



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Artist-Turned-First- Responder to
Recall 9/11

At State Museum Oct. 15

Columbia, S.C. – It is known simply as 9/11. The tragic events that occurred 10 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001 took the lives of thousands in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., and changed the course of American history.

The bravery and selflessness displayed by many, as well as the terror, will be recalled at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at the South Carolina State Museum. Arts conservator Tony Rajer will share his first-hand experiences as a first responder at Ground Zero, working with the Red Cross and FEMA.

Rajer, a Wisconsin artist and instructor, happened to be in New York working at the time of the attack and will give a lively and memorable talk illustrated by powerful photographs and other items (including a letter of thanks from Mayor Rudolph Giuliani).

Rajer will tell the story of the World Trade Center, the 9/11 tragedy, and the current plans for development of Ground Zero to memorialize the victims and the firemen, policemen and other first responders who gave their lives on that day.

Rajer is in Columbia for three weeks, working on the restoration of objects from the collection of the museum originally made by Orangeburg native and self-taught artist L.C. Carson. Artifacts he is working on include the Egyptian sphinx and the circular Roman temple.

Rajer is doing his work through Oct. 17 in the museum's lobby for the public to see, and he gladly explains his tasks to the curious. Previously he has restored Carson's concrete replicas of the Roman Colosseum and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, among others, which are currently on view in the State Museum's exhibit *Uncommon Folk*.

The program is included with museum admission or membership. First responders (firemen, policemen, EMS) will receive free admission to the museum on that day with I.D. Red Cross and FEMA employees will receive \$1 off admission with I.D.

For more information on the program, contact publicprograms@scmuseum.org or visit southcarolinastatemuseum.org

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CUTLINE #1 FOR TONY RAJER TALK

These candles, along with the photo of the twin towers of the World Trade Center, were among many memorials that followed the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. Wisconsin native Tony Rajer, an art conservator who, like many others, spontaneously and temporarily altered his life to become a first responder, will recall the events of that fateful day in a talk Saturday, Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia. The talk will be illustrated with photos and is free with museum admission or membership.

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo by Tony Rajer/courtesy S.C. State Museum

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CUTLINE #2 FOR TONY RAJER TALK

This New York mailbox is covered with pictures of persons missing in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001. Art conservator-turned-first-responder Tony Rajer will recall the events of that fateful day in a talk Saturday, Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia. The talk will be illustrated with photos and is free with museum admission or membership.

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo by Tony Rajer/courtesy S.C. State Museum

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