

# FIELDNOTES

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



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## The End of an Era: The Path to Memorialization

At 93-feet-tall, the Tower of Voices will officially take on the status of largest musical instrument in the world. As many of you know, the Flight 93 partners dedicated eight of 40 chimes on Sunday, September 9.

The project's scale and complexity required a progressively elaborate process of prototype testing that took longer than expected in order to meet design parameters related to safety, performance, longevity, and reliability. There are no chime systems of this scale anywhere in the world.

"While we are disappointed in this news we are not discouraged," Flight 93 National Memorial Superintendent Stephen Clark said. "The National Park Service is committed to providing a chime system that appropriately honors each of the 40 passengers and crew members. Here at Flight 93, we pursue the highest standard of excellence, and it is more important that this project meet that standard than meet a deadline."

Nonetheless, hundreds of individuals showed up in the pouring rain on September 9 to witness the monumenal dedication that officially completes the original 2005 architect design for Flight 93 National Memorial.

So why aren't the chimes ringing? The eight chimes in the Tower were hung for the dedication so that family, friends, and visitors could see what they look like; however, they are still in the testing and fabrication phase. Engineers are working with the chime manufacturer to ensure that all 40 chimes are of the highest quality.

The Flight 93 partners will keep volunteers and the public updated as to when to expect the remainder of the chimes to be installed.

The Friends of Flight 93 would like to thank our partners and sponsors of this year's September 9-11 events, including:

- Janet A. Clark
- Concurrent Technologies Corporation
- Eden Hall Foundation
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Fuller
- Global/SFC Valve Corporation
- Mrs. Elisabeth B. McCullough
- Mr. and Mrs. S. Prosser Mellon
- Mr. Richard A. Mellon
- The Hon. John D. Ong
- Securitas Electronic Security
- John and Elizabeth Surma
- Mr. and Mrs. James M. Walton
- Red Cross
- Seven Springs Mountain Resort
- Somerset Med Services
- Starbucks Johnstown

A major thank you is deserved for the countless volunteers who supported this year's event. Through volunteer efforts, 145 local and regional volunteers provided an estimated 1,080 hours of service. Volunteers provided education and informational services at 15 different stations, supported Visitor Center operations, assisted park rangers, provided support in parking lots and high-traffic areas around the memorial, roved the crowds near the Visitor Center, along the Allée and the Wall of Names, provided snacks and beverages in the Hospitality Tent, took photographs, supported the Families and the public during the Tower of Voices Dedication and the September 11 Observance through serving at the registration table, as ushers and distributing programs, and much, much more! On behalf of all of us at Flight 93 National Memorial - thank you! **Watch the new eight-year time lapse of the construction of Flight 93 National Memorial [here!](#)**



Family member Calvin Wilson speaks on stage during the Tower of Voices Dedication on September 9, 2018. NPS/Brenda Torrey



Ranger Katie Cordek salutes family members and dignitaries during the wreath laying ceremony on September 11, 2018. NPS/Brenda Torrey

## Why Membership Matters

"My association with Flight 93 National Memorial began when Scott Eggurud, a Forester with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, asked my boss at PA-DEP, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, for volunteers. We were asked to lead other volunteers and show them how to plant trees at the memorial during the annual Plant a Tree at Flight 93 event. To me, it was truly an honor that my words can not adequately describe... that I could perform this task for the innocent patriots who lost their lives that day was indescribable.

Every year, it continues to be a high honor for me to lead volunteers during reforestation. And, every year, I said to myself that I should join the Friends of Flight 93 organization, and yet I did not until the Friends literally extended their hand to me and said, 'Please, come along.' Thank you for that! I believe your generosity will pay off. I also must thank you for your invitation to see the Tower of Voices construction site during the the hard-hat tour in June. I'm looking forward to its completion.

I was glad to meet some of the Friends, and it impressed me to have the the organization's president Donna Gibson (although I did not know her position at that time) walk up to me, invitingly shake my hand, and ask me what I thought. I think you're all very good people supporting a most worthy cause. Definitely a group that I am proud to support and lend my help to. Again, thank you."

