

FRANCE-AMERIQUES / THE FRENCH WILL NEVER FORGET

EVENT, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

For 245 years the French and the American people have been friends and allies, sharing the fundamentals human rights and values which are at the core of all of today's modern democracies. With the likes of Voltaire, Descartes, Washington, Adam Smith ... they forged these values together in the same intellectual brew on both side of the Atlantic.

To defend these values, they always fought side by side in all major conflicts until 2003.

The French had a totally different analysis of the geopolitical situation, and so the French did not join with their American friends in the war in Iraq.

It was the very first time in our common history that we were not together shoulder to shoulder in a major conflict.

Too many in the American media, and the political sphere, implied if not flat out declared, that the French had forgotten and were ungrateful.

We knew that nothing was further from the truth and we wanted to say high and loud that The French had not forgotten.

So, we started a grass root initiative called "The French Will Never Forget" dedicated to demonstrating the gratitude of France to America, and the unbreakable bond and deep friendship between the two people.

During this conference we will present 4 main events of TFWNF:

1/ THE ROSES OF JULY 4 th, France:

The idea was to lay a red rose on every grave of US soldiers fallen in France during the First and the Second World War. We decided to do this on "Independence Day", because it is the most emblematic commemorative date for America, and because France and America were shoulder to shoulder in this struggle for American Independence. And so, on July 4, 2003, in a gesture of profonde gratitude and respect, thousands of children and volunteers showed up to lay a red rose on every single one of the 60,511 US graves in 11 cemeteries around France.



2/ 2007 – NORMANDY, A 2500 PEOPLE HUMAN CHAIN ON OMAHA BEACH

In 2007, TFWNF assembled 2500 French citizens (the number of US KIAs on D-DAY) who created a huge human logo spelling out “FRANCE WILL NEVER FORGET” on the sacred sands of Omaha Beach, with the US Coleville cemetery in the background. 2500 French people who gathered on a wet and unseasonably cold day to make sure their American friends knew of their gratitude, of their respect, and to say: “The French Will Never Forget”.



3/2011- PARIS 10th ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11:

In 2011, TFWNF organized the largest commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the tragedy of September 11, outside of the USA. We erected an 80 foot replica of the Twin Towers on the Trocadero Plaza in the center of Paris. On one tower were the names of all 2977 victims, on the second tower, thousands of messages of support and friendship from French people around the world. The Eiffel Tower could be seen in perspective right in between the two twin towers. At night, a concert of 350 musicians in memory of the victims, and to say: “The French Will Never Forget 9/11”.



4/2014 - NEW YORK - 70th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY:

In the presence of the French Navy frigate aptly named “Lafayette”, of thousands of French and American participants, the two gigantic French and American flags of the association were deployed at the feet of the Statue of Liberty by 150 young children of French American schools, and a dozen veterans of D-DAY were honored. The event came to a peak when over one million red rose petals were dropped by 3 special helicopters onto the Statue of Liberty. A “first” organized by TFWNF to honor and thank their American friends, at the very location of the best symbol of the alliance and friendship between the people of France and the people of the United States.



Three short Films will be shown followed by a debate moderated by Ulysse Gosset .

Co-Presidents & Co-Founders:

Paul Bensabat

Patrick du Tertre

Jean-Pierre Heim

Christian Millet (in Memoriam)



<https://www.thefrenchwillneverforget.org>