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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

STATEMENT FROM STATE TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN AHEAD OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11th ATTACKS

Treasurer Wooden attended Annual Sherwood Island State Park Memorial to Honor the Names of the 161 Victims with Ties to Connecticut

Westport, CT – Please see the following statement from Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden, who attended the annual [Sherwood Island State Park](#) event honoring the 161 victims with ties to Connecticut who died on September 11, 2001, ahead of the upcoming twentieth anniversary.

“The Twin Towers represented so much within Wall Street and the New York Metropolitan area. It was a center for trade, commerce, finance, and a worldly space to interact with businesspersons from north, south, east, and west – two behemoth buildings which could easily be seen from Sherwood Island, the State of Connecticut’s official memorial and where we stand today honoring the 161 precious lives who had ties to Connecticut tragically lost twenty years ago.

We all remember where we were on the morning of September 11, 2001 — a day that will forever live in infamy, but a day that made our country come together to grieve and unite in response to egregious attacks on our freedoms. I remember that tragic day like yesterday: I was a young attorney living in Manhattan working at my law firm’s Stamford office. I’ll never forget when I was pulled out of a meeting to find myself in utter shock and disbelief as my colleagues and I watched the second plane crash into the twin towers. At that moment, the world stopped. In the moments that followed, our humanity came together to comfort one another through one of the most challenging moments our generation had faced. I also vividly remember returning to Manhattan the next day to see the harrowing, gut-wrenching aftermath at Ground Zero and recall the strong sense of community and accord that filled the city – even in those quiet and somber moments.

Today, while we look out into the water from this beautiful memorial at Sherwood Island State Park at what should have been those shining Twin Towers, we grieve for all the individuals we lost that day. They were mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, aunts, uncles, close friends, colleagues and had the rest of their lives in front of them. We hold deep in our hearts – the 161 lives lost with Connecticut ties and remember the other 2,816 victims who were taken from us, including the 343 New York City Fireman, 23 New York City Police Officers, and 37 Port Authority Officers. We are forever grateful to every first responder who answered the call of duty that day, those who put their lives on the line to protect and serve our nation on one of the darkest days in our history. Our heroes ran into the Towers, into the face of peril provoked by the evils of those who wish to undermine our freedom and way of life. They ran head-first into danger while so many were running out.

Today, we also remember those 184 people lost from American Airlines Flight 77, which struck The Pentagon, and those 40 individuals on United Airlines Flight 93 who were lost near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

To all the families who lost a precious loved one that day, we mourn with you. Thank you for your courage, your sacrifice, and for continuing to honor the memory of your loved ones by carrying and sharing their legacy. We are here today to honor them and make sure our children, our children's children, and beyond understand the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001, and all the heroes who stepped up to defend our freedoms.

Let us take this moment to join in solidarity nearly two decades after these horrible attacks. Let us remain resilient as ever, like One World Trade Center, our Freedom Tower, that sits strong on the Hudson River as a symbol of our strength as Americans.”

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About the Office of the State Treasurer

Under the leadership of Connecticut's State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden, the Office of the Treasurer is dedicated to safeguarding the state's financial resources and taxpayers' dollars while maximizing returns and minimizing risks for pension beneficiaries, and operating at the highest professional and ethical standards. Through investments and cash management, the office continues to enhance the state's fiscal stability, financial literacy, college savings, and its approach to leveraging business partnerships to combat social issues such as gun violence, climate change, and equal opportunity for economic growth. Learn more about the Office of the Treasurer [here](#) and follow along on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).