*Written by Tom Sossong.*

Give the gift of membership this holiday season at [flight93friends.org/gift-memberships](http://flight93friends.org/gift-memberships).

## Foundations Continue to Support Educational Programming for Grades 4-12

On April 15, the Friends of Flight 93 staff were presented with a check for \$2,500 from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation to continue educational initiatives at Flight 93 National Memorial. An additional \$10,000 from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation was gifted to support education at the memorial earlier this summer expanding their commitment to educating the next generation of students.

This grant will allow the Friends to continue offering transportation funding to school districts so that students may participate in an educational program with Education Program Specialist Gregory Zaborowski at the memorial. Grade levels 4-12 have specialized, curriculum-based programming available that includes pre-visit and post-visit activities to further engage the students' learning capacity, as well as the on-site learning program.

Robert Nutting, chairman of the Board of the Pittsburgh Pirates, visited Flight 93 National Memorial, along with several of his family members earlier this year. The group had an opportunity to view the 'Down but not Out' temporary 9/11 baseball exhibit that was in the Learning Center, as they had never seen several items, including a baseball that President Bush threw out for the ceremonial opening pitch soon after September 11, 2001 in Yankee Stadium.

Pirates Charities has supported the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial for several years. Its generous grants have funded school field trips from western PA's regional school districts to the memorial since 2017. Pirates Charities has also renewed its support of the memorial's education program with an additional \$20,000 in grant funding awarded earlier this year. Last September, the Friends, National Park Service, volunteers and students were invited to PNC Park to take part in "Flight 93" day at the ball park! As part of this year's funding, students will receive a water bottle or reusable lunch bag to promote environmental mindfulness and sustainability. (After all, Flight 93 is a trash-free park!)

Educating the next generation about the heroism of those on board Flight 93 and the tragedies on September 11, 2001 is a joint mission and partnership between the Friends and Pirates Charities. We are all fortunate for both the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation and Pirates Charities passion for Flight 93 and generous contributions.

The Friends were awarded EITC ([Education Improvement Tax Credit Program](#)) funding to ensure that educational programming is a sustainable offering at the memorial. This funding offers the opportunity to extend educational support for many years to come.

So far this year, 5,237 students have participated in an education program at Flight 93!

If you would like to submit an application for transportation funding, simply download the application on the Friends' education page [here](#).

# All about the Birds and the Bees

## at Flight 93 National Memorial

This past summer, Powdermill Nature Reserve, part of Carnegie Museum of Natural History, brought a team of volunteers to plant over 260 native plants in the wetlands of Flight 93 under the Wetlands Bridge. There are six different species of pollinator-friendly plants now in place, totalling over \$2,000 of volunteer work hours and in-kind donations of plants.

Powdermill has been a close partner of the Friends of Flight 93 for several years, working collaboratively on the pollinator project and honey bee hive installation with Summer Smiles Honey Farm, landscaping at the Tower of Voices and wildflower meadows in several locations across the memorial's 2,200-acre site.

The Friends hope to make this an annual volunteer planting project every summer in the wetlands, along with our National Park Service and Powdermill partners. Powdermill recommends we continue to augment the current population of plants with these six varieties as well as add new ones to increase biodiversity in the future.

In early November, Andrea Kautz, Research Entomologist at Powdermill Nature Reserve, gave a presentation to the Friends' membership on various ongoing projects happening at Flight 93 National Memorial. The presentation included detailed information on bee surveys, honey bee hive installations, native wetland plantings that are pollinator friendly, and bird studies!

Did you know there are over 65 species of bees found on the memorial grounds? Or that 113 bird species have been identified? Flight 93 National Memorial is the third hottest bird watching spot in the county so far this year! You can find more information and search for Flight 93 on Pennsylvania eBird's website at <https://ebird.org/pa/home>.

