





*Years
Remembering*



The Story of the *Survivor Tree*

The Survivor Tree is a Callery pear tree that became a powerful symbol of resilience after surviving the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center.

DISCOVERY AND RECOVERY

In October 2001, weeks after the collapse of the Twin Towers, a lone Callery pear was found in the rubble at Ground Zero. It had snapped roots, scorched bark, and broken branches, but still bore a few leaves – a sign that it was alive. The tree was carefully removed from the debris and placed in the care of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

REHABILITATION

For nearly a decade, the tree was nurtured on Van Cortlandt on the Bronx. Arborists, botanists, and city workers gave it intensive care, helping it recover from the trauma of the attacks. In 2010, it was replanted at the 9/11 Memorial site, just west of the South Pool, six feet beneath the plaza.

SYMBOLISM

The Survivor Tree stands over 30 feet tall today, with smooth new limbs emerging from its gnarled stumps. It blooms each spring with thousands of small white flowers and changes colors through the seasons. Its survival and rebirth have made it a living reminder of resilience, survival, and hope.

SEEDLING PROGRAM

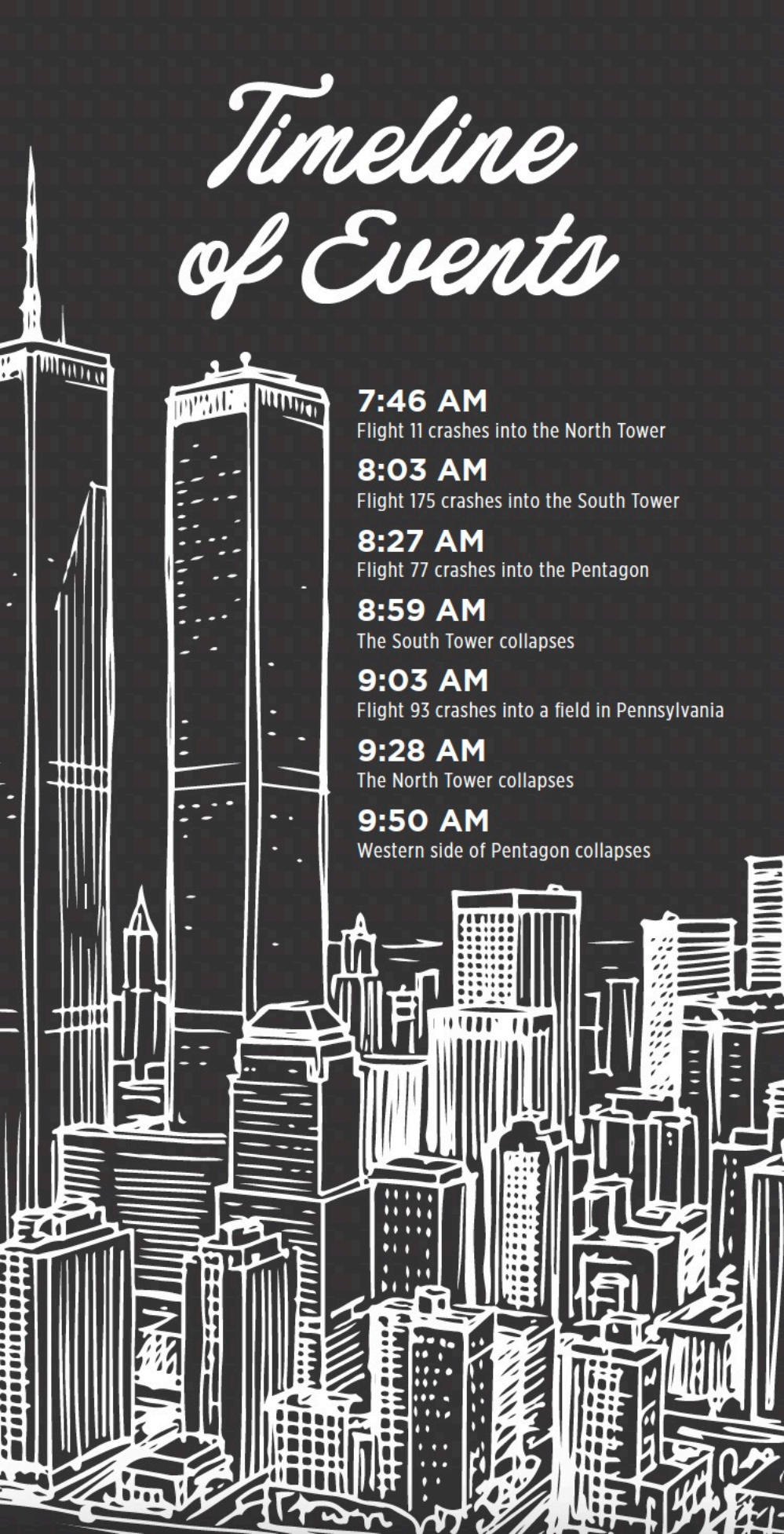
From 2013 to 2023, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum distributed seedlings from the Survivor Tree to communities worldwide recovering from tragedy – including Las Vegas, Puerto Rico, Newtown, and London. These seedlings were planted as gifts of hope and renewal.

ONGOING PRESENCE

Visitors and the 9/11 Memorial can see the tree year-round, leaving messages and free weather-resistant tags around it. The tree has also been decorated in tributes, such as ribbons honoring victims of the 2016 Orlando shooting. Today, the Survivor Tree remains a central feature of the Memorial, standing as both a historical landmark and living monument to the strength of the human spirit.







Timeline of Events

7:46 AM

Flight 11 crashes into the North Tower

8:03 AM

Flight 175 crashes into the South Tower

8:27 AM

Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon

8:59 AM

The South Tower collapses

9:03 AM

Flight 93 crashes into a field in Pennsylvania

9:28 AM

The North Tower collapses

9:50 AM

Western side of Pentagon collapses

Remembering

FLIGHT 93



Dr. Scott C. Spangler is an associate professor of information technology for MGA's School of Computing. His research seeks to understand how the digital culture utilizes technology, mobile technology, and innovations. Before his career in higher education, Spangler worked in the communications field and was a photographer for the Tribune-Review newspaper, based in western Pennsylvania. **On September 11, 2001, Spangler was among the first journalists to arrive at the crash site of United Airlines Flight 93 near Shanksville, Pa.** Spangler's images, which he took on 9/11 and for many days afterward, were transmitted to the Tribune-Review and distributed widely through news organizations around the world.



SCAN HERE
to read the full story



2,977-2,996

PEOPLE KILLED

including 19 hijackers

OVER

6,000

INJURED

400+

FIRST RESPONDERS

lost their lives

184

KILLED

at the

PENTAGON

AGES OF VICTIMS

range from **2** to **84**

About 75-80% were men

130-150 BOATS

transported around

500,000 TO SAFETY

Largest maritime evacuation in history