

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THREE YEARS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA, UNIDENTIFIED VICTIMS ARE  
MEMORIALIZED AND A CITY REFLECTS ON PRESIDENTIAL PROMISES OF  
RECOVERY IN JACKSON SQUARE**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA (August 21, 2008)** –The City of New Orleans and the New Orleans City Council will host three city-wide events on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> in observance of the third year since the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the failed levees devastated the city and caused the city's first ever mandatory evacuation.

"August 29<sup>th</sup> will forever be remembered in this region as the day that changed millions of lives. We are working as one community to restore our beloved city and all the richness of its culture. But in the midst of this historic undertaking to move toward a better future, we cannot and must not forget those who lost their lives in the storms and floods. It is in this spirit of reflection that we continue to move with great determination to secure the resources and funding needed to fully rebuild our city," said Mayor C. Ray Nagin.

"On this third anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we come together as one community to remember those who lost their lives and reflect upon the progress we have made," said New Orleans City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson. "Three years after the devastation of these storms, our citizens continue to move forward rebuilding their neighborhoods and communities. Although we have made great strides in our recovery efforts, there is still much to do. We will continue to do whatever it takes to fully rebuild this great City that we call home."

Beginning at 8 a.m., the New Orleans Forensic Center Coroner's Office will sponsor a New Orleans traditional jazz funeral and symbolic burial memorializing the unidentified victims of the storms and flood. The site of the memorial ceremony and final resting place for the unidentified victims will be the newly constructed Hurricane Katrina Memorial housed at the Charity Hospital Cemetery, 5056 Canal Street. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Katrina Memorial was held on August 29, 2007.

The jazz funeral will travel a total of eight (8) blocks down Canal Street to the Hurricane Katrina Memorial. City dignitaries, citizens and visitors, lead by The Young Men Olympia Benevolent Society, Treme Brass Band and Storyville Stumpers Brass Band, will proceed to the Katrina Memorial for the burial.

The Katrina Memorial is a burial ground honoring the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the flooding. The memorial design incorporates the actual shape of Hurricane Katrina taken from a satellite image. The approximate construction cost of the monument is \$1.5 million.

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**Mayor's Press Office**

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Following the jazz funeral and memorial, Mayor Nagin and Mrs. Seletha Nagin will be joined by community members and elected officials as they ring ceremonial bells signifying the series of levee breaches that occurred throughout the city. Bells will ring for two minutes (9:38 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.). Simultaneously, members of the New Orleans City Council will lay wreaths on levees throughout the city in their respective districts.

Concluding the day at 7:30 p.m., the City will again host a candle light vigil in Jackson Square, the location where President Bush in 2005 declared to “do whatever it takes” to rebuild New Orleans and the devastated region. The vigil will feature the city’s first responders – the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), New Orleans Emergency Medical Services (NOEMS) and the New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD).

### **SCHEDULE OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS**

Event: Traditional Jazz Funeral

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: Procession to begin at corner of Canal Street and Carrollton Avenue

Event: Ceremonial Bell Ringing

Time: 9:38 am

Location: Katrina Memorial Cemetery/Charity Cemetery, 5056 Canal Street

Event: Candle Lighting Ceremony

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Jackson Square

For more information visit [www.cityofno.com](http://www.cityofno.com).

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