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Coming Back

Mayor Giuliani says Manhattan is ready for visitors. And it is, in countless touching and revealing ways.



In Times Square and throughout Manhattan, New Yorkers are asking Americans to visit—to show support and to experience the spirit of the indomitable city.

By Steve Hendrix and Cary Lee
Washington Post Staff Writers

Renowned for its half-foot-high pastrami and corned beef sandwiches and as a backdrop for scenes in Woody Allen movies, Manhattan's Carnegie Deli keeps hungry visitors lined up for half a block in normal times.

But on Tuesday, it's the staff that's milling outside on the sidewalk, beckoning passersby. Inside, only a half-dozen guests are hunched over tables. Marty, a beefy waiter, nonetheless rushes back and forth, balancing heaping plates of cheesecake and glasses of root beer with aplomb.

"So when are you coming to New Yawwk?" a customer yells into his mobile phone between spoonfuls of chicken soup. "You're scared?" he continues. "Well rent a damn plane. New Yawwk needs you."

As soon as a visitor steps off the early-morning Amtrak from Washington, it is clear that New York has been transformed from America's biggest city to a kind of urban village. The crowd at Penn Station, usually brusque and rushed, moves in a kind of slow-motion trance. "May I help with directions?" a transit officer in an orange vest asks a visitor. A panhandler pleads politely, "Got a spare quarter?"

On the stairs out front, a makeshift shrine—one of dozens scattered in parks, on street corners and other places across Manhattan—has been erected to honor firefighters and other victims of the World Trade Center tragedy. Candles, fresh flowers, poems, notes and photographs are propped everywhere. "My heart goes out to New York," says one note, handwritten below a drawing of a fireman. "Let's give peace a chance."

Nine a.m. is normally a peak rush hour in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, but last Tuesday morning it was a picture of serenity. With occupancy rates in lodg-

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