The Friends will continue to work in partnership with Powdermill Nature Reserve on projects next year, including support of a 1-acre plot for pollinator forage plantings at the memorial, native wetland plantings, pollen studies and follow-up bee surveys to continue monitoring the honey bee hives survival and thrial rates.

The Friends would like to thank the Nimick Forbesway Foundation for supporting these environmental projects at the memorial this past year.

We look forward to developing educational programming around the various projects for both students and the public in coordination with the the Friends' Learning Center Coordinator.

### Welcome New Members!

#### June

Naomi Fredlund, Ruth Nowakowski, Joan Smeltzer,  
Joan Tortoriello

#### July

Michael & Monica Garver, Bradley Hoover,  
David Palmiotto, Maxine A. Pellis, Robert Ward

#### August

Gale Bishop, Minetta Bowman, Donald & Jodi Brouger,  
Stephen & Jean Davis, Bob Donnan, Cissie Elbersen, Alyce Fielder,  
James & David Frego-Bliek, Theresa F. Little, Diane McNeal,  
Antionette Repak, Larry & Janet Smith, Michael & Debra Tylwalk,  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Larry Vota, Mack & Sue Williams

#### September

Ken Frisk, Cheryl & Bill Walter, Sandy Vild, Nathan Sims, Ron & Carol  
Saxon, Laura Williams, Doris Lindenmuth-Lutz, Linda Rockwell,  
Thodore & Annette Nuding, Mike Larson-Edwards, Maura Thompson,  
George & Marianne Horbal, Sherry Metzger, Norma Whatman, Sarah  
Vannatta, Deb & Alan Morgan, Frank Pasquale

#### October

Fred & Lucia Stover, Harold H. Keen, Darlene Swab, Erin Laughman,  
Michael Yeager, Marleta Shadduck, Deborah Diehl, Joyce A. Suffecool,  
Abbie Fairbloth, Danette Ross, Teresa M. Ross, Mary K. Ulishney,  
Margaret McNeal

#### November

Debra Knight, Susan B. Hudson, James & Barbara Eckart, Paul &  
Sharon Driscoll, Dr. & Mrs. Frederick Smith, Carl & Susanne Sawyer,  
Richard-Paul Rider, Barbara Minnich, Nicolene Besaw

#### December

Harvey & Thirell Weiss, Drew Jasso



*Darci Sanner from Summer Smiles Honey Farm and Andrea Kautz from Powdermill Nature Reserve install bee hives. Powdermill*

# Connections Outside of the Memorial

By Rosanne Croyle

Knowing that United 93 Flight Attendant CeeCee Ross Lyles had formerly been a police officer in Fort Pierce, Florida, and that there was a memorial in her honor in that city, the first thing I wanted to do when my husband and I arrived in Fort Pierce last February was to visit her memorial.

After checking the internet, I learned that her memorial was located in a large city park along the waterfront. The day after our arrival we located the park only to find it packed with hundreds of people, all celebrating their annual "Pirate Fest." Unsure if the only parking spot we could find was legal, we approached the only police officer standing near the entrance of the park. He assured us that our car was fine where it was, and we walked away in search of CeeCee's memorial. The park is huge, and I had no idea where the memorial was located, so I walked back to the police officer and asked if he could direct me. After receiving directions, I mentioned why I was so interested in seeing the memorial – that CeeCee Ross Lyles was very special to me; that I volunteered as an Ambassador at Flight 93 National Memorial and that CeeCee was one of the heroes on that flight that I frequently mentioned in my interpretive talks. Suddenly the officer smiled and said, "CeeCee was one of my dearest friends. I trained her from her very first day as a police officer." Wow! What were the chances of the only officer on duty at that place/time having such a close connection to the one person I wanted to honor that day? After sharing with me several personal stories of their working together, I invited him to visit Flight 93 National Memorial and see for himself how she and the remaining passenger and crew members are being honored.

Then, on June 16, 2018, I had the privilege of meeting CeeCee's husband, Lorne Lyles, when he came to the memorial to share his personal story as part of the Flight 93 Speaker Series. I showed him the photo of me with Officer Jimmy Aikens and shared with him how we had met. Lorne Lyles had also worked for a number of years as a Fort Pierce police officer and recognized Officer Aikens' picture immediately, and then suggested he and I have our picture taken together to complete the story.



