NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

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It was too short a time for people touched by victims

Those lost in attacks were precious to their loved ones. Here are some of their stories:



Wendy Faulkner, 47, of Mason, Ohio.



Jason Oswald, 28, of New York.

Written by Donna Leinwand, Mel Antonen, Mike Dodd, Debbie Howlett, Andrea Stone, Dave Moniz, Haya El Nasser and Traci Watson, USA TODAY

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People killed or missing in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers:

Dominick Pezzulo, 36, of New York City was a police officer for the New York Port Authority. He had been a teacher and an airplane mechanic but being a cop was his dream job. He was killed by falling debris as he helped a friend escape the wrecked buildings.

Pezzulo was part of a tight-knit Bronx neighborhood and family. He lived in the Bronx as a youth and stayed on once he had a family of his own. "I've known him since he was a young boy," family friend Vincent Celentano said. "He was very quiet, very respectful."

Kimberly Bowers, 31, of New York City, a member of the administrative staff at Cantor Fitzgerald Securities, stood outside the World Trade Center talking with a friend on her cellphone at 8:50 a.m. Sept. 11. "She said, 'Oh my God, a plane just hit the building. I'm getting out of here,' " said her brother-in-law, Eric Treulich. "She was still out in the street. She wasn't even in the building yet."

Bowers had spent the previous weekend rollerblading with friends in Lower Manhattan's Battery Park. Treulich said he and his wife, Allison, Bowers' sister, teasingly called Kimberly "our teenage daughter," because she always called on them for help, such as moving into a new apartment. "We were always bailing her out of something," he said with a soft laugh.

Taimour Khan, 29, of New York City was at work on the 92nd floor of the north tower by 8 a.m. on Sept. 11. That was customary for the energetic commodity futures trader for Carr Futures.

Born in Pakistan, he and his family moved to Long Island when he was 2 months old. He was captain of the varsity football team at Syosset High School and once returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown. Khan started working with Carr in 1994 after graduating from the State University of New York at Albany, where he was president of the economics society.

"He has a magnetic personality," said his brother, Shaan. "He has more best friends than anyone you and I know combined."

Robert Peraza, 30, of New York City was a broker at Cantor Fitzgerald in the north tower. "He was born in 1971 when they first started building the World Trade Center. And now, 30 years later, in 2001, that's his coffin," said his mother, Suzanne Peraza of Mason, Ohio. His father, Bob, is a Procter & Gamble employee and president of Cincinnati's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Venesha Richards, 26, of New Brunswick, N.J., was ergonomics manager at Marsh and McLennan, on the 100th floor of the north tower. She is one of more than 300 company employees missing, according to the firm's Web site. "She was the shining star of the family," said her mother, Nelith Bergen.

Born in Jamaica, Venesha moved to the USA in 1987. She was active in the Brunswick Church of God, coordinating summer youth camps, the youth choir, picnics and other activities. "Just about anything you'd call on her to do, she'd find a way to get it done," said the Rev. Quigley Daubon, her pastor. Richards and her mother volunteered for the Caribbean Medical Mission. Two days before the disaster, the two helped put on a fundraising dinner to fight cancer in the West Indies.

Wendy Faulkner, 47, of Mason, Ohio, was on the 104th floor of the south tower for a meeting. She was a vice president of Aon Corp., a risk-management company and insurance brokerage. Her husband learned that she tried to get on an express elevator, but it was full.

Gary Koechefer, 57, of Harrison, N.Y., worked as a government bond trader for Euro Brokers on the 84th floor of the south tower. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam with the U.S. Army, including service behind enemy lines in an intelligence unit. He received the Bronze Star for bravery in 1968. "We thought if anyone could get out, he had so much training that he would be the one," said his sister, Mary Jo Heine of Eagan, Minn.

Jason Oswald, 28, a bond trader for Cantor Fitzgerald, moved to New York from Chicago in June to be near his girlfriend, Nancy Prentis. Oswald and Prentis, 30, had coffee together just before he went to work at the World Trade Center on the morning of the attacks. "We had planned on going for a run and having dinner together that evening," Prentis said. "His last words to me were that he would be praying for me that day because I had a tough day ahead at work.

"It was pretty much love at first sight," she said of their relationship. "I am glad I had him for a time."

Contributing: wire services

Who they are

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