

FIELD NOTES

A Common Field One Day, A Field of Honor Forever



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Commemorative events planned for September 10-11, 2013

September 11, 2013 marks twelve years since the terrorist attacks that shocked our nation and transformed a common Somerset County field into a Field of Honor. The anniversary of that date will be observed with a memorial service, open to the public, beginning at 9:30 am on Wednesday, September 11, on the Memorial Plaza. The morning program will include musical selections by the U.S. Navy Sea Chanters vocal ensemble and remarks by Gordon Felt, President of the Families of Flight 93, and others. The Bells of Remembrance will be tolled and the names of the forty passengers and crew of Flight 93 will be read over the time of the crash at 10:03 am. A wreath will be laid at the Wall of Names and the ceremonial gate will be opened for Flight 93 family members to visit the crash site.

Visitors may bring folding chairs for seating during the ceremony. Please arrive early to allow time to park and ride a shuttle to the Plaza. This is a rain-or-shine event.



The Bells of Remembrance will toll at the time of the crash of Flight 93 as the names of the passengers and crew are read. (Chuck Wagner)

September 10 events

A number of special events are also scheduled for Tuesday, September 10. The final meeting of the Flight 93 Federal Advisory Commission will be held at 10 am at the National Park Service planning office at 109 W. Main Street, Somerset. The 15-member Commission was authorized by Congress to oversee development of the boundary for Flight 93 National Memorial, preparation of a General Management Plan, and selection of a design for the memorial. The Commission met quarterly for the past ten years, taking public comments, hearing committee reports, offering advice, and taking action to advance the Memorial project. Since the Commission's

Congressional mandate has been met, it will hold its final meeting on September 10. The public is invited to this session. A retrospective of the Commission's work will be presented.

At 3 pm the public is invited to attend a ceremony marking the symbolic groundbreaking for the Flight 93 Visitor Center and Learning Center. The Visitor Center will house exhibits that relate the events of September 11, 2001 with a focus on Flight 93, using photographs, video, audio, and artifacts. The exhibit will include a small sample of the more than 50,000 tribute items that have been left by the public at Flight 93 National Memorial, and a gallery of photos of the forty passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93.

The Learning Center will be a multi-use space for changing exhibits, programming, and special events. The two structures will be constructed along a flight path walkway that affords views of the Wall of Names and the crash site beyond. Actual construction on the two structures is expected to begin during the fall of 2013 and will take two years to complete. The structures will be built with contributions from more than 120,000 individual donors to a fundraising campaign managed by the National Park Foundation, as well as through significant support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Candle Lanterns on the Plaza

At dusk on Tuesday, September 10, the Friends of Flight 93 will again sponsor a solemn luminaria program on the Memorial Plaza. Beginning at 7:15 pm, family members of the passengers and crew and Friends and memorial volunteers will carry forty lighted lanterns along the length of the Memorial Plaza and place one lantern at the base of each of the forty marble panels that make up the Wall of Names. The lanterns will remain in place until approximately 8:45 when the lights will be carried back to the Shelter and extinguished. The public is invited to observe the ceremony and use this meditative time to honor and remember the passengers and crew of Flight 93.



Family members and Friends of Flight 93 will carry forty candle lanterns to the Wall of Names in a solemn procession honoring the passengers and crew, beginning at 7:15 pm Tuesday, September 10. (Chuck Wagner)

Friends gather for summer membership meeting

Seventy members of the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial gathered at the Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department for their Summer Membership Meeting on July 29. Following a social time, Friends President Lladel Lichty welcomed the membership and guests, invited volunteers to participate in “Weeding Wednesdays” in the park, to receive training and serve as greeters on the Memorial Plaza during late summer and fall weekends at Flight 93, and to watch their email for volunteer opportunities surrounding September 11.

Charter Friends member Chuck Wagner presented a program to the group highlighting the history of the U.S. flags that have flown from the boom of the Marion 7500 dragline, the huge piece of mining equipment that was located on a ridge north of the crash site on September 11, 2001. With his personal photographs and narrative, Wagner took the group back to the day after the crash of Flight 93 when a Pennsylvania State Police Trooper climbed the 200-foot boom to fly a U.S. flag over the crash site, inspiring those working the investigation and recovery of Flight 93. When a temporary memorial to the passengers and crew of Flight 93 opened on Skyline Road in the fall of 2001, Wagner continued to singly and quietly care for the U.S. flag flying from the dragline. In the earliest years of the national memorial, the sight of this flag, visible from the Lincoln Highway, inspired thousands of visitors to the temporary memorial to Flight 93.

Superintendent Jeff Reinbold updated the Friends on plans for the Visitor Center and Learning Center, and then invited the members to visit the dragline ridge at sunset, after the park closed to the public, to view the illuminated memorial plaza and crash site. After viewing the lighted Wall of Names, the flight path and crash site from the ridge, Friends member Sherin Knowles said, “Knowing the story of the mining machinery and the U.S. flag that flew here immediately after the crash of Flight 93 made visiting this location in the park a very special experience.”

A number of new members joined the Friends at the Summer Membership Meeting, bringing the total membership to 240.



Friends of Flight 93 gather at Shanksville Fire Station for program and updates. (Kathie Shaffer)

Membership in the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is open and new applications are received weekly at the Friends office at park headquarters. For more information or to join the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial, call 814-893-6322 ext. 4 or check the “Support Our Park” tab of the NPS website: www.nps.gov/flni.

Reminder: Friends membership dues for the 2014 program year should be paid by October 21, 2013. Don't miss an issue of *Field Notes*, opportunities to volunteer, and invitations to Friends-only events. Please continue your support of Flight 93 National Memorial by sending your dues of \$25 per individual, \$40 per couple, or \$93 sponsor-level to Friends of Flight 93, P.O. Box 911, Shanksville, PA 15560.



Forty candle lanterns glow at the base of the Wall of Names during last year's luminaria ceremony. (Dawna Bates)

Friends Calendar

- September 10** Final meeting of the Federal Advisory Commission, 109 W. Main Street, Somerset, 10 am
Groundbreaking ceremony for the Flight 93 Visitor Center and Learning Center, 3 pm
Luminaria ceremony at Memorial Plaza, 7:15 pm
- September 11** Memorial Ceremony at Flight 93 National Memorial, 9:30 am. See park website for latest information on entry, parking, security, etc. www.nps.gov/flni
- September 28** Public Lands Day
- November 2** Annual Meeting of the Friends of Flight 93, location and time to be announced