

Tanya Villanueva Tepper

Tanya is a 9/11 widow living happily “even” after who is featured in the Peabody Award-winning documentary, **Rebirth**. The film captures the almost decade-long journey of five individuals whose lives were permanently altered by the September 11th attacks on the WorldTrade Center. Interwoven with time-lapse photography of the rebuilding of the site at Ground Zero, the audience sees each participant through the darkest days of grief and trauma toward hope, healing and renewal. It is the longest and most complete film record of people coping in the aftermath of disaster and is a unique tool for teaching, healing, and research. **Rebirth** premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2011 and on Showtime network for the 10th anniversary of the attacks and has a permanent home at the **National September 11th Museum**. The full archive of films is also available online at **Georgetown University**.

As lesson plans for September 11th made their way into educational curriculum for middle school, high school, and college level students, Tanya was honored to collaborate with nonprofit organization Project Rebirth in their educational initiatives. After screening the feature film **REBIRTH**, or the 20-minute short film, **Rebirth: Tanya**, Tanya speaks directly to students about what she and other families endured during the aftermath. While providing a personal connection to the day, Tanya shares the many valuable lessons around grief, resilience, and heroism.

Tanya is also a member of the Advisory Board for **Soaring Spirits International**, which brings peer-based programs to the widowed community. Each year, Tanya delivers hope, comfort, and laughter through her workshops at **Camp Widow**, a weekend-long gathering of widows from around the world.

Tanya is a recognized 9/11 family member and has appeared on **CBS This Morning**, **The Talk** (CBS), **Extra** (NBC), **Good Morning America** and other network and international news programs. She has been featured in articles for the **New York Times**, the **Toronto Star**, and **Robb Report Motorcycling**. She has spoken at The White House, the Vinfen Film Festival at Harvard University, and the Sarasota Film Festival.

Tanya delivered her talk, **Happily Even After** at TEDxCoconutGrove in 2016 and has written articles for the **Huffington Post**. She loves her life in Miami with her husband Ray, two daughters, and their bearded dragon.

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