



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FACT SHEET



September 11

The Knights of Columbus were one of the first organizations to offer relief to families of fallen police, firefighters and emergency personnel – within two days of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Since 2001, the Knights have also taken the lead in helping the country to remember the day in a prayerful way.

Among the highlights of the Knights activities in the aftermath of September 11:

- **\$1.49 million** in immediate aid provided to **419 relatives** of fallen emergency personnel through the Knights' Heroes Fund, which began distributing checks to family members – regardless of religious affiliation – within two days of the attacks.
- More than **\$3500** distributed to each recipient for emergency needs.
- The **fund was established September 12, 2001**, and the first checks were delivered September 13.
- More than **40 members** of the Knights of Columbus members were killed on September 11.
- **Full scholarships** to the Catholic college of their choice are available to **29 children of members killed or disabled in the line of duty** on September 11 through the Order's Matthews and Swift Educational Trust Scholarship program.
- The Knights organized a **memorial Mass** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the first anniversary of September 11 in 2002.
- On September 11, 2002, at the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, Conn., the Knights unveiled **an exhibit** of September 11 artifacts, photos and news accounts of that day. The exhibit ran for one year, and now on permanent display are a wall of names dedicated to Knights killed in the attacks, girders from the World Trade Center, and a replica helmet of a member killed in the collapse of the towers.
- Beginning in 2004, the Knights of Columbus dedicated September 11 as the **World Day of Prayer for Peace**.

