THE OPENING OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL GARDEN GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON

Thursday 11 September 2003 3.30 pm

PROGRAMME

We are gathered here, from different nations and traditions of faith, to remember our loved ones, friends and colleagues who were taken from us on September 11, 2001.

Two years ago today the world came together in shock and grief as unimaginable events unfolded. People all over the world watched in horror as the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were struck by hijacked aircraft, and as a fourth aeroplane was brought down in a Pennsylvanian field by its brave passengers. We looked on in disbelief as the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed, killing not only many people in the buildings, but also many of those those who had come to save them.

In the days and weeks that followed, thousands of friends and colleagues across the globe, along with the families of those who died, struggled to come to terms with their loss. Many gathered here in Grosvenor Square to lay flowers at the Roosevelt Memorial, or to sign books of condolence. Church services were held at St. Paul's Cathedral and elsewhere, including a British service at St. Thomas's in New York, and on 29 November 2001 a special service was held at Westminster Abbey for the victims' families. One year on, family and friends gathered again at St. Paul's Cathedral, as well as in the United States, to remember.

As Grosvenor Square became the focal point for the United Kingdom's grief and support for its closest ally, it was felt to be the most appropriate setting for a memorial. It is known as the "American Square" with many historical associations to the United States, including memorials to Dwight D. Eisenhower, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the Eagle Squadron Pilots of the Second World War.

The design for the garden emerged from discussions and consultations with the families of those who died, and was inspired by the memorial services at St. Paul's, St. Thomas's and Westminster Abbey. The planting includes species drawn from the flowers used at the UK memorial services and those that have links with North America. Some have been specially selected by family members.

Elements from all the UK church services have been incorporated into today's opening ceremony, including the poignant Act of Remembrance from the Westminster Abbey service.

GRIEF IS THE PRICE WE PAY FOR LOVE

As members of the families take their seats, a rose will be presented to the nominated family representatives to lay on the Memorial Stone during the Act of Remembrance.

Please ensure that all mobile/cellular telephones and pagers are switched off.

Please do not take photographs during the ceremony.

The music is performed by the Thoresby Colliery Welfare Band.

Musical Director

Mr Stan Lippeatt

Soloist

Mr Matthew Challender

The Thoresby Colliery Welfare Band was formed in 1948 and is based in the North Nottinghamshire village of Edwinstowe. At one time the band would have been made up of players who were employed in the coal industry, working at the Thoresby Colliery (which is one of the very few Midlands collieries still operating).

Today the players in the band come from all walks of life. They are amateur musicians as well as students, sales reps, bus drivers, bank clerks, plumbers, electricians, teachers and ex-servicemen.

Before and during the ceremony, the band will play familiar music from the British Isles and two American pieces, one of which – "Catskills" – has particular connections with New York State.

Music before the ceremony

"Amazing Grace" arr. W. Himes

"Londonderry Air" arr. S. Roberts

"Ye Banks and Braes" arr. A. Fernie

"Myfanwy" arr. D. Stephens

"The Day Thou Gavest" arr. P. Wilby

Councillor Jan Prendergast, the Rt Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster, is received at the north-east gate.

All remain seated

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, is received at the north-east gate.

All remain seated

The American Ambassador and Mrs William S. Farish are received at the north-east gate. They are conducted to their seats.

All remain seated

Lord Imbert, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, and Lady Imbert are received at the north-east gate.

All remain seated

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal is received at the north-east gate by Lord Imbert, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, and Lady Imbert who present the Rt Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr William Weston Director of the Royal Parks, and the Rt Hon Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

All stand

All remain standing as the American Ambassador and Mrs William S. Farish are presented to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

THE CEREMONY

All remain standing to sing:

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Francis Scott Key (1779–1843)

All sit

Introduction and welcome to Grosvenor Square by the Hon William S. Farish, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Court of St James's.

The Hon William S. Farish invites those gathered to pause with him in a moment of silence to remember all those who lost their lives in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania two years ago.

All stand

All sit

"Catskills"

Nigel Hess arr. Phillip Littlemore

All remain seated

Dame Judi Dench reads:

REMEMBER

REMEMBER me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you planned:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be too late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830–1894)

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, invites Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to say a few words and formally open the Memorial Garden.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal lays a rose on the Memorial Stone in an Act of Remembrance for all those who lost their lives, and invites representatives from each family to lay a rose in memory of their loved ones. Silence is kept.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Firefighter James Kerwin from Ladder 33 of the New York City Fire Department completes the Act of Remembrance by laying a rose to commemorate all those members of the emergency services who laid down their lives.

Miss Sophie Brandt, September 11 Programme Officer for the British Red Cross, reads:

TIME is

Too Slow for those who Wait, Too Swift for those who Fear, Too Long for those who Grieve, Too Short for those who Rejoice; But for those who Love, Time is not.

Henry van Dyke (1852–1933)

"Old Creole Days" from the Mississippi Suite

Ferde Grofé (1892–1972)

Lord Carey of Clifton, former Archbishop of Canterbury, who delivered the Sermon at the Westminster Abbey Service, reads:

WITH the stirring of the wind and in the chill of winter; under the blue sky and in the warmth of summer:

All We remember them

With joys we long to share and in sorrow we bear alone; in work we have to do and with life we have to give:

All We remember them

In treasured memories of the past and during days to come:

All We remember them

In all that they achieved and for all that might have been; at the dawn of the day and in the setting sun:

All We remember them

All remain standing to sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

Not in this land alone,
But be God's mercies known
From shore to shore!
Lord, may the nations see,
That we in unity
Should form one family
The wide world o'er.

Music after the ceremony:

"Gabriel's Oboe"

Emio Morricone arr. David Bertie

"Ave Maria"

Giulio Caccini arr. D. Johnson

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell invites Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, The American Ambassador and Mrs William S. Farish to view the garden.

Guests are requested to remain seated after the ceremony until invited to retire to the marquee by the stewards; the garden will be available for viewing later.