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CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Small Presents \$25K from Inaugural Gala to Saracini-O'Neill Atlantic City 9/11 Memorial

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (September 11, 2026) – During today's 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at the Saracini-O'Neill Atlantic City 9/11 Memorial, Mayor Marty Small, Sr. made a surprise \$25,000 donation to the volunteer organization responsible for maintaining the memorial site. The donation to the Saracini-O'Neill Foundation comes from funds raised through Mayor Small's Inaugural Gala, held in May. The gala was organized as a charitable event, with every dollar raised designated to support local charitable organizations and community causes.

“This is an opportunity to give back to the people who work year-round to preserve this important memorial and make sure its meaning is never forgotten,” said Mayor Small. “Today is also about remembering those we lost and honoring the heroes who continue to inspire us. To the families who lost loved ones, to the brave men and women who served, and to the police officers, firefighters and first responders across our nation who answered the call, we salute you for your service and sacrifice.”

Mayor Small will announce the total amount raised during his Inaugural Gala at a news conference on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 10:00 AM inside the Hard Rock Café at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City. During the media event, checks will also be presented to the local organizations benefiting from the gala proceeds.

Today's 9/11 Memorial Ceremony brought a large crowd to Jackson Avenue and the Boardwalk as Atlantic City came together to remember and honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001. The ceremony included an honor guard, wreath placement, patriotic music, a bell ceremony, Taps and a rifle volley. Mayor Small was joined by members of the Atlantic City Police Department and Atlantic City Fire Department, as well as county and state officials, law enforcement representatives, first responders, veterans, families and community members.

Atlantic City native Lt. Cmdr. Shane Fox, U.S. Navy (ret.), was also honored during the ceremony as the recipient of the 2026 Hero Award.

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