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*Southern Cultural Heritage*  
**FOUNDATION**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SCHF welcomes NancyKay Wessman for Lecture and Book Signing** *Katrina, Mississippi: Voices from Ground Zero*

(VICKSBURG, MS) Join us in the SCHC Convent Chapel on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., as we welcome NancyKay Wessman for a talk on her book *Katrina, Mississippi: Voices from Ground Zero*. NancyKay will also be signing books. Lorelei Books will be available on site to sell NancyKay's books. In the few weeks since publication of *Katrina, Mississippi: Voices from Ground Zero*, nearly half a million Facebook users have learned about Mississippi people's strength, resolve, and resilience. They also catapulted the new book to #1 bestseller in Mississippi.

Author NancyKay Sullivan Wessman, veteran journalist and public health expert, appealed to readers and fans on Facebook to help the world understand that Hurricane Katrina dead-eye centered the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Within hours, Wessman's comment went viral, eventually reaching 463,000 people, with 10 percent of them sharing the message. Hundreds began sharing their own stories of loss, upheaval, and survival. The August 15 post and comments are available at <https://www.facebook.com/nancykaywessmanauthor>.

Most Hurricane Katrina first responders speak little about their experiences. Many who lived through the catastrophic storm remain shell-shocked; some admit post-traumatic stress. But over the past eight years, some four dozen "champions of the storm" revealed their actions and alliances to Wessman. Those interviews plus situation reports, news releases, mass media accounts and other resources result in [\*Katrina, Mississippi: Voices from Ground Zero\*](#), a work of creative nonfiction.

The new 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative book **showcases heroes and their work from the epicenter of preparedness, response, rescue, recovery and rebuilding. Theirs are stories about human suffering and survival – often not because of but in spite of assistance from government.** Their work and successful first-ever employment of the unified command concept under the National Response Framework can instruct other first responders and the consumer public for preparedness and response, whether the emergency involves weather, wildfires, bioterrorism, emerging infectious diseases, or a plane crash or train wreck, for example.

From Triton Press, a division of Nautilus Publishing, *Katrina, Mississippi: Voices from Ground Zero* **reveals personal recollections of health and medical aspects, special needs victims and mass care through sheltering, pop-up medical clinics, and the sole hospital that withstood the storm and continued providing services. The book introduces characters who addressed issues related to food and water, sewers, volunteers, donations, and other emergency support functions.**

For more information, please call the SCHF business office at 601-631-2997 or email [info@southernculture.org](mailto:info@southernculture.org).

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