9/11 Oral History Project in Islandia has collected more than 135 histories that will become a permanent part of the Library of Congress

Hauppauge, NY— On Monday, Reps. Steve Israel (NY-2) and Peter King (NY-3) joined with Dr. Benjamin Luft, Director of the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program SUNY Stony Brook, John Feal of the Feal Good Foundation and 9/11 first responders to announce that the Long Island based 9/11 Oral History Project's work will become part of the permanent archives of the Library of Congress.

"For the first responders who went to Ground Zero on 9/11, the memories of the suffering and bravery of that day will always be with them. In just a few short weeks, we will mark 10 years since the tragedy. It's important that we preserve the stories of our heroic first responders for future generations. Dr. Benjamin Luft has done that with his collection of 9/11 oral histories and now that collection will be accepted as part of the Library of Congress, making it a permanent part of our nation's history ," said Rep. Israel.

"The Library of Congress will ensure that the heroics of our first responders on September 11th are preserved for generations to come by not only honoring their courage and sacrifice but serving as a constant reminder of the evil that was inflicted on our nation," said Rep. King.

"Listening to the responders stories allows us to recollect the tragedy of 9/11. It causes us to

reflect upon the courage and altruism of the responders, and thereby contemplate our own values and what it is to be an American. We are all so proud of our responders and we cannot thank Representatives Israel and King enough for ensuring their legacy by the inclusion of these stories into the Library of Congress," said Dr. Luft.

Dr. Luft has been collecting first responders' stories as the principal investigator for the 9/11 Oral History Project. Reps. Israel and King helped facilitate the collaboration with the Library of Congress and have introduced a bill that would take Dr. Luft's work and make it part of a national program.

Recently, staff from the Library of Congress visited Long Island to coordinate the project with Dr. Luft. The material from the 9/11 First Responders Oral History Project will become a part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and be available to researchers.

More than 50,000 workers from across the country responded to assist following the attacks of 9/11. Dr. Luft has been able to document more than 135 stories, primarily from those on Long Island and in the New York metro region.

Reps. King and Israel also introduced the 9/11 First Responders History Project Act of 2011, bipartisan legislation to authorize the Library of Congress to create a new federally sponsored project that will coordinate at a national level the collection of video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of emergency responders and recovery and cleanup workers who responded to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.