About the Memorial

Time cures everything, but there are things we cannot and must not forget.

Standing more than 100 feet tall, “To the Struggle Against World Terrorism” honors victims of 9/11 and the 1993 World Trade Center bombings and serves as a symbol of solidarity in the fight against world terrorism. Created by Russian sculptor Zurab Tsereteli, the memorial was a gift from the Russian people. Dedicated on September 11, 2006, it stands in direct view of the Statue of Liberty and the former World Trade Center.
“To the Struggle Against World Terrorism,” was conceived as the events of 9/11 unfolded and Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli walked the streets of Moscow. Struck by the outpouring of grief he observed, a memorial with an image of a tear formed in his mind. Shortly after the attacks, Tsereteli visited ground zero and looked to New Jersey’s waterfront for an appropriate site for a monument honoring victims of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks.

Bayonne was a fitting location; the city was an arrival point for many New York City evacuees on 9/11, a staging area for rescuers and offered a direct view of the Statue of Liberty and the former World Trade Center towers.

A gift from Tsereteli and the Russian people, the memorial is made of steel sheathed in bronze. Standing 100 feet high, its center contains a jagged tear. In it, hangs a 40-foot stainless steel teardrop, representing sadness and grief over the loss of life, but also hope for a future free from terror. Etched in granite on an 11-sided base are the names of the nearly 3,000 killed in the 1993 World Trade Center bombings and terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Standing at 100 feet tall and weighing 175 tons, the monument was shipped from Russia to the United States in six sections — weighing between 28 and 63 tons each — and assembled by a group of Russian artisans. Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli spent several months in the U.S. overseeing construction of the memorial.

The Memorial was dedicated on the fifth anniversary of 9/11, in a ceremony attended by President Bill Clinton, Gov. Jon Corzine, Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Menendez, Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., family members of World Trade Center victims and other dignitaries. By day, or nighttime when it is lit, the Memorial is clearly visible from lower Manhattan, the Staten Island Ferry, ships passing through New York Harbor and airplanes approaching Newark Airport.

Zurab Tsereteli is one of Russia’s most prominent and prolific artists. A sculptor, designer and architect, he captures significant historical events in large-scale sculptures and monuments on view in museums and public spaces throughout Russia, Europe, Israel, Uruguay and the United States. Other noted works by the artist include the “Victory” monument at the Moscow War Memorial, “Peter the Great” in downtown Moscow and “Good Defeats Evil” a sculpture created from scrapped American and Soviet missiles on the grounds of the United Nations in New York.

Harbor View Park is a two-acre public park situated on the tip of a manmade peninsula, formerly known as Military Ocean Terminal (MOTBY). During its six decades of operation, MOTBY was a vast naval supply center, shipping goods for every major U.S. military operation from World War II to Desert Storm. The military base was decommissioned in 1999 and officially transferred to the City of Bayonne in 2002 for redevelopment as The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor. Now home to Cape Liberty, a year round cruise port, The Peninsula is in the midst of redevelopment organized around the construction of residential and commercial districts to create a vibrant waterfront community.