

9/11 Victims' Relatives Mark Anniversary With Grief, Appeals

JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — During years of going to ground zero every Sept. 11, Tom Acquaviva has seen crowds diminish at the ceremonies commemorating the terror attacks. But his determination to participate hasn't.

"As long as I'm breathing, I'll be here," Acquaviva, 81, said Friday as he arrived to pay tribute to his late son, Paul.

More than 1,000 victims' relatives, survivors and recovery workers marked the 14th anniversary at ground zero with grief, gratitude and appeals to keep the toll front of mind as years pass. "It's a hard day. But it's an important day. I'll come every year that I can," recovery worker Robert Matticola said.

But if the private ceremony is smaller than in its early years, the date also has become an occasion for the public to revisit ground zero, where the memorial plaza now opens to everyone on the anniversary.

Around the country, the date was marked with what has become a tradition of lowered flags, wreath-laying, bell-tolling and, in New York, reading the names of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the terror strikes at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. One woman at ground zero collapsed during the ceremony, apparently overcome by grief; bystanders helped her to her feet.

Family members praised first responders, thanked the armed forces and prayed for unity and security. They also



MICHAEL HENNING/ERPITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS
The family and friends of passengers and volunteers carry lanterns, one for each victim of Flight 93, during a luminary ceremony held at the Flight 93 National Memorial Wall on Sept. 10 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

sent personal messages to their lost loved ones.

"You are the reason that I wear this uniform and stand here today," Air Force Technical Sgt. Sparkle Thompson said of her uncle, Louie Anthony Williams.

In Washington, President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama stepped out of the White House for a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., when the first of four hijacked planes hit on Sept. 11, 2001, striking the World Trade Center's north tower. Later Friday, the president told troops at Fort Meade in Maryland that he hoped Sept. 11 would inspire thoughts of what binds the country

together, while Vice President Joe Biden praised New Yorkers' resilience in remarks to bikers and police officers taking part in a 9/11 memorial motorcycle ride.

The Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville marked the completion of its \$26 million visitor center, which opened to the public Thursday. At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Ash Carter and other officials joined in remembrances for victims' relatives and Pentagon employees. Other observances were held around the country.

Some Americans honored the anniversary in their own ways.

"I don't go to the memorial. I don't watch it on TV. But I make sure, every year, I observe a moment of silence at 8:46," electrician Jeff Doran said as he stood across the street from the trade center, where the signature, 1,776-foot One World Trade Center tower has opened since last Sept. 11.

The memorial plaza opened in 2011 but was closed to the public on the anniversary until last year, when an estimated 20,000 people flocked there to pay respects in the evening. Moved by the influx, organizers decided to open it more quickly after the ceremony this year.

Rick Perry First To Exit 2016 Republican Presidential Race

STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Out of money and relegated once again to the back-of-the-pack debate, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Friday dropped out of the race for president, ending his second bid for the Republican presidential nomination and becoming the first major candidate of the 2016 campaign to give up on the White House.

The longest-serving governor in Texas history, who had never lost an election until he started running for president, told a group of conservative activists in St. Louis that "some things have become clear" and that it was time to suspend his campaign.

"We have a tremendous field of candidates — probably the greatest group of men and women," Perry said. "I step aside knowing our party is in good hands, as long as we listen to the grassroots, listen to that cause of conservatism. If we do that, then our party will be in good hands."

Four years ago, Perry's first bid for the White House essentially collapsed after a GOP debate in which he couldn't remember the name of the third federal agency he'd wanted to close if elected — he was only able to mutter "Oops." This time around, he couldn't win enough support in early polls to even qualify



ROBERT COHEN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/TNS
Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry embraces Madeline Martin, daughter of Eagle Forum President Ed Martin, right, before taking the stage at the Eagle Council national convention where he announced that he was suspending his campaign for president on Friday, Sept. 11 at the Marriott St. Louis Airport.

for the party's prime-time debates, finding himself relegated instead to second-stage affairs.

After formally kicking off his bid in early June, Perry announced raising about \$1 million during the first month of his campaign. That wasn't enough to keep the small staffs he had assembled in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, as well as at his headquarters in Texas, on the payroll.

While some members of Perry's team pledged to work as volunteers, and he resumed paying some late last month, he ultimately couldn't recover from the lack of campaign cash.

"It'd be easy just to keep going, be easy to go do the debate next week, be easy to keep going to Iowa and South Carolina and other states and everything and taking your money and dragging it out," said Dallas businessman and longtime Perry donor Roy Bailey.

But, Bailey said, Perry "could see it was pretty obvious to him he wasn't going to be the next presidential nominee from the Republican Party."

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who took the stage at the Eagle Forum conference in St. Louis immediately after Perry announced his exit, called on the crowd to pray for Perry's future success.

"The only thing harder than to get into a race for something like president, is to make the decision to get out of the race," said Huckabee, the runner-up for the GOP nomination in 2008. "And I hope that all of you will recognize that it was a very difficult decision. I've been there before."

Perry spent four years after his failed bid in 2012, which ended after disappointing finishes in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary, trying to rebuild his image and convince America he'd lived down "Oops." He swapped his cowboy boots for eyeglasses, traveled extensively touting his state's job-creating prowess and huddled with policy experts and top donors, insisting he'd be humbler and better-prepared for the national spotlight when running again in 2016.

Tyndall

From Page 1

dations," the news release added.

The project remains in the developmental stage of the STIP, meaning it would be worked on in 2020 or beyond, the DOT said.

SPEAKING OUT

Former state legislator Frank Kloucek, who lives in the Scotland area, has opposed the proposal to eliminate the divided four-lane highway. He was glad to hear the DOT's decision to conduct further studies and to hold another public meeting.

"It's good news that they are willing to discuss it and are open-minded on it," he said. Kloucek said he first learned of Friday's announcement from the *Press & Dakotan* but wasn't totally surprised by it.

"(DOT officials) were talking about it last week," he said of the additional studies. "We called on them and encouraged them to have another public meeting to get more input and more facts out there."

While Kloucek has spoken out against the project, he emphasized the opposition runs deep. A number of people — both area residents and those who travel through the area — want to keep the divided four-lane highway, he said.

"We are in support of keeping the current four-lane roads in Bon Homme County. We also support a speed reduction and other safety measures in the areas of concern," he said. "We also strongly oppose the closing of the County Highway 303 access road northwest of the Country Ford dealership (in Tyndall)."

Area residents spoke out at the Tyndall meeting, and the petition drive drew a broad base of support, Kloucek said.

"We had people from all over the area, not just Bon Homme County. We reached out and got support," he said. "We had people from Bon Homme, Hutchinson and Charles Mix counties, and we had them from Nebraska. We also had a lot of Yankton County folks."

The petition also drew a "cross section" of signers from throughout south central and southeast South Dakota, Kloucek said. They ranged from Winner, Gregory and Wagner on the west to Mitchell, Ethan, Parkston and Tripp on the north to Vermillion and even Iowa on the east.

Opponents of the switch to two lanes are concerned about safety, particularly the elimination of a passing lane to get around farm machinery and other slow-moving vehicles, Kloucek said.

"There's the better potential for accidents with slower vehicles going down the road," he said.

WEIGHING BOTH SIDES

However, the divided four-lane stretches can actually create safety hazards, especially near intersections with other highways, Malone said. The situation can create more confusion for drivers and increase the chances for collisions, he said.

"What we're doing is showing folks that we're not taking away a couple of lanes," he said. "We're looking at traffic problems, money and (traffic) capacity."

A two-lane highway would serve the current needs, said Mike Behm, the DOT project development program manager.

"A two-lane facility would be able to handle their traffic now and what we anticipate in the future," he told the *Press & Dakotan* in an earlier interview. "The volume that exists there now is more in line with a two-lane highway than with a turn lane."

Kloucek disagreed with the DOT officials on the need for the highway conversion. "It's a large waste of taxpayer dollars," he said.

Kloucek added the project's cost could be better spent on other area highway needs. He pointed to needs such as widening Highway 37 near Springfield or adding safety features to Highway 50 between Tyndall and Tabor.

"They're not addressing safety on the existing two-lane roads where there have been

fatalities. They need wider shoulders in those areas," he said. "A couple of areas have had accidents, but (DOT officials) aren't mentioning them. It's all about the four lanes."

Kloucek fears the chances for accidents will increase with the proposed Highway 50 changes. In addition, travelers — particularly truckers — are used to the divided four-lane stretches, he said.

"The roads have been that way for 55 years," he said. "People, to say the least, are accustomed to them."

By timing the Highway 50 project for the 2020 time frame, the DOT would save money by completing the resurfacing and reconstruction at the same time, Behm said. In addition, the project could be done at the same time as other work in the region.

The DOT wants to develop the proposal by June so the state Transportation Commission can consider it for the STIP plan finalized by August 2016, Behm said. The reconstruction period would be covered by safety funds, he said.

Studies indicate the Highway 50 project would take one construction season, Malone said. The project would have minimal impact, and access to homes and businesses would be maintained, he said.

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Lawmakers Face Probe Of Cover-Up

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Two disgraced tea party Republicans are gone from Michigan's Legislature, but their troubles may not be over as attention turns to a criminal investigation of misconduct including a plot to conceal their extramarital affair with an email of false and explicit claims.

Todd Courser resigned early Friday rather than be kicked out of the GOP-led House, after asking a reluctant aide to send the email to Republican activists and others in May claiming he had been caught with a male prostitute.

The email was intended to make his affair with Cindy Gamrat appear less believable if it was exposed by what Courser said was an anonymous blackmailer demanding his resignation.

The self-smear email called Courser a "bi-sexual porn addicted sex deviant" and "gun toting Bible thumping ... freak" and Gamrat a "tramp."

Gamrat sought leniency, saying in part that she did not realize how explicit the email was, only to become the fourth lawmaker ever expelled at the end of a marathon session that ended before sunrise Friday. "I just want to go home and be with my family," Gamrat, of Plainwell, said later at her lawyer's office.

Saudi Arabia Raises Collapse Death Toll

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A towering construction crane toppled over on Friday during a violent rainstorm in the Saudi city of Mecca, Islam's holiest site, crashing into the Grand Mosque and killing at least 107 people ahead of the start of the annual hajj pilgrimage later this month.

Images posted by social media users showed a grisly scene, with police and onlookers attending to numerous bodies lying amid pools of blood on the polished mosque floors.

Saudi Arabia's civil defense authority provided a series of rising casualty numbers on its official Twitter account as ambulances whisked the wounded to area hospitals. As of early Saturday, it said those injured in the disaster numbered 238.

A photo released by the authority showed police and workers in hardhats inspecting a pile of collapsed concrete slabs inside a part of the sprawling, ornately decorated mosque. Another showed the base of the toppled red-and-white crane tilted upward at a sharp angle.

Images aired on Saudi state television showed the crane's metal boom smashed through what appeared to be the roof of the mosque.

Police Body Cameras Cause Problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Seattle man was arrested in January during a demonstration to protest police violence. Though he has yet to be charged with an offense, his arrest — captured on police body-camera recordings, along with his full name, address, phone number and birthdate — are public records.

The use of police body cameras, like those used in Seattle, is spreading to keep officers honest about using force against citizens. But how and when the public gets to see the footage is up for debate.

Months after the arrest of Michael Moynihan, the 32-year old Seattle man, the Seattle Police Department said his case is under review. Moynihan said he supports police wearing body cameras, but his own experience shows the unsettling consequences.

"That's a very dangerous weapon that they have there," Moynihan said.

Videos of police shootings across the country have become critical to determining what happened in situations that turn deadly. In some cases, strapping cigarette pack-size cameras to officers' uniforms has been framed as a way to curb police brutality and stem deteriorating trust in law enforcement.

Blood Pressure May Spur Care Changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aiming lower saves more lives when it comes to controlling high blood pressure, says a major new study that could spur doctors to more aggressively treat patients over 50.

Patients who got their blood pressure well below today's usually recommended level significantly cut their risk of heart disease and death, the National Institutes of Health announced Friday. The benefit was strong enough that NIH stopped the study about a year early.

"This study provides potentially life-saving information," declared Dr. Gary Gibbons, director of NIH's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

Doctors have long debated how low blood-pressure patients need to go, especially as they get older. Friday's results are preliminary, and researchers stressed that they shouldn't alter patient care just yet. But if the full results pan out, they eventually could influence treatment guidelines.

"This study certainly supports that lower is better," said Dr. Mark Creager, president of the American Heart Association, who wasn't involved with the new study. He called the research a possible roadmap to treatment strategies "that will save a significant amount of lives."

Sanders Seeks Black Support For GOP

SUMTER, S.C. (AP) — The Bernie Sanders phenomenon has been almost entirely driven by white supporters. Now he's out to overcome hurdles with prospective black voters who are still learning about him and could shape whether his underdog campaign for the 2016 Democratic nomination can last.

Sanders, who organized sit-ins over segregated housing as a college student during the civil rights movement, must cut into Hillary Rodham Clinton's advantage with African-Americans if he's to do well in South Carolina's February 2016 primary, where more than half the voters are expected to be black, and in other Southern states that follow in March.

Polls find the independent Vermont senator building a lead over Clinton in New Hampshire and closing the gap in Iowa, two mainly white states very much unlike the more diverse Super Tuesday states of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia and others.

The independent Vermont senator and his advisers say his policies and personal story can resonate among black voters — if the campaign can reach them. He says he plans to emphasize his personal efforts more as he campaigns, beginning this weekend with a swing through Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

"I believe when the African-American community in South Carolina and around the country understands that I have one of the strongest civil rights records in Congress and was involved in the civil rights movement for many years before I went to Congress, they will respond," Sanders said in an interview.

Man Shot After Stabbing Woman Dies

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man stabbed a woman and then was shot by a security guard at Washington's Union Station on Friday, sending people fleeing outside as trains were briefly stopped and officers converged on the massive transit hub.

The man died later Friday, police said. "I saw people running, and I just started running. It sounded like it was right next to me," said Ursula Lauriston, a 28-year-old magazine editor who was ordering lunch at Jamba Juice, one of dozens of restaurants and shops in the station. "People were completely confused as to what was going on, and no one knew whether to run or hide."

The violence broke out on the 14th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but police said there was no apparent connection.

"Obviously, with this being 9/11, fears were heightened and escalated," D.C. police Commander Jeff Brown said. But officials said they believe the event was the result of a domestic dispute.