

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1124 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

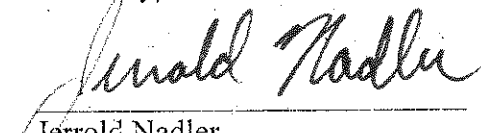
We write today as Members of the New York and Virginia Delegations to respectfully request \$25 million in the FY2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill to fully fund the 9/11 Memorial Competitive Grant Program.

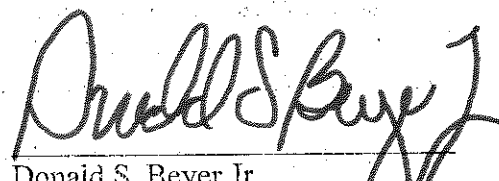
Last year, Congress passed the 9/11 Memorial Act with broad bipartisan support to authorize a competitive grant program within the Department of the Interior to provide funds for operations, security, and maintenance of 9/11 Memorials. These grants are critical to ensure that memorials to those who died on September 11, 2001 – like the acre-wide reflecting pools in the footprint of the Twin Towers in New York and the solemn benches marking each life lost on the grounds of the Pentagon – remain a place of reflection and remembrance for every American. As time passes, these memorials will continue to stand. Every generation should know the tragic events of that Tuesday morning and the heroism of those who rushed back to the burning Pentagon and on to the pile at Ground Zero to put out fires, search for survivors, clear debris, and rebuild for months and years.

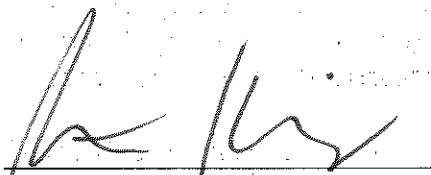
Fully funding the grants at \$25 million will ensure that the memorials have necessary funds to cover maintenance, operations, and security fees. As memorials to an act of terror, these sites face high security costs to protect the millions of visitors each year. Further, as sites that mark the death of thousands of Americans, the sites often remain open at all hours so that family members may visit, making operations cost higher. For example, the World Trade Center Memorial site sits in the middle of Lower Manhattan and remains open year round, creating major security and maintenance costs. The Pentagon Memorial is open 24 hours a day, and, to meet the volume and demand of visitors, the Pentagon Memorial Fund develops a wide variety of educational materials and programs. The funds these grants provide will ensure that the memorials are able to maintain this level of access and continue to provide ground-breaking educational programming, particularly for school groups and students born after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.


We made a promise in the days after 9/11 – to never forget. These memorials represent that promise – to never forget the bravery, the sacrifice, and the honor we saw that day. We request \$25 million for the 9/11 Memorial competitive grant to keep that promise.

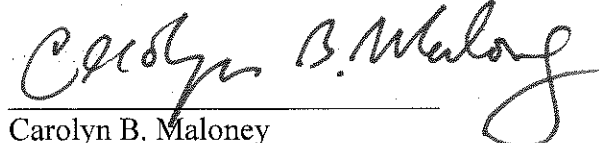
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

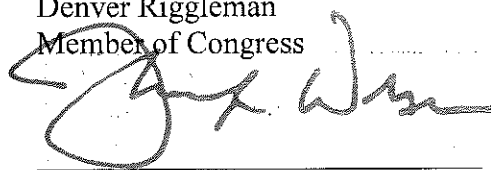
  
Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

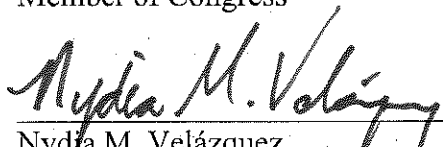
  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress


  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

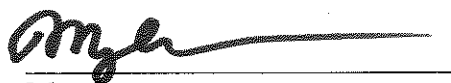
  
Denver Riggleman  
Member of Congress

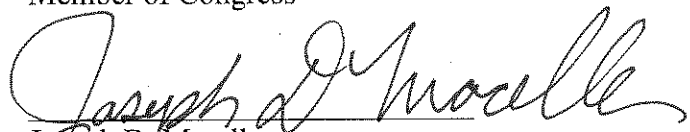
  
John Katko  
Member of Congress

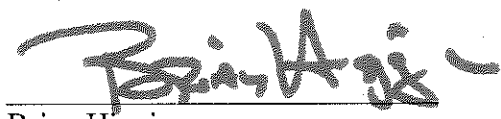
  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress


  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

  
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress


  
Max Rose  
Member of Congress

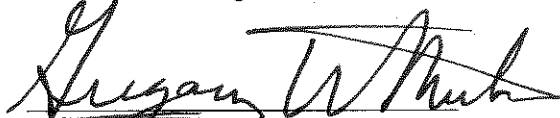
  
Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress


  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

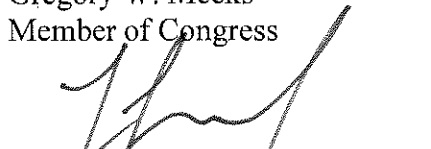
  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

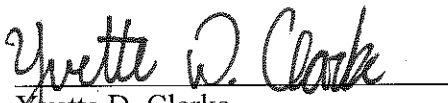
  
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

  
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

  
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

  
Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

*Kathleen M. Rice*

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress