

FIELDNOTES

A Common Field One Day. A Field of Honor Forever.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of the National Park Service, Flight 93 National Memorial, Brenda Torrey

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Twentieth Observance of 9/11

This September marks 20 years since the worst terrorist attacks in U.S. history. On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, the U.S. came under attack when four commercial airliners were hijacked and used to strike targets on the ground. Nearly 3,000 people tragically lost their lives. Because of the actions of the 40 passengers and crew members aboard one of the planes, Flight 93, the attack on the U.S. Capitol was thwarted.

The National Park Service has made the decision to close the memorial service to the public. With public health in mind, the 90-minute observance will be limited to pre-registered family members and invited guests, and will be live-streamed on the [National Park Service's Facebook page](#). The memorial grounds will re-open to the public following the conclusion of the ceremony.

The Twentieth Observance ceremony will begin on Saturday, September 11 at 9:45 a.m. EDT at the Memorial Plaza. At 10:03 a.m., the moment Flight 93 crashed, the names of the passengers and crew members will be read with the ringing of the Bells of Remembrance.

The 9/11 anniversary will feature on-site and virtual programming during the week. The Friends of Flight 93 Luminaria Ceremony will take place at the Wall of Names on the evening of Friday, September 10. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Special thanks to our Flight 93 partners the National Park Service, National Park Foundation and Flight 93 family members for their support during this historic year.

If you plan on visiting Flight 93 National Memorial, please note that masks are required no matter your vaccination status. You may visit the [National Park Service website](#) for more details. Please recreate responsibly.

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!

June

Walt Staehle, Susan L. Tuell, Bobbi Espunosa,
Patricia Bustamante

July

Bill Bauman, John Deming II, J. Chops, Harvey
Frankel, Steve Aaron, John Stanek,
Charles Nevins, Elsa Gronlund Griffin

August

Iain Currie, Marilyn Morgan, Colleen Sheridan,
Cathy Gott

Dues reminders are sent monthly to members. If you'd like to renew your membership, or gift a membership, visit flight93friends.org/about-us

Education Corner

The Friends “small” world of education is growing by leaps and bounds! We have quite a bit to share since the last newsletter.

In addition to the virtual tour available on the website to the general public, the Friends has been developing a separate virtual tour for students and teachers. The educational version includes populated questions: colored-coded to indicate if the question is general or history-based or if the question is a STEM question! The program keeps scores for the student as they progress through all the locations available. Once the student has completed the questions, they can download their score and email it straight to the teacher! The Friends will roll out this Education Virtual Tour to educators after a few final adjustments.

Due to the pandemic, the Friends were only able to fund two field trips in 2020. The good news is that school districts are willing to travel again. The proof is the number of transportation applications the Friends have received for fall 2021. As of this writing, the Friends are funding 30 schools, and 23 of them are FIRST TIME GRANT RECIPIENTS! These schools are spread across 15 counties and are bringing the number of students educated to a total of 2,359.

After piloting the Classroom Speaker Series during the spring semester, the program has opened to all schools for the fall semester. To date, 18 teachers (from 18 separate districts!) have requested a speaker for their students! Several of these requests came from teachers NOT in our educator database – which means that the teachers who are receiving our emails ARE SHARING THEM WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES! That sharing of resources between colleagues is the most effective advertising the Friends could ever request. It is also the highest compliment a teacher could ever pay our organization.

Released on September 9, 2021, Yusuf Azeem Is Not A Hero by Saadia Faruqi examines the experience of Muslim Americans in a post-9/11 world through the eyes of a middle schooler. Knowing that this book will be on middle school library shelves, the Friends reached out to Saadia Faruqi. After a lovely conversation, Saadia offered to work with the Friends as part of our Classroom Speaker Series. Now, the Friends have TWO AUTHORS participating in our education program!

The Friends are in the process of adding ANOTHER Classroom Speaker to our series – an FBI agent! In preparations for this, Danielle is attending the 2021 FBI Teen Academy in October, which the FBI wholly themed around September 11, 2001. After the agency selects an agent for us to work with, the Friends will be looking into piloting this new addition to the Classroom Speaker Series with a high school classroom/teacher.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of the National Park Service, Flight 93 National Memorial, Chuck Wagner

Education Corner, Cont.

In cooperation with the National Park Service, the Friends are hosting two panels for teachers next week to discuss how educators have overcome the challenges of teacher 9/11 in today's classrooms. The forums include teachers who excel at teaching and incorporating September 11 into curriculums. While one would expect the panels filled with social studies or history teachers, the Friends helped construct boards populated by 75% NON-social studies or history teachers. Each panel – one geared for high school teachers and the other for middle school teachers – was targeted at encouraