

# FIELDNOTES

*A Common Field One Day, A Field of Honor Forever*



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## Friends Welcome Development Assistant Brooke Neel

*A Word with Brooke*

My name is Brooke Neel, I am the new Development Assistant at Friends of Flight 93 and will be working alongside Executive Director, Henry Scully. I am so very honored and thankful to be a part of such a wonderful organization with so many loyal supporters and members. I wanted to take the time to introduce myself and extend my warmest regards to all of you.

I am from the Pittsburgh area and graduated from Robert Morris University with a degree in Marketing. Since then I have had the experience of working overseas in Sydney, Australia for a year and most recently for Jefferson Memorial Cemetery, Funeral Home and Crematory, owned and operated by my family for 4 generations.

I grew up coming to the Shanksville area every summer and have so many happy memories of this region. I will be organizing events, volunteers, fundraisers and donations at Flight 93 as well as marketing, sales and exposure for the Park and National Memorial. I look forward to meeting all of you and thank you for your continued support and membership with the Friends in honor of Flight 93 National Memorial passengers and crew.



## 2016 Save the Dates Released: 3 Main Events

The dates and tentative plans have been made for Reforestation, Walk 93 and September 11, 2016!

Save the date on Monday, May 2, for stake and deer guard removal along the Memorial Groves and mark your calendars for Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, for reforestation at Flight 93 National Memorial. The Friends will be responsible for volunteer registration, fundraising, sponsor t-shirts and feeding the approximate 500 volunteers that we seek for this spring's volunteer event. The National Park Service and volunteers are preparing to plant approximately 20,800 tree seedlings.

New this year, the second annual Walk 93 will move to June 25, 2016. The Somerset Leadership Committee, Friends and NPS will be organizing and planning the fundraising event. Check the [Friend's website](#) for more details with registration to begin in March.

Finally, the NPS 100th Anniversary will take place this year along with the 15th Anniversary Memorial Service for September 11, with a 2 day tribute to be held featuring special educational programming, key-note speakers, a luminaria ceremony and outreach targeted towards 'the next generation.'

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### Save the Date!

Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14  
**Reforestation**

Saturday, June 25  
**Walk 93**

Saturday, September 10 & Sunday, September 11  
**15th Anniversary Remembrance**

### Stay Social!

Facebook



Flight 93 National Memorial Campaign (Friends)  
Flight 93 National Memorial (NPS)



Twitter

@FriendsFlight93 (Friends)  
@Flight93NPS (NPS)

# 2015: A Year in Review / / 2016: A Look Forward

The Friends had a fantastic 2015. Thank you volunteers, rangers and donors for your continued support of the Friends.

The first inaugural Walk 93 in September raised \$23,000 on behalf of the National Park Service for the purpose of trail maintenance and development. This event was made possible by many corporate sponsors, Somerset Leadership Class and the wonderful team of Friends' members and volunteers who care so much about the continued development and support of Flight 93 National Memorial.

The last quarter of 2015 saw the biggest growth to date for Flight 93 National Memorial with visitation reaching over 340,000 for the year. In September a dedication ceremony was held for the official opening of the Visitor Center Complex, which includes the 6,800 square foot Visitor Center with 10 interactive displays that tell the story of Flight 93. This complex also features a unique Learning Center which is envisioned as a space to spread learning and awareness, with programming in development for educational outreach to the next generation.

With the 2016 New Year upon us, the Friends eagerly look forward to the coming months. This year will mark 15 years since September 11, 2001, and also the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service. With the support of the National Park Foundation, 2016's [Centennial](#) Event will be featured nationwide through National Geographic and other publications.

On March 22, author and new Vice President of the Friends' Board of Directors, Tom McMillan, will hold a book presentation in Pittsburgh. Hosting the event is UPMC, which has been a loyal supporter and donor to Flight 93. Mr. McMillan will be promoting his book and signing hardback copies for sale. The reception will also give the Friends and NPS an opportunity to spread awareness to new donors and help raise funds for Flight 93 National Memorial throughout Western Pennsylvania.



## Reminder!

If you have not submitted your dues for the 2016 program year, dues can be mailed to:

PO Box 911, Shanksville, PA 15560 or paid online at

<https://www.flight93friends.org/join-us/join-today>

\$25 for individuals

\$40 for couples

Please be sure you renew your membership so you can continue to receive special Friends event information, and

*Field Notes Newsletter!*

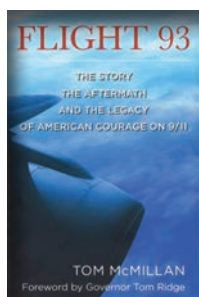
## WHO ARE THE FRIENDS?

Friends groups are found at many national parks, raising awareness and appreciation for these special places and helping to provide educational and interpretive resources to enhance the experience of the visitor.

Established in 2009, the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is a varied group, including family and friends of the passengers and crew of Flight 93, people nationwide who have been inspired by these acts of courage, and many residents of Western Pennsylvania who wish to be part of the park's mission in a hands-on way.

## MISSION

As Friends, we welcome all who would join us in honor and remembering the sacrifice and courage of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 by the mission of the Flight 93 National Memorial with volunteers and civic engagement so all who visit with the Flight



## DID YOU SEE THE FRIENDS 2015 ANNUAL REPORT?

You can view it online at:

<http://www.flight93friends.org/annual-reports>

If you would like a physical copy, please email or call the office.



# Donor Support and Acknowledgment - Thank You!

Diebold, Incorporated has graciously donated \$5,600 to the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial in honor of the first inaugural Walk 93 Event this past September. Diebold's funds directly supported Walk 93, a volunteer walk geared towards raising funds on behalf of the National Park Service. Thanks to nearly 500 volunteers and supporters, the Friends were given over \$22,000 for NPS to develop and maintain trails around the Memorial. "We are honored to bring more awareness to Flight 93 National Memorial and assist in the endeavor to educate future generations about the Flight 93 story, maintain the highest standards of care for the memorial and provide meaningful experiences for its visitors" said Tony Byerly, Executive Vice President, Electronic Security, Diebold.



Tony Byerly of Diebold presenting the check to Executive Director Henry Scully

UPMC generously donated \$6,000 to the Friends first annual Walk 93 Event in September. In addition to their contribution, UPMC donated 17 AED devices to the Friends and National Park Service to be placed at the new Visitor Center, Learning Center and Memorial Plaza as well as the other four Western Pennsylvania National Park sites. Eight wheelchairs were also gifted and are available for use around the Visitor Center Complex and Memorial Plaza as well as 14 communication radios for use among NPS staff and rangers.

Susan Keller has donated \$10,000 to the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial in honor of her late husband, Rich Keller, who acted as Project Manager for the construction of the newly opened Visitor Center and Learning Center. In early December, a small group of NPS and Friends' staff held a small ceremony with Susan at the Learning Center. With light snacks and refreshments, the NPS thanked Susan for her generous donation and highlighted the ceremony with memories of her late husband and his dedication to the legacy of Flight 93 National Memorial. We look forward to working with Susan for many years to come and greatly anticipate working with Susan to dedicating a project for her generous donation.

Susan Keller Reception



The Friends' received a \$10,000 grant on behalf of the Community Initiatives Fund of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies in early November. The grant will support the Map, Diagram and Sign Replacement Project. The project is aimed at refurbishment and replacement of damaged signage and property that was a result of last year's HQ fire that damaged artifacts and essential signage at Flight 93 National Memorial.



Flight 93 Memorialization at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City

To all the Friends' donors, volunteers, ambassadors and supporters, we thank you for a truly wonderful year, and look forward to all that 2016 will bring in helping to remember and spread awareness of the heroes of Flight 93 who we serve.



# Flight 93 Visitor Center & Learning Center

Source: Kecia Bal, Tribune Democrat

September witnessed the unveiling of the long awaited Flight 93 Visitor Center and Learning Center. Dedicated the day before the 14th anniversary of September 11, the Visitor Center Complex offers 10 interactive, multi-dimensional exhibits that tell the story of the events of September 11 and Flight 93. The permanent exhibits were created by a team that consisted of consultants, scholars, park service interpreters and staff as well as families of the passengers and crew. One exhibit includes telephone receivers modeled after the plane airphones, where visitors can listen to messages – final phone calls to loved ones from those on the plane - a moving reminder of the sacrifice made by the 40 passengers and crew of Flight 93.

Through photographs, news reports, artifacts, models, audio and video recordings, the 10 exhibit walls at the Visitor Center share the story, chronologically, from the ordinary morning of September 11, 2001 to a final list of the 2,977 souls who perished that September day. At the end of the center, visitors can peer out of a suspended corner window and look out the fields over the crash site below.

The Learning Center, the second building in the complex, adds another way to further the Flight 93 story by offering a dedicated space for on-site learning and long-distance classes, educational programming, seminars and rotating exhibits. NPS Interpreters are working with the Friends of Flight 93 to plan programming and topics to develop more ways to spread awareness and share the remarkable story of Flight 93. The goal for 2016 planning is to create solid, connective, educational programming and learning content that will further the story of Flight 93 to the next generation. A speaker-series is in the beginning stages of planning to connect adults to the site, from corporate volunteer groups to further education for teachers which will include guest speakers such as authors, professors and Park Service interpreters.

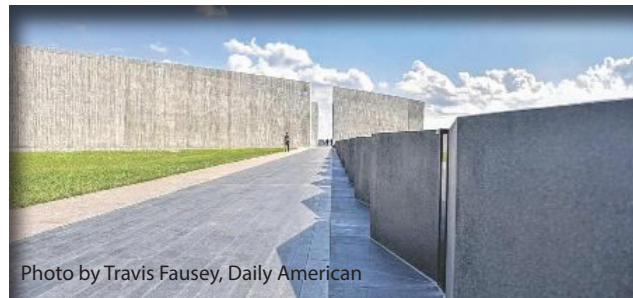


Photo by Travis Fausey, Daily American



Photo by Vicki Rock

Barbara Black, seated, chief of cultural resources.  
Donna Glessner & Kathie Shaffer, oral history project assistants since 2005



Exhibits from Flight 93 Visitor Center. (L) Scenes from Shanksville the morning of September 11, 2001. (R) An interactive exhibit displaying moments from inside the cockpit, including telephone receivers where visitors can listen to final calls made by the passengers and crew to loved ones. The Visitor Center holds 10 permanent exhibits.



## Families of Flight 93 Pay Tribute to Paris Terrorism Victims

Relatives of more than a dozen passengers and crew members aboard United Flight 93 made the journey to Paris, France in early December to support the families of victims and survivors of the terror spree that ripped through Paris on November 13, 2015. Their trip was sponsored by Boston based Vantage Deluxe World Travel, who invited Flight 93 family members as part of its Vantage Heroes program, which has sponsored similar trips for survivors and family members of similar terror attacks and national disasters. The trip had been pre-scheduled, and in light of the Paris attacks, family members were more determined than ever to make this trip overseas.

The Families of Flight 93 pilgrimaged to The Bataclan Music Hall in Paris where 90 of the 130 terror victims were killed in the Nov. 13 attacks. The group laid a wreath in honor of the departed souls at the overflowing memorial outside the concert hall; the message read, "Paris in Our Prayers: Flight United 93 Vantage Heroes." "I remember the outpouring of support that our families received from total strangers after 9/11, we all need to support Paris right now and show the rest of the world that love will always conquer hate" said Deborah Borza, mother of Flight 93 hero Deora Bodley.

The Flight 93 families also visited the beaches of Normandy, where on June 6, 1944 nearly 10,000 American soldiers fought and died during the D-Day Invasion. The group also participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the American Cemetery and walked the hallowed grounds of Omaha Beach, a strategic landing point for troops during the June 6th Invasions. For more information on the Vantage Heroes Program, [visit www.vantageheroes.com](http://www.vantageheroes.com)

Source: Casey Sherman, Fox News

"I'll never hear the music. 128 other people will never hear the music. Mom, tonight I come to tell you that my notes are silent but the song continues."

- poem written by a 16 year old in wake of the Paris Attacks



# From the Director's Desk

*Henry C. Scully*



Dear Friends,

I would like to offer a friendly and formal "welcome" to Brooke Neel, the new Development Assistant at the Friends of Flight 93, as well as the 5 new Board members of the Friends listed in this newsletter. I would also like to thank the outgoing Board members for their tremendous service over many years, especially, Lladel Lichty, who kindly stayed on as our President for many years and will now serve as the Friends' Secretary in a transition role to our new President, Patrick White.

We are already making plans for the events and ceremonies surrounding the 15th Remembrance Ceremony of September 11, 2001, and the National Park Service 100th Anniversary this year. 2016 will be a very exciting and special time to honor the 40 heroes on Flight 93. With the Dedication of the Visitors Center and Learning Center on 9/10/15, we had 350,000 visitors to Flight 93 in 2015 and expect close to half a million in 2016. This is a wonderful testament to the hard work of the National Park Service, the Families of Flight 93, the Friends of Flight 93 and especially you, the Friends members and volunteers who support us every day. Thank you.

