



AMBASSADOR

10 September 2012

The Australian Embassy welcomes plans to establish the Pentagon Memorial 9/11 Visitor Education Center.

The center will be a special place where visitors from around the world can learn about the events on September 11, the lives lost that day, and the historic significance of the Pentagon Memorial site.

Tens of thousands of children and students visit the memorial each year but, at present, do not have the opportunity to learn more about the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. The Pentagon Memorial 9/11 Visitor Education Center will offer that experience.

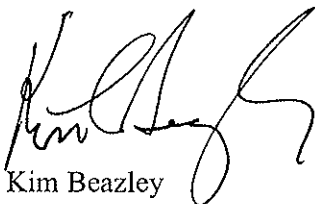
More specifically, the center will be designed to tell the stories of the victims to those who did not experience the attacks first hand, especially children.

Many of the victims were born and raised beyond America's shores and, sadly for my country, one Australian was among them.

Australian Yvonne Kennedy was a tireless worker for the International Red Cross, who was invested with the Australian Red Cross Distinguished Service Medal. A seat at the Pentagon Memorial is dedicated to Yvonne.

Her work epitomised what will be a key learning experience for visitors to the education center – that engaging with, and seeking to understand, people from different cultures and places is central to making the world a better place.

With this in mind, I encourage my colleagues in the international community to help to make this historic project a reality for future international visitors to the Pentagon Memorial.



Kim Beazley