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MS-205: The Larry Recla Ground Zero Collection

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MS-205: The Larry Recla Ground Zero Collection

Description
Rev. Larry Recla, a 1972 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, was pastor at a church in Queens on September 11, 2001. He spent the next 8 months working at the Ground Zero Temporary Morgue, rendering physical and spiritual aid to recovery personnel, blessing human remains in the morgue, and riding with bodies as they were transported off site. This collection contains items used or collected by Recla at Ground Zero and other related documents and digital artifacts.

Special Collections and College Archives Finding Aids are discovery tools used to describe and provide access to our holdings. Finding aids include historical and biographical information about each collection in addition to inventories of their content. More information about our collections can be found on our website http://www.gettysburg.edu/special_collections/collections/.

Keywords
Ground Zero, September 11, 2001, 9/11, World Trade Center, terrorist attack, New York, Manhattan, T-morgue

Disciplines
History | United States History
Guide to MS – 205: The Larry Recla Ground Zero Collection

(Musselman Library/Special Collections & College Archives)

Devin McKinney
January 2017
**MS – 205: The Larry Recla Ground Zero Collection**

(5 boxes, 2 oversize items, 1 case, 3 cubic feet)

*Processed by Devin McKinney  
January 2017*

Bulk dates: 2001-2008  
Inclusive dates: 1991-2016  
Location: Collections Room / Processing Room

**Provenance**


**Collection size**

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.

**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**

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.
**Box & Folder List**

**Box 1**

1-01. Accompanying material
   — Finding aid
   — Accession papers

1-02. 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

1-03. 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

1-04. Trinity Lutheran Church remembrance service programs

1-05. New York State Senate “Proclamations”

1-06. Posters and postcards

1-07. Patches (1)

1-08. Patches (2)

1-09. ID cards and badges

1-10. 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*

1-11. Framed plaque from US Air Force Academy

1-12. Framed oversize commemorative stamp, signed by Ground Zero official

**Box 2**

— T-shirt: “Emergency Medical Rescue NYCRMS”
— T-shirt: “In Memory Of Our Fallen Heroes – 9-11-01”
— Golf shirt: “Tactical Patrol EMS Pride Skill Response” – “Recla”
— Denim shirt: “9/11 T-Mort Chaplaincy at Ground Zero”
— Stole in Navajo design
*Obtained by Larry Recla in Utah, 1991-97, later used at Ground Zero*

**Box 3**
— “Flag of Heroes”
— Flag of the State of New York
— Flag of the City of New York

**Box 4**
1.01. Box 4a
— US Air Force Academy “Challenge Coin”
— Cross pendant
— Lapel pins
1.02. Box 4b
— Debris from Ground Zero
— Playing cards

**Box 5**
— Hardhat
— Gasmask
— Carved falcon
*US Air Force Academy mascot, presented to Larry Recla on September 11, 2008*
— Stress ball

**Oversize items**
*Located in Oversize drawer, Processing Room*
— “Never Forget” banner
— “Proclamation”

**Unboxed item**
*Located in Collections Room*
— US flag in ceremonial display case

**Subjects**
World Trade Center Site (New York, N.Y.)
September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001
September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001—Anniversaries, etc.
September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001—Religious aspects
American Airlines Flight 11 Hijacking Incident, 2001
American Airlines Flight 77 Hijacking Incident, 2001
United Airlines Flight 175 Hijacking Incident, 2001
United Airlines Flight 93 Hijacking Incident, 2001

For more information

Fred Fielding papers (inquire with staff)