

The Need for a Memorial Tower

By Samuel L. Blumenfeld

There has already been much discussion of what will replace the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center destroyed by the terrorists. Everyone agrees that there must be some sort of Memorial on the site. But economics dictates that the space must be used primarily for commercial purposes. The simple way to combine the two needs is to build a Memorial Tower, the tallest building in the world.

We need something with the spiritual power to help us overcome this diabolical atrocity and the tragedies it has caused. We need something positive to replace the debilitating effects of eternal mourning. We need to be uplifted, to have our values reaffirmed, and therefore, to achieve this, I propose that Larry Silverstein, the developer, build a Memorial Tower, the tallest in the world, at the very spot where the Twin Towers stood and where more than 3,000 human beings perished. It should soar to heaven with a Cathedral at the top ten or twenty floors to demonstrate its spiritual significance. At night, the lofty Cathedral would be beautifully illuminated so that it could be seen for miles around.

The first eighty floors should be devoted to commercial office space. The next thirty floors should be occupied by government offices knowing full well that the federal government will be monitoring security at every American airport to prevent any future attacks by hijackers. Also, the leasing of office space to government functions would help pay for the construction of such a huge tower. And the top ten or twenty floors would house the Memorial Cathedral which visitors from all over the world and the thousands of New Yorkers who lost loved ones in the World Trade Center could come to for moments of meditation and solace. Space should be devoted to a permanent exhibition of the photos of the souls lost in that hellish atrocity with the short eloquent obituaries that appeared in the *New York Times*. And because so many individuals from foreign nations were killed in the towers, each nation should be invited to place their own memorials in the cathedral.

A whole floor could be dedicated to the firemen who perished in their efforts to save people in the towers.

Since so many of the dead were incinerated by the explosive jet fuel that destroyed the buildings, for many families there were no bodies to be buried. Yet the spirits of the dead haunt the place. That is why a non-denominational American Cathedral with an observatory atop the world's tallest building would serve as a fitting memorial to all of those who were lost.

those who tried to turn the American dream into a permanent American nightmare, failed miserably, utterly and completely.

A competition among architects to design the new Memorial Tower would turn our minds to a positive recognition of the need to move forward as well as to remember what happened. The American dream did not end on September 11th, 2001. It suffered a heart-rending blow, but it was not destroyed.

America suffered greatly during its Civil War, but because it was fought for freedom, its aftermath of reconstruction enabled the nation to reach even greater heights in achievement.

This new war against terrorism will affirm America's vision of a benevolent universe in which human beings can pursue happiness for themselves and their children in a world where evil has been reined in and rendered impotent. America is still considered by people around the globe as the world's best hope. A Memorial Tower with a Cathedral at the top will inspire our children to seek spiritual strength and guidance from above. It can become a world symbol for the triumph of good over evil.

We were such a symbol in World War II and during the long Cold War. We prevailed, and freedom spread. The new enemy is as diabolical as any we've had in the past. We shall have to destroy it, or it will destroy us.

Samuel L. Blumenfeld has written eight books on education. He is best known for his efforts to provide parents with easy-to-use materials in teaching children to read. His books are available on Amazon.com.