USGA Honors Heroes of September 11

The United States Golf Association will honor those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 during a special ceremony at the conclusion of a press conference at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y. at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, June 12. The press conference will be held in the U.S. Open Media Center, and is open to all credentialed media.

During this ceremony, the USGA will present an ambulance to the Fire Department of New York and will accept a golf ball found in the rubble of the World Trade Center as a donation to the USGA Museum.

On September 11th, numerous fire trucks and ambulances belonging to the Fire Department of New York were destroyed near the World Trade Center in the aftermath of the collapse. In the months that followed, the volunteers and staff of the USGA searched for an appropriate way to honor those who lost their lives in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

Noting that the Association purchased ambulances for St. Andrews, Scotland and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during World War II, the USGA decided to perpetuate this tradition with the gift of an ambulance to FDNY.

"In presenting this ambulance to FDNY, we salute the city where the USGA was founded in 1894, and thank the community that is hosting this year's United States Open Championship," USGA President Reed Mackenzie said. "When we remember that many New York City firefighters and emergency personnel regularly play at Bethpage, we recognize that this occasion provides an appropriate time to honor the people, the heroes, who make this country strong."

The donation will be commemorated with a plaque to be placed on the ambulance, which reads:

From the United States Golf Association
To the City and People of New York
In Remembrance of 9/11/01

Following the presentation of the ambulance, a golf ball found in the rubble of the World Trade Center by a New York City firefighter involved in the recovery efforts, will be presented for display in the USGA Museum. The ball bears the logo of the New York Shipping Association, formerly housed on the 20th floor of Tower Two in the World Trade Center complex. The ball will be placed on exhibition at the USGA Museum in Far Hills, N.J., accompanied by an American flag that will be flown over the United States Capitol on June 13th in honor of all who lost their lives.