



For immediate release:

22ND ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY **HUD Secretary Carson Calls For End to Hatred**

Today, April 19th, marks the 22nd Anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. Family members, survivors, first responders and those impacted, paused to remember on the grounds of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation Chairman Mike Turpen, called it "sacred ground." "This Oklahoma City National Memorial was dedicated so that the world could never forget the beauty that arose from the evil that occurred...Oklahoma City showed the world how to make resilience a part of our everyday life," Turpen told the crowd of nearly one thousand. 168 seconds of silence were observed and family members read the names of *those who were killed*.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Dr. Ben Carson, came to honor the HUD staff and all who were killed in the bombing. HUD lost 35 employees, the highest of any agency in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. For Secretary Carson, the events that happened in Oklahoma City impacted the entire nation. "What an opportunity we have to take away from that tragedy 22 years ago and think about our fellow Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Will we allow it to be a sacrifice in vain and listen to the purveyors of hatred and division or will we allow it to be a seed that will nourish the strength and unity of America?"

The bombing brought out the best in Oklahomans – fearless Acts of Service, Honor and Kindness – in 1995, coined the *Oklahoma Standard*. New community awards were announced during Wednesday's Remembrance Ceremony. The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum is expanding the *Oklahoma Standard Award* across the entire state – asking Oklahoma communities to recognize and honor those who exemplify the *Oklahoma Standard*. The community honorees will be submitted to the Memorial and in the fall, all will be reviewed, and one will be selected as the state-wide winner to be honored at the Memorial's annual banquet. "The importance of the *Oklahoma Standard* needs to be spread to the furthest reaches of our state just like it did in 1995," said Kari Watkins, Executive Director, Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. "We Oklahomans are known for our neighborly service to each other and that must continue to be celebrated from Hollis to Miami and from Guymon to Idabel."

MEDIA CONTACT

Mary Ann Eckstein, mae@okcnm.org
(405) 888-6908