history of that day,” 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. “Providing a forum for learning and discussion is a crucial part of our efforts to gain a better understanding of 9/11 history. This series will engage the public in current issues surrounding the events of 9/11 that continue to shape the world in which we live. These ever-evolving issues should be explored, examined and discussed. Our organization will not be expressing a point of view through this series, but will seek to engage discussions that may provide further understanding of an unprecedented moment in history.”

The “9/11, Today and Tomorrow” series will include a presentation from New York Times reporter David Rohde, a two-time Pulitzer prize-winner, who covered conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries. Rohde and two Afghan colleagues were kidnapped by the Taliban. He was threatened with beheadings and held captive more than seven months until his escape.

“Delivering a public lecture about the Taliban will allow me to respond to audience members’ questions in a personal and immediate way that is not possible in a newspaper,” Times reporter David Rohde said. “Questions from audience members often focus on important issues and areas I had not considered. The goal of a lecture should be that the speaker and audience learn from one another.”

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The series debut features Dave Isay of StoryCorps, a nonprofit organization undertaking a national effort to record, share and preserve the stories of all Americans. StoryCorps has partnered with the 9/11 Memorial to record interviews with families and friends of every person killed in the 2001 attacks. Since 2005, StoryCorps has operated a recording booth in lower Manhattan, where it has collected family histories, memories and other 9/11-related stories. Isay's presentation will include some of these riveting 9/11 recordings.

"StoryCorps is honored and humbled to be part of the effort to help record the story of 9/11 with the voices of those who lived through it and to memorialize all the lives that were lost on that day," said StoryCorps Founder and President Dave Isay. "Our 9/11 Initiative was created with the belief that families and friends should have a sacred space to remember their loved ones and that survivors and rescue workers should have a safe place to talk about what they witnessed that day. We hope that each StoryCorps interview will continue the process of healing the wounds our country suffered from the 9/11 attack and serve as a beacon of hope for friends and families."

Future events in the series will include a progress report on the Memorial & Museum, being constructed at the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan. The 9/11 Memorial is slated for a 2011 opening.

Event Schedule for Speakers Series "9/11, Today and Tomorrow."

Sharing our Humanity through Shared 9/11 Remembrances - Wednesday, March 31, 6:30 p.m.

- **Dave Isay**, founder of StoryCorps—a national initiative documenting stories of everyday Americans—has received numerous broadcasting honors including five Peabody Awards for his work. He is the author of four books including *New York Times* bestseller "*Listening Is an Act of Love*." Isay will discuss the StoryCorps September 11th Initiative, and he'll feature a selection of intimate and personal recordings related to the events of 9/11.

9/11 and Trials of Terror – Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

- A panel will offer a dialogue with multiple perspectives on a complex subject – trying terror suspects in civilian courts and military tribunals, with a discussion regarding the Khalid Sheikh Mohammed trial. Panelists include **Karen Greenberg**, the executive director New York University's Center on Law and Security, and **Dennis Farrell**, a nationally recognized security expert with more than three decades in law enforcement, and New York State Supreme Court Judge **Edward McCarty**, an expert in military tribunals.

Understanding the Enemy: Counterterrorism and al Qaeda – Wednesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.

- As the FBI program manager and instructor at West Point's Combating Terrorism Center, **Bill Braniff** conducts cutting-edge research in counterterrorism and trains law enforcement on how to "understand the enemy." Braniff's expertise helps officials to battle terrorism with a fresh perspective and greater understanding of Islamic ideology.

Escaping the Taliban – Wednesday, June 23, 6:30 p.m.

- **David Rohde**, a two-time Pulitzer prize winning reporter for the *New York Times*, has covered conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries. From November 2008 to June 2009, he was held captive by the Taliban before escaping. He is the co-author of the forthcoming book "*A Rope and A Prayer: The Story of A Kidnapping*." A five-part series that Rohde wrote on his captivity and escape for the *New York Times* was recently awarded the 2009 George Polk Award for foreign reporting.

Due to space limitations, RSVP is recommended to guarantee a seat up to 10 minutes after programming begins. When space is available, admission will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis on the evening of the program. Please call 212-312-8809 or online at

www.national911memorial.org/rsvp. A suggested donation of \$10 per person will help support ongoing programming.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the not-for-profit corporation created to oversee the design, raise the funds, and program and operate the Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center site. The Memorial & Museum will be located on eight of the 16 acres of the site.

The Memorial will remember and honor the nearly 3,000 people who died in the horrific attacks of February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001. The design, created by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, consists of two pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers and a plaza of trees.

The Museum will display monumental artifacts linked to the events of September 11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery that are central to telling the story of the 2001 attacks and the aftermath. It will communicate key messages that embrace both the specificity and the universal implications of the events of 9/11; document the impact of those events on individual lives, as well as on local, national, and international communities; and explore the continuing significance of these events for our global community.

Donations can be made through and more information can be found at the Memorial & Museum's website, www.national911memorial.org.

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