



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2016

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Public invited to Arbor Day planting of Idaho's first "Survivor Tree" from Oklahoma City

MERIDIAN, Idaho –A unique Arbor Day event will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29 at Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village in Meridian. The cornerstone of the event will be the planting of an American Elm sapling derived from the Oklahoma City "Survivor Tree." The original tree withstood the 1995 terrorist bomb that killed 168 people and injured hundreds of others. This sapling is the first to be planted in Idaho.

The event's keynote speaker is Mark Bays, Urban Forestry Coordinator with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, who nursed the American Elm back to health after the bombing and is charged with the sapling program. Also speaking is Idaho State Controller Brandon Woolf, who will present the state of Idaho's Arbor Day Proclamation.

Open to the public, the event schedule includes:

- 1:30 p.m. Singing of "Oklahoma!" by the Touchmark Choir
Welcome and opening remarks by Touchmark Executive Director Matthew Hoskin
- 1:40 p.m. Remarks and Idaho Arbor Day Proclamation by Idaho State Controller Brandon Woolf
- 1:45 p.m. Keynote speaker Mark Bays, Urban Forestry Coordinator with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture
- 2 p.m. Sapling planting and singing of "America the Beautiful"

Also in attendance will be Dave Stephenson, Urban Interface/Planning Program Manager for the Idaho Department of Lands.

An outdoor reception will immediately follow the planting, and "The Survivor Tree" video will be available for viewing indoors. Free blue spruce seedlings will be provided by the Idaho Forest Products Commission.

"Touchmark is excited and honored to be the state's host of the Survivor Tree," says Touchmark Executive Director Matthew Hoskin. "The tree is a living legacy symbolizing resilience, growth, and the power of community."

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Touchmark is located at 4037 East Clocktower Lane (near Eagle and Franklin roads) in Meridian.

To learn more about the Survivor Tree, follow this link:

<https://oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/press-room/press-kit/survivor-tree/>

About Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village:

Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village is an award-winning, full-service retirement community offering a range of homes and lifestyle options for people 55 years and older. The nearly 100-acre campus includes scenic lakes, a nine-hole golf course, walking paths and more. More information is available at Touchmark.com

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