*Rosanne and Lorne Lyles pose for a picture outside of the Flight 93 National Memorial Visitor Center.*

## Volunteer Spotlight



*Grant Llera pictured left with Lisa Jefferson. Grant Llera*

Meet our volunteer, Grant!

Grant joined the Friends in 2014 and feels his greatest impact through volunteering is service to others. "It has given me an opportunity to give of my time to an important effort – to remember the 40 heroes and their sacrifice."

His most memorable moment at Flight 93 occurred during a Luminaria Ceremony when he carried the lantern for Donald Greene. "I've interviewed over a dozen people who knew Don and I've come to know much about him through the memories of others. I consider his sister Bonnie and other Greene family members as friends."

Although Grant does not live in Somerset County, he tries to support the Friends from afar in honoring the 40 passenger and crew members, and encourages others to join our volunteer team. "That the 40 heroes of Flight 93 are part of our history and as a people we cannot trivialize what happened to them or forget about 9/11. Volunteering is a way of honoring what the 40 heroes have taught us."

- Grant Rodriguez Llera, Friends of Flight 93 member

### Stay Connected!

#### Facebook

[Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial](#) (Friends)

[Flight 93 National Memorial](#) (NPS)

#### Twitter

[@FriendsFlight93](#) (Friends)

[@Flight93NPS](#) (NPS)

#### Instagram

[@flight93\\_nps](#) (NPS)

**YouTube** [Flight 93 National Memorial](#) (NPS)

# A Word from the Friends

## By Donna Gibson



Dear Friends,

As 2018 comes to an end, I would like to reflect on the accomplishments of the Friends of Flight 93 and to thank you for your on-going support.

Your elected board leadership team started the year with a strategic planning session in partnership with the park service leaders. Together, we identified priority goals and objectives to effectively navigate through the transition of responsibilities from the National Park Foundation to the Friends that we look forward to expanding on in the new year.

Fundraising was successful this year, and we have secured a five-year funding source and hired a Learning Center Coordinator to assist with reaching audiences that we are unable to do with current resources. We have been awarded a capacity building matching grant from the National Park Foundation that will help us hire an Americorps volunteer, a resource necessary as we transition the direct mail program to the Friends.

The Friends assisted with executing the first Alternative Break Program for college students and have raised funds that will enable the park service to offer two programs in 2019. A second Hydration History event will be held in February to support the expanding program which will include an element of partnering with other WEPA parks to magnify the student experience.

Support to various NPS projects continued, including Junior Ranger booklet revisions that were developed in collaboration with the Friends/NPS Youth Education Committee. In a show of partnership growth, we held a joint volunteer recognition event and transitioned our volunteer program from separate Friends or National Park Service volunteers to a collective Volunteer-in-Parks Ambassador Program. This unifies the team of volunteers who work tirelessly to greet our visitors and enhance their experience through interpretive stories of the lives of the 40 heroes we honor.

School group visitation soared, with over 60 programs offered this year. Thanks to grant funding, over 5,000 students participated in these curriculum-based programs. Our Speaker Series, now in its second year, had record audiences with 1,692 visitors in attendance with standing room only in the Learning Center throughout the months of May, June July and August.

Friends-led programming continues to be successful, and not only do we have a major volunteer following for projects like Plant a Tree, the Friends and NPS have gained recognition throughout the reforestation communities. Brooke Neel and Adam Shaffer hosted a webinar with Penn State's Community Forestry Division on planning and executing a successful reforestation partnership project, and again presented about the reforestation project at the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative at Indiana University.

You all are a backbone in maintaining the relevance of the Flight 93 story. Your membership and commitment do not go unnoticed, and the many programs and projects at the memorial are positively impacted by your generosity. I speak for our entire community when I say thank you for your continued support of our mission and vision.

Best personal regards,  
Donna Gibson

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