

Flight 93 National Memorial



A Day Like No Other

On the morning of September 11, 2001, four commercial airliners were hijacked in a planned attack against the United States. Two of the flights were deliberately flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, resulting in the loss of 2,749 innocent lives, including plane crews and passengers, building occupants, and rescue workers. A third plane was flown into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, taking the lives of 125 in that building, and the 59 innocent passengers and crew on board the plane. A fourth plane, Flight 93, a Boeing 757 traveling from Newark (NJ) to San Francisco (CA), experienced a delay at take-off. When it left the ground at 8:42 a.m. the flight was running more than 25 minutes late. After forty-six minutes of routine flight, as the plane passed over eastern Ohio, hijackers seated in the first class section of the plane attacked at 9:28 a.m. The terrorists entered the cockpit and gained control of the plane by incapacitating the captain and first officer. Flight 93 turned southeast, heading for the nation's capital. Shortly before 10 a.m. the plane was observed flying low and erratically over southwestern Pennsylvania. At 10:03 a.m. the plane crashed at 580 miles per hour into a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Emergency responders arriving at the scene minutes after the crash found no survivors. All thirty-three passengers, seven crew members, and four hijackers were killed.

Story of Heroism

In the hours and days that followed, an astounding story about what happened on board Flight 93 was revealed. When the terrorist-hijackers took over the plane, passengers and crew began telephoning family members, friends, and the authorities to report the hijacking, providing those on the ground with firsthand accounts. The calls enabled the passengers and crew to gain critical information, including the news that two aircraft had intentionally crashed into the World Trade Center.

As their phone conversations reveal, the passengers and crew of Flight 93 realized that their plane, too, was part of the planned attack. This realization led to a collective decision by the crew and passengers to revolt against the hijackers. According to one phone call, they took a vote among themselves and decided to rush the terrorists in an attempt to retake the plane. The cockpit voice recorder, later recovered at the crash site, captured the sounds of the assault muffled by the intervening cockpit door, including shouts, loud thumps, crashes, and breaking glass and plates. According to the report of the 9/11 Commission, the hijackers remained at the controls of the plane but must have judged that the passengers and crew were only seconds from overcoming them. With the sounds of the counterattack continuing, the aircraft crashed into a Pennsylvania field, about 20 minutes flying time from Washington, D.C. The hijackers' objective was to crash the airliner into either the Capitol or the White House. They were defeated by the alerted, unarmed passengers and crew of Flight 93.

Passengers and Crew of Flight 93

Crew Members

Captain Jason M. Dahl
First Officer LeRoy Homer
Lorraine G. Bay, Flight Attendant
Sandra Bradshaw, Flight Attendant
Wanda Anita Green, Flight Attendant
CeeCee Lyles, Flight Attendant
Deborah Jacobs Welsh, Flight Attendant

Passengers

Christian Adams
Todd Beamer
Alan Anthony Beaven
Mark Bingham
Deora Frances Bodley

Marion R. Britton
Thomas E. Burnett, Jr.
William Joseph Cashman
Georgine Rose Corrigan
Patricia Cushing
Joseph DeLuca
Patrick Joseph Driscoll
Edward P. Felt
Jane Folger
Colleen L. Fraser
Andrew Garcia
Jeremy Glick
Kristin White Gould
Lauren Catuzzi Grandcolas

Donald Freeman Greene
Linda Gronlund
Richard Guadagno
Toshiya Kuge
Hilda Marcin
Waleska Martinez
Nicole Carol Miller
Louis J. Nacke, II
Donald Peterson
Jean Hoadley Peterson
Mark Rothenberg
Christine Snyder
John Talignani
Honor Elizabeth Wainio

A Temporary Memorial Is Created

Almost immediately after the crash, visitors began arriving in Somerset County to see the place where the path of Flight 93 ended. Realizing the public's need to visit here, to search for understanding and to pay respect, a temporary memorial was created on a hilltop overlooking the crash site. Here, visitors may gaze over the grassy fields, visually following the flight path of the plane to the crash site, an area now planted with grass and enclosed by a fence. In excess of 150,000 visitors come to this temporary memorial each year.

Because many visitors to the site have questions about the events that transpired here on September 11, 2001, a group of local residents organized to staff the temporary memorial. These National Park Service volunteers, known as "Ambassadors," have familiarized themselves with the facts surrounding the event, and are ready to answer questions, give driving directions, and most importantly, provide a human

point of contact for the thousands of visitors who continue to come to the site each week.

At the temporary memorial visitors see a fence, which has become a collage of flowers, flags, handwritten messages, artwork, and tributes of every description. The array of crosses, plaques, ball caps, patches, flags, and angels left at the site, and the journals in which visitors may write their thoughts, are a heartfelt record of the nation's feelings about this event and the heroes who were aboard Flight 93.

Items left at the temporary memorial are being cared for by volunteers and staff of the National Park Service. Items that need to be removed from the weather are cleaned, catalogued, and stored. The Flight 93 National Memorial Collection already numbers over 25,000 objects. For more information about the collection, contact the National Park Service curator at (814) 443-4557.

Progress Toward a Permanent Memorial

On September 24, 2002, the *Flight 93 National Memorial Act* (P.L.107-226) was signed by the President, creating the Flight 93 National Memorial as a unit of the National Park Service. The purpose of the memorial is to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93 and their courageous actions to thwart an attack on our nation's capital. Family members, area residents, subject experts, and the National Park Service have worked with a Federal Advisory Commission to make recommendations on the design, boundaries, and management of the National Memorial. An international competition, which drew more than 1000 entries resulted in the selection of a design for a permanent memorial to be built at the Flight 93 crash site. To learn more about the

development of the Flight 93 National Memorial and plans for the permanent memorial visit: www.nps.gov/flni

Tax deductible financial contributions to the permanent memorial are being accepted by:

Flight 93 National Memorial Campaign
c/o National Park Foundation
1201 Eye Street, NW, Suite 550 B
Washington, DC 20005

It is also possible to contribute to the Memorial Fund at www.honorflight93.org.

Visiting the Temporary Memorial

- The temporary memorial is located on a very windy hilltop. Most visitors find the site much colder than the place from which they came. The memorial is not lighted at night.
- The following policies exist for the site: (1) no solicitation, concessions, brochures, signs, or advertisements are permitted; (2) overnight parking or loitering at the site are prohibited; (3) planting of trees, flowers, or shrubs will not be allowed; and (4) no structures are to be installed at the site.
- The Flight 93 Temporary Memorial is a place for quiet reflection and expressions of respect. Help maintain the dignity of the site by not smoking or bringing pets, food, or drink into the memorial area.
- Visitors may write their thoughts or simply record their visit in bound books or on comment cards provided at the temporary memorial. These books and comment cards will be archived as part of the

Flight 93 permanent collection. Please do not write on memorial tributes left by others.

- Groups that would like to schedule a visit to the site, place large tributes at the temporary memorial or hold programs or ceremonies are asked to contact the National Park Service at (814) 443-4557. Permits for special events or ceremonies may be required in advance.
- The Temporary Memorial is located on private property. Please respect the owner's rights by not trespassing beyond the gravel area of the temporary memorial and the paved parking areas.
- The crash site itself is accessible only to family members of those killed on Flight 93.

Driving Directions

From Somerset: from Exit #110 of the PA Turnpike, follow signs for Rte. 281 north. Take Route 281 north 9.5 miles to US 30/Lincoln Highway at Stoystown. Travel 2.4 miles east on US 30/Lincoln Highway to Lambertsville Road. Turn right. Travel 1.7 miles on Lambertsville Road to Skyline Road. Turn left. Travel 1 mile on Skyline Road to the Temporary Memorial.

From Route 30/Lincoln Highway East: Turn left on Buckstown Road, 25 miles west of Bedford. Travel 3 miles on Buckstown Road to Skyline Road. Turn right. Travel 1 mile on Skyline Road to the Temporary Memorial.

From Route 30/Lincoln Highway West: Turn right on Lambertsville Road, 2.4 miles east of Stoystown. Travel 1.7 miles on Lambertsville Road to Skyline Road. Turn left. Travel 1 mile on Skyline Road to the Temporary Memorial.

