SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 135

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 26, 2009

Sponsored by:
Senator MARCIA A. KARROW
District 23 (Warren and Hunterdon)

SYNOPSIS

Supports 9-11 relatives petition requesting personalized identification in memorial.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging support for relatives of victims requesting personalized identification in 9-11 memorial.

WHEREAS, The World Trade Center Memorial is being constructed in New York City to remember the victims of September 11, 2001 in hopes that no one shall ever forget that horrific event and the people whose lives were lost that morning; and

WHEREAS, The families of those killed on September 11, 2001 have been grieving from the loss and a small fraction of that grief could be relieved through the World Trade Center Memorial memorializing their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, Inc. is the not-for-profit corporation founded in 2005 to assist in the creation of an appropriate memorial and the Board of this foundations has determined to move forward with a memorial display where the names of the deceased appear to be in no discernable order, reflecting the haphazard brutality of the deaths; and

WHEREAS, The families have rejected that approved design and would like the names and ages of their loved ones to be arranged so that they may be easily located, that civilians should be grouped and identified, listed alphabetically, by their affiliation and that uniformed services personnel should be grouped and identified by their affiliation and listed in rank order with their rank designations preceding their names; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey respectfully petitions Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the Executive Committee of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation Board of Directors to adopt a design which mirrors the wishes of the relatives to personalize the memorial; and now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General Assembly concurring):*

1. The Legislature of this State urges New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, and Chairman of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, and the Executive Committee of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation Board of Directors to revise the design of the 9-11 memorial in response to the victims' relatives' desire for a more personalized approach to the memorial.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution, signed by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg, New York City Mayor and Chairman of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation and the distinguished members of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation Board.

STATEMENT

This resolution urges the Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg, New York City Mayor and Chairman of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation and the distinguished members of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation Board to support the relatives of 9-11 victims regarding their petition requesting personalized identification versus a series of randomly placed names to memorialize their loved ones.

The relatives of the victims request only that their loved ones be properly identified and that the World Trade Center Memorial answer the following questions: What was the victim's name? How old were they? Where did they work? Where were they on 9/11?

The families feel that instead of a memorial where the names of the deceased appear to be in no discernable order, that the names should be arranged, identified by age, so they may be easily found without the use of outside devices such as kiosks. The relatives would like to see civilians grouped and identified by their affiliation and listed alphabetically within those affiliations. Additionally, uniformed services personnel (including airline crew) should be grouped and identified by their affiliation and listed in rank order with their rank designations preceding their names.

The Executive Committee of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation Board of Directors voted recently to approve a memorial that will do the following:

1) Names placed at the North Pool will include two groupings: those who worked at or were visiting Tower One on September 11, 2001; and individuals who lost their lives on Flight 11 which crashed into Tower One.

2) The South Pool will include the other eight groupings: names of individuals who worked at or were visiting Tower Two; individuals who died on Flight 175 which hit Tower Two; those who died in the Flight 93 crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania; those who died on Flight 77 which crashed into the Pentagon; those who died at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; those killed in the February 26, 1993 bombing; the first responders; and those whose specific location when they perished is not known.

Additionally, first responders will be grouped together on the South Pool by command, precinct, or company as appropriate (eg. Ladder 24) so that those lost from the New York City Fire Department, the New York City Police Department, the Port Authority Police Department, and Court Officers can be listed together. The ranks of individual first responders will not be listed.

This resolution urges the Chairman of the memorial and New York City Mayor Bloomberg and Executive Committee of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation Board of Directors to

reconsider their vote and support the families in their desire to have their loved ones grouped by affiliation and include items such as age, rank or other relevant information that would personalized the name of the loved one.