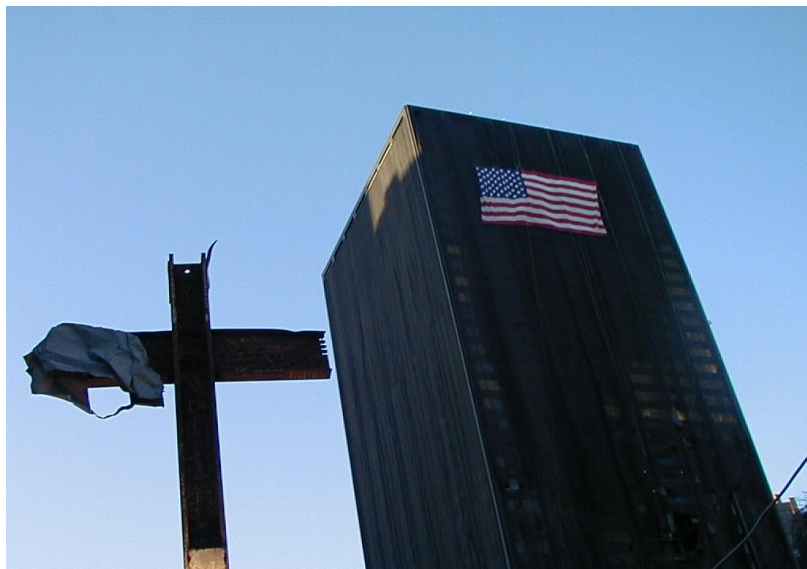


Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

Guide to MS-205:
Larry Recla Ground Zero Collection



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Devin McKinney
January 2017

MS-205: Larry Recla Ground Zero Collection

Devin McKinney
March 2017

Size

6 boxes, 2 oversize items, 1 case, 3.33 cubic feet

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Bulk: 2001-2008
Inclusive: 1991-2016

Provenance

Gift of Rev. Lawrence R. Recla, June 4 and August 5, 2016

Historical Note

Rev. Larry Recla, a 1972 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, had been pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Astoria section of Queens, New York, for two years when the World Trade Center was attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. Experienced at working with survivors and rescue personnel on disaster sites, Recla volunteered his services to the Red Cross, and began working at the Ground Zero Temporary Morgue ("T-morgue") in November 2001. He remained at the site through its closing eight months later, rendering physical and spiritual aid to recovery personnel, sometimes blessing human remains in the morgue or riding with bodies as they were transported off-site.

Wishing to teach students about the heroic service of the rescue and recovery workers, Rev. Recla donated his Ground Zero-related artifacts, documents, and citations to Musselman Library. The collection, exhibited in the library throughout the fall of 2016 to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the attacks, evokes their devastating aftermath, and captures echoes of their ongoing emotional toll.

Scope and Content Note

The papers consist of 5 boxes containing artifacts, documents, clothing, and digital discs; 2 oversize paper items; and 1 display case containing a US flag.

This collection contains items used or collected by Recla at Ground Zero; mementos of his address to the cadet wing of the US Air Force Academy on the seventh anniversary of 9/11; official proclamations acknowledging his role in the recovery effort; and miscellaneous digital artifacts.

Series Description

This collection is comprised of 1 Series. **Series I:** Miscellaneous.

Box List

Box 1

Series 1: Miscellaneous

- 1-1 Accompanying material
 - Finding Aid
 - Accession papers
- 1-2 Digital discs
 - *World Trade Center Disaster*
 - Sermon, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, September 14, 2016
 - Digital images taken by and of Larry Recla at Ground Zero
- 1-3 Related Documents
 - Letter from Kenneth J. Ringler, former Executive Director of Port Authority, to Rev. John R. Spangler, Lutheran Theological Seminary
 - Larry Recla professional résumé
 - Oral history with Larry Recla re: Ground Zero
- 1-5 Trinity Lutheran Church remembrance service programs
- 1-6 New York State Senate “Proclamations”
- 1-7 Posters and postcards
- 1-8 Patches (1)
- 1-9 Patches (2)
- 1-10 ID cards and badges
- 1-11 US House of Representatives, *Congressional Record*
 - *Bound excerpt from Proceedings and Debates of the 107th Congress, Representative Carolyn B. Maloney recognizing the Evangelical Lutheran Church and Larry Recla*
- 1-12 Framed plaque from US Air Force Academy
- 1-13 Framed oversize commemorative stamp, signed by Ground Zero official

Box 2

- 2-1 T-shirt: “Emergency Medical Rescue NYCRMS”
- 2-2 T-shirt: “In Memory of Our Fallen Heroes – 9-11-01”
- 2-3 Golf shirt: “Tactical Patrol EMS Pride Skill Response” – “Chaplain”
- 2-4 Golf shirt: “Tactical Patrol EMS Pride Skill Response” – “Recla”
- 2-5 Denim shirt: “9/11 T-Mort Chaplaincy at Ground Zero”
- 2-6 Stole in Navajo design, obtained by Larry Recla in Utah, 1991-97, later used at Ground Zero

Box 3

- 3-1 “Flag of Heroes”
- 3-2 Flag of the State of New York

3-3 Flag of the City of New York

Box 4a

4-1

- US Air Force Academy “Challenge Coin”
- Cross pendant
- Lapel pins

Box 4b

4-2

- Debris from Ground Zero
- Playing cards

Box 5

5-1 Hardhat

5-2 Gasmask

5-3 Carved falcon (US Air Force Academy mascot, presented to Larry Recla on September 11, 2008)

5-4 Stress ball

Box 6

6-1 American flag flown in honor of Larry Recla on August 3, 2018 at the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) at McDill Airforce Base in Tampa, FL. The flag was later flown from the Pennsylvania Hall cupola on September 11-12, 2018.

Oversize Items

Located in Oversize drawer, Processing Room

- “Never Forget” banner
- “Proclamation”

Unboxed Item

Located in Collections Room

- US flag in ceremonial display case

Related Collections

Fred Fielding papers

Contact Information

Special Collections and College Archives
Musselman Library, Gettysburg College
717-337-7014

special_collections@gettysburg.edu

www.gettysburg.edu/special-collections