New Orleans to host 9th Annual Memorial Stair Climb at 400 Poydras Tower

For Immediate Release: October 8, 2023 – New Orleans, LA – The 9th Annual New Orleans Memorial Stair Climb will be held on the morning of Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 8:00am until 12:00pm. Our mission is to honor and remember those fallen heroes from 9/11/01. We will also recognize any Louisiana and Gulf Coast first responder that has perished during the previous year.

Twenty-three years after the collapse of the Twin Towers, the New Orleans Memorial Stair Climb continues to pay tribute to the 343 firefighters, 60 law enforcement officers, and 8 emergency medical service technicians that made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

"More than 40 Memorial Stair Climbs occur every year across the country, and I wanted an event here in New Orleans, so we could do our part to memorialize our fallen brothers," says Event Director and Jefferson Parish Firefighter Neil Navarro. "It is a humbling experience and intense reminder of the sacrifice, dedication, and commitment required of those who serve and protect our communities".

411 first responders from across the United States and other parts of the world will ascend 78 floors, the highest anyone got on that horrific day in the former South Tower of the World Trade Center Twin Towers. Each registered climber will bear the name and picture of a first responder that perished at Ground Zero. Participating first responders are encouraged to wear their appropriate gear to make the climb, but it is not mandatory.

Last year we introduced our Inaugural "Mile of Silence Remembrance Walk" and it was HUGE success. During this mile walk, family, friends and supporters of first responders can walk side by side next to those climbers that have taken the oath to protect and serve their communities. Our goal is to get **2,566** walkers to cover ALL the civilians that perished on 9/11/01.

Immediately following the climb, everyone is invited to attend our family-friendly annual Brotherhood Bash in Lafayette Square. Local entertainment (band TBA) will be performing for free on the Budweiser stage and the "Battle of the Badges Cook-Off" will be back showcasing cooking teams from local fire, police and EMS. They will each cook and serve up their best dish to see who will be crowned winner of the Championship Belt and have bragging rights for a year.

ALL proceeds from our event are donated back to families of fallen Louisiana and Gulf Coast first responders.

The New Orleans Memorial Stair Climb is a sanctioned event of the Association of Memorial Stair Climb, a 501(c) 3 organization. Visit <u>www.memorialstairclimbs.com</u> to learn more.

Please come out to show your support and

be a HERO to a HERO, because FORGETTING IS NOT AN OPTION. WE CLIMB BECAUSE THEY CLIMBED!

For more information about the New Orleans Memorial Stair Climb, The Mile of Silence Remembrance Walk and our Brotherhood Bash, please visit us at <u>www.neworleansstairclimb.com</u> or contact Neil Navarro, *Event Director* at director@neworleansstairclimb.com