

## Return to N.Y.: Names of 3,000 victims to be read during ceremonies

**Steven Edwards**

CanWest News Service

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NEW YORK -- Five years after the roar of two jetliners over New York heralded the deaths of almost 3,000 at the World Trade Center, Ground Zero and much of the city beyond will be in silence today to mark the moments that changed the course of history.

The widows of two of the 24 Canadian victims will be among family members reading names during a morning-long roll call of the dead. There will also be four separate minutelong observances of when the two planes hit and the two towers fell.

Maureen Basnicki and Cindy Barkway have returned to New York, along with almost 50 other relatives of Canadian victims, for a ceremony that will be watched by millions.

"Even today, when you walk past this site, you feel the sadness of everything that went on here," said Barkway's brother, Peter McLennan, as he recalled David Michael Barkway, killed at age 34 while Cindy was pregnant with their second child.

Basnicki, whose daughter, Erica, participated in the roll call at the first anniversary, this week marked her remembrance of her husband, Ken, by calling on Canadians to "stand as a unified nation to end terrorism." U.S. President George W. Bush launched the fifth anniversary ceremonies Sunday evening when he and his wife, Laura, laid a wreath at the World Trade Center site.

They later participated in an evening prayer service, but it's at a breakfast they'll have this morning with former rescue workers that the solemnity of their visit could be interrupted.

While White House spokesperson Tony Snow has said Bush is planning no formal remarks until a televised Oval Office speech tonight, the first responders are expected to give the president a direct reminder that many of the 40,000 rescue workers who toiled at Ground Zero amid the toxic fumes have now fallen ill -- some with cancer -- but are nevertheless having difficulty extracting what they consider sufficient financial help from the government.



CREDIT: Associated Press

U.S. President George W. Bush and Laura Bush observe a moment of silence after laying a memorial wreath in a pool of water Sunday at Ground Zero

"The powers that be were in such a rush to open up Wall Street, and businesses down there, that they just totally ignored the health, safety and general welfare of all humanity that lived down there -- and that type of stupidity cannot be countenanced," said David Worby, an attorney spearheading a class-action lawsuit already representing 8,000 illness-stricken workers and expected to be joined by many more.

The continuing anxiety of other New Yorkers in the wake of the 2001 attacks was reflected in a poll this week that showed two-thirds remain "very concerned" there will be another terrorist attack.

What's more, almost a third of the city's nine million people said they think about what happened that day at least once daily, according to the survey by the New York Times and CBS News.

Canada's deputy consul general in New York, John McNab, will accompany many of the Canadian victims' relatives to Ground Zero. Some, however, are making a point of staying away.

"I don't need to have my husband's name read and his picture shown, and I don't need to stand there and weep," said Loretta Filipov, widow of Canadian-born-and-raised Alexander Filipov, killed as a passenger of American Airlines Flight 11, which smashed into the North Tower. He was returning to celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary three days later at their home in Concord, Mass., where they moved early in their marriage after living in Ottawa.

The reason why there has been no new successful al-Qaida attack in the United States is central to campaigning for the upcoming mid-term elections -- with Bush administration officials stressing it's because they've been effectively prosecuting the White House-declared "war on terrorism." "We're here on the fifth anniversary, and there has not been another attack, and that's not an accident," U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney said Sunday on NBC's Meet the Press.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Fox News Sunday the country is safer, but "not really yet safe" -- suggesting maintaining Republican control of both the House and Senate was required to complete the job.

But for New Yorkers, there are daily reminders of the tragedy, not least the continued political wrangling over rebuilding Ground Zero, which remains a construction site in its early stages.

Those disputes will be put aside today as both New Yorkers and people beyond the city remember.

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