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9/11 Memorial gift shop: Offensive or necessary?

Most museums have gift shops featuring t-shirts, mugs and the like. But are these types of items OK to sell at a site where thousands died?

By **Cara Hutt**

updated 5:47 PM EDT, Thu May 22, 2014

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Hooded t-shirt

On Wednesday, the [9/11 Memorial Museum](#), honoring the nearly 3,000 killed during the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York City, opened to the public. The 16-acre site features reflecting pools, waterfalls, original towers wreckage... and a gift shop.

Most museums have gift shops, including the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), but many are taking offense to some of the items for sale at the 9/11 Memorial Museum, including stuffed animals, key chains and [cheese plates](#).

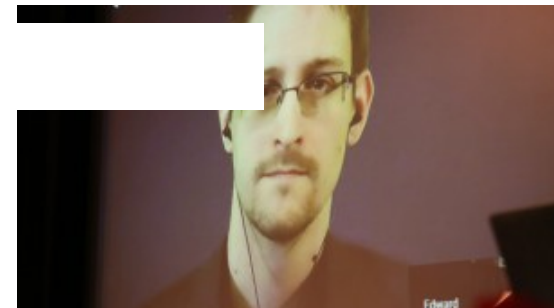
In response to the criticism, museum organizers say the \$65 million needed to run the 9/11 Memorial Museum each year has to come from somewhere. The interior of the museum has a \$24 admission fee, but the outside areas are free to all visitors.

"To provide an opportunity to buy a keepsake and have those proceeds support this open and free memorial is something I would do seven days a week," Joe Daniels, president of the National September 11 Memorial Museum, told [CNN](#).

The museum organizers also told CNN, the museum is in a "respectful place" in the



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memorial, and sells more traditional historical museum fare, like educational books and DVDs -- which have been their top sellers so far.

What do you think? Does any of the merchandise for sale at the memorial cross a line?

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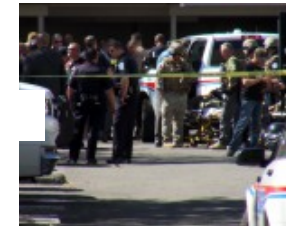
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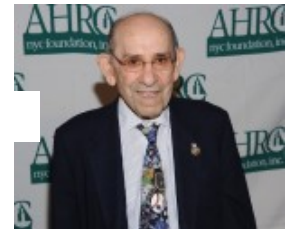
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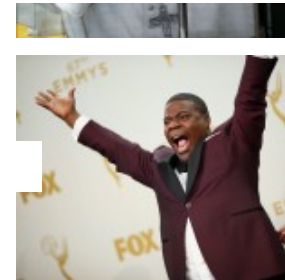
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