

ROSE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

“To remember, lest we forget.”

Sue Casey • www.remember-me-rose.org

A national opportunity to remember the fallen and celebrate life, liberty and freedom through roses. On September 11, the ARS asks its members to signify their continued belief in our American traditions by giving a single rose in a bud vase tied with red, white and blue ribbons to family, friends and neighbors.

Life is a journey that takes us in many directions, including some we could never imagine. Along the way are unexpected detours, roadblocks and setbacks that come in all forms. Whatever the experience, whether it's physical, mental or emotional, somewhere along your journey you will become a Survivor. Your life changes forever after that moment, and you possess an innate feeling inside: You are a Survivor!

“Remember Me” Rose Gardens is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a living tribute that affirms life

and honors the memory of those who died and the spirit of those who lived through the attacks against America on September 11, 2001. “Remember Me” Rose Gardens will reside on or near each of the three crash sites, in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and near Shanksville, PA.

The newest “Remember Me” Rose is 'Survivor'. Its name represents the spirit of those who survived the attacks of September 11, 2001. 'Survivor' is a deep pink floribunda rose that just seems to smile when in full bloom. Ping Lim hybridized 'Survivor'.

Several years ago, during a National Garden Month event in New York City's

Union Square Park, I met JoAnn Pedersen. We were handing out roses when she stopped by the “Remember Me” Rose Gardens booth and looked at the roses. As I gave her a rose and a brochure about “Remember Me” Rose Gardens, she asked if we planned to dedicate a rose to the survivors of September 11. I was unprepared for the question, and the words stumbled out of my mouth. “I don't know,” I said. In talking with her, I would never have suspected that she was a survivor who had, in fact, risked her life to help others get out. I was taken back to learn that the survivors from the World Trade Center felt they were all but forgotten. Right then and there, I thought, “This cannot be; we need to name a rose for them.” Within the week, we decided to

Left, 'Survivor'. Below, Sue Casey (l) and Charold Baer present 'Survivor' to the Portland Rose Festival.



add two more roses: one for the survivors and one for the responders who worked so tirelessly over nine months in the rubble from which the survivors escaped.

When we approached JoAnn to ask if she and some of her fellow survivors would name their rose, without hesitation, they said there could be no other name for their rose but 'Survivor', because that is what they are and will be forever. These survivors who made it out of the World Trade Center helped rescue and aid as many as they could in their escape down the stairwells before the towers collapsed. At the Pentagon, survivors struggled to reach safety after Flight 77 crashed into the building. In the towers and the Pentagon, it took only moments for ordinary people to become heroes to one another.

One honor bestowed on this beautiful rose was its selection by the first female Prime Minister of the Portland Royal Rosarians, Sue Klobertanz, as her royal rose. Hearing the story behind the name of the rose, Klobertanz immediately wanted 'Survivor' for her rose. She will plant her royal rose at the more than 40 festivals and events she will attend during her reign as Prime Minister in 2010.

Give 'Survivor' to a survivor you know, no matter what the circumstances. Every time they look at their rose, it will remind them of the courage and strength that stays with them on their journey.

Continuing on its own journey, "Remember Me" Rose Garden – Flight 93 near Shanksville, PA, moves forward. The latter part of June into early July was planting time for the 450 'Knock Out' roses donated by the Conard-Pyle Company. The "Remember Me" signs are up, and the front of the garden property has a burst of color that is visible for miles in any direction along Route 30. There is no mistaking where the garden will reside. Plans for clearing the property are underway, and then it's on to the building phase. Want to help?

Ames True Temper (www.ames.com) generously provided all the garden tools used at the "Remember Me" Rose Gardens – Flight 93.

The design for the "Remember Me" Rose Gardens – Flight 93 is on its own six- by eight-foot weatherproof sign at the garden property on Route 30. Rebecca Ives of Milwaukie, OR (www.gardensbyrebecca.com), created the beautiful compass rose design.

Across from the garden property on Route 30, work on the Flight 93 National Memorial Park has begun (www.flight93memorialproject.org).

When buying roses, don't forget the first six "Remember Me" roses: 'Firefighter', 'Soaring Spirits', 'We Salute You', 'Forty Heroes', 'The Finest' and 'Patriot's Dream'. All are currently available in garden centers. Roses named for Flight 11, Flight 175, Port Authority Police and responders will follow in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

To learn more about roses, visit Bailey Nurseries at www.baileynurseries.com; Conard-Pyle Company at www.conard-pyle.com; Roses by Ping at www.rosesbyping.com and Weeks Roses at www.weeksroses.com.

For updates on the progress of the gardens, opportunities to help and information about "Remember Me" Rose Gardens, take a look at our website at www.remember-me-rose.org.



'Firefighter', 'Soaring Spirits' and 'We Salute You' courtesy Edmunds Roses. 'The Finest' and 'Forty Heroes' courtesy Bailey Nurseries, Inc.