Looking forward in 2016 we will see so much activity at Flight 93 including: the demolition and landscaping of the Western Overlook, the installation of trees along the Allee Walkway, Visitors Center landscaping and trail construction, possible ground breaking for the Tower of Voices and a building to house volunteer activities, Friends staff, NPS Staff and a presentation room facility. The beautiful and continued growth at Flight 93 will be experienced and remembered by so many future generations.

The Learning Center will be busy with school students, exhibits, lectures and seminars that will generate added interest to the events surrounding September 11, 2001. The Friends are working closely with the National Parks Services' Centennial initiative to invite (at no cost) all fourth graders and their families to NPS sites throughout the USA. This initiative, along with the educational sections of the Friends' Flight 93 [website](http://www.flight93friends.org) continues to find ways to educate and inform the next generation about the Flight 93 story of teamwork and leadership. Please access the new "Explore and Learn" sections of our website ([www.flight93friends.org](http://www.flight93friends.org)), you will be amazed at the new informative content, as well as the names and photographs of each of the 40 passengers and crew on Flight 93. We continue to encourage you to volunteer (and recruit volunteers) at Flight 93; your time is very much needed and appreciated. This will be a very exciting year and we thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Henry

# Welcome to the Friends 2016 New Board Members

The Friends are excited to announce the 2016 new Board Members. To our 5 new Board Members, the Friends welcome you and we are thrilled and proud to have you on our team. Patrick White will serve as new President of the Board, with Past-President Lladel Lichty moving to Secretary. Tom McMillan will join us as Vice-President. Donald Alexander will continue as Treasurer. New positions of Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer were created and will be filled by new Board Members Deborah Borza and Ed Shoemaker. Moving from REI after 16 years to AmeriCorps we welcome Jill Latuch. New Board Member Ed Shoemaker, Retired Vice President of Miller-Picking Corp. & Western Regional Manager, York International, joins the team along with Kathy Keiser, Contract Manager, Global/SFC Valve Corporation. Next, we welcome Donna Gibson, Vice President Retail Market Manager First National Bank of Pennsylvania along with Dr. Mary Margaret Kerr, Professor of Psychology in Education and Psychiatry from the University of Pittsburgh. What a team to lead us into 2016!



Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial Board of Directors 2016

#### Officers:

President: Patrick White  
Vice President: Tom McMillan  
Secretary: Lladel Lichty  
Asst. Secretary: Deborah Borza  
Treasurer: Don Alexander  
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## Did you know?

Plans have begun to build the September 11th National Memorial Trail linking to the Great Allegheny Passage. The 1,300 mile trail network will link New York City, the Pentagon and Flight 93 National Memorial.

The Great Allegheny Passage is currently a 150-mile trail that allows people to hike or bike from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

# Reclaiming the Land through Reforestation

Many are aware that the Flight 93 National Memorial sits on an abandoned surface mine, an area known as Lambert's Run. But many visitors may not know the extent to which the Friends, the Families and NPS, working with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, have had to research and pioneer methods to clean up the windy fields that surround Flight 93 National Memorial.

Flight 93 National Memorial is a first of its kind, the only federal Park that has implemented a completely green, non-chemical approach to land reclamation. With backing from the Families of Flight 93, the goal was to minimize the economical footprint of the treatment plan, which posed a challenge both from an engineering and aesthetic standpoint. Due to years of mining, the problem was daunting - how to clean up the acid mine water draining from an underground coal mine only acres away from the Flight 93 crash site while implementing a multi-year strategy to rebuild the natural habitat surrounding the Memorial with groves of trees and wetlands?

After extensive research and study, the Office of Surface Mining determined that aerating the water from an existing pump well system would help separate the iron, increasing water quality and eliminating the need to chemical pesticides and treatment plans. The result is a one of a kind, engineering marvel that will hopefully lead the way for future parks and reclamation projects nationwide. By aerating the existing water and wetlands, the fields surrounding Flight 93 have been given the opportunity for rebirth and replanting of both native and exotic plant species that will re-introduce wildlife habitats to the once barren landscape. In coordination with the land reclamation process, the Friends and NPS have been working yearly with local volunteers towards the goal of reforestation around Flight 93 Memorial, which will eventually result in over 150,000 new trees at Flight 93 National Memorial.

Source: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of Interior



Tree seedling freshly planted



Water aeration system surrounding Flight 93



Volunteers during Reforestation 2015

## Support Flight 93 through Amazon Smile

You can support

Flight 93 National Memorial anytime while you shop online! The Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is a registered participant of Amazon Smile, a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping as Amazon.com

The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases you make back to the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial.

[What are you waiting for?](#)

