

FIELDNOTES

A Common Field One Day, A Field of Honor Forever



Volume X, Issue 1 • Spring 2021



Photo Credit: Friends of Flight 93

Board Accomplishments

The Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial are proud to highlight the professional accomplishments of three board members.

Director and family member Mr. Christopher Whelan has recently been promoted to Colonel in the US Army. Colonel Whelan is the second cousin of Richard Guadagno, former US Fish and Wildlife Service officer and Flight 93 passenger.

Director Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr. was recently selected as one of the top 100 people in Pennsylvania. Mr. Sheehan has served as a director since 2017 and leads the innovative technology development at Concurrent Technologies Corporation. To learn more, visit <https://www.pabusinesscentral.com/top-100-people/>.

Board President Ms. Donna Gibson has been recognized as a Pittsburgh Region 2020 Community Spirit Award winner by First National Bank. As part of the award, First National Bank donated \$2,500 to the Friends of Flight 93 in Ms. Gibson's name.

The Friends are extremely proud of these impressive accomplishments and remain grateful to our directors for their leadership and to COL. Whelan's service to our nation.

If you would like to learn more about the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial, our education programs, or find up-to-date news, visit Flight93Friends.org.

Welcome New Members!

February

Rhys Ulerich, Jean and Shawn McCall

March

Walt Staehle, Susan L. Tuell

April

Bill Bauman, John Deming II, J. Chops, Harvey Frankel, Steve Aaron

Dues reminders are sent monthly to members. If you'd like to renew your membership, or gift a membership, visit

flight93friends.org/join-us/join-today.

Education Corner

Virtual Speaker Series

The 20th Commemoration Virtual Speaker Series began in April!

The Friends of Flight 93 are excited to offer this popular education program virtually for the second year. Traditionally held in the memorial's Learning Center, the Friends began offering the program virtually in 2020 during the national health crises. Since then, the program's popularity has grown, attracting audiences from more than 25 states and Canada! We will announce speakers, dates, and post a link to the virtual event prior to each scheduled program.



Photo Credit: Friends of Flight 93

During this special 20th Commemoration, the digital lecture series will showcase the Families of Flight 93 to discuss their loved ones - the passengers and crew members of Flight 93 - and to share how the events of 9/11 changed their lives and the country. These education programs are presented once a month through October.

You can view the April program on our [YouTube Channel!](#)

How You Can Help

We are excited about what the future holds, but there is still much to be done! None of the Friends education programs would be possible without the generous support of our donors. The Friends depend on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations to help us educate today's generation about 9/11 and the story of Flight 93. Your support ensures that today's young generation understands the historic significance of what happened on 9/11 in the heart of western Pennsylvania. If you have not yet had an opportunity to support this important work, we hope you will consider donating to the Friends of Flight 93 during this special 20th Commemoration year. Click [here to donate online](#).

The Friends of Flight 93 and the 9/11 families involved in the Friends remain grateful for your shared commitment to honoring the 40 passenger and crew members of Flight 93. We hope we can count on your support!

How can you stay connected during this time?

We want to reach you with important education updates and memorial news. Make sure we have your email address to receive email updates, our quarterly newsletter, messages from the Friends' staff and board, and more. You can email info@flight93nationalmemorial.org to opt-in to our digital communications. Also, be sure to follow the Friends on social media including our Facebook page at facebook.com/Flight93Friends and Twitter account [@friendsflight93!](https://twitter.com/friendsflight93) Be sure to subscribe to our new [YouTube channel!](#)



Photo Credit: Chuck Wagner

Remember the Heroes of Flight 93

On May 10, 2021, the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial launched its first national program, inviting nominations for the inaugural Flight 93 Heroes Award. This national award will be presented to individuals who have demonstrated remarkable acts of selfless courage in their community, anywhere in America.

The new Flight 93 Heroes Award is inspired by the approaching 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks and in memory of the extraordinary heroism displayed by the passengers and crew members of Flight 93. The award is one part of a larger 20th Commemoration Campaign called, Remember the Heroes of Flight 93. Details of other events and activities will be shared over the next several months.

Approximately 75 million Americans have been born since the 9/11 attacks and have no memory of that day. And although some secondary school textbooks reference 9/11, the specific events of the day are not widely taught in the classroom.

We feel a deep responsibility to ensure that the story of Flight 93 is never forgotten and remains a source of inspiration for generations to come. The national attention surrounding the 20th anniversary offers a unique teachable moment to share the story of 9/11 and the heroism of those lost on Flight 93 with today's younger generation.

The Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is searching for extraordinary people across the country who embody the spirit and resilient courage of the 40 passengers and crew members of Flight 93, who displayed the highest standard of heroism and bravery on 9/11.

We are looking for people who, within the 2020 calendar year, performed acts of heroism in their communities. Like those on board Flight 93, they suddenly found themselves forced to make a decision to help others, possibly placing their own lives at risk.

A committee that includes relatives of the passengers and crew members of Flight 93 will review submissions and make decisions on whom to honor. The nominating form can be found at Flight93Friends.org and the nomination deadline is July 4th.

Below are links to some highlights from the national launch media coverage:

[The New York Times](#) | [Associated Press](#) | [Today Show](#) | [Washington Post](#)

We can't wait to share more about the Flight 93 Heroes Award with you and bring you more information on the 20th Commemoration leading up to the Twentieth Observance of September 11, 2001 at Flight 93 National Memorial.

Learn more or nominate a hero at Flight93Friends.org/press-room.



Photo Credit: Chuck Wagner

New News

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial, announced earlier this month that it has selected Mr. Steve Aaron, Founder and President of SRA Communications, to lead and manage its 9/11 20th anniversary public awareness campaign.

“The approaching 20th anniversary of 9/11 will be a time of introspection and reflection for all Americans,” said Board President Donna Gibson. “It’s also a unique moment in time to recall and honor the remarkable heroism of the citizens aboard Flight 93, whose actions likely saved the lives of thousands in the U.S. Capitol building on September 11, 2001. We are dedicating this year to a 20th Commemoration Campaign that will tell that story to new and different audiences, and we are pleased to have a seasoned communications professional like Steve Aaron on our team to manage our efforts.”

Following stints at two Pennsylvania NBC affiliates as a news reporter and anchor, Steve Aaron served as deputy communications director to former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge and joined Gov. Ridge at the Flight 93 crash site in Shanksville on September 11, 2001. Gov. Ridge would later go on to serve as the nation’s first U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. Mr. Aaron’s oral history associated with Flight 93 was captured in, *The Only Plane In the Sky – An Oral History of 9/11* by Garrett M. Graff. Today, Mr. Aaron is the Founder and President of SRA Communications, a public relations firm in Harrisburg. For this special assignment, SRA Communications is partnering with longtime state capitol journalist and public relations professional Jeanette Krebs, President of Krebs Communications & Public Engagement.

“It is a special privilege to have been selected by the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial to assist them in their efforts to educate all Americans about the extraordinary self-sacrifice and heroism shown by the 40 passengers and crew members in the skies over Pennsylvania,” said Mr. Aaron. “I look forward to working with the Friends of Flight 93 and its partners as we launch this new national awareness campaign in the weeks ahead.”

Learn more at Flight93Friends.org/press-room.

DONATE NOW

Support the Friends of Flight 93 during this special 20th Commemoration year:
911Flight93.org

FRIENDS OF FLIGHT 93
NATIONAL MEMORIAL

flight93friends.org
[FriendsFlight93](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsFlight93)
flight93friends.org/donate
[Flight93Friends](https://twitter.com/Flight93Friends)

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY



Photo Credit: Chuck Wagner



Photo Credit: Chuck Wagner

Andrew Ammerman
Executive Director

S. Brooke Neel
Director of Programs

Danielle D. Miller
Learning Center Coordinator

Contact us at: info@flight93nationalmemorial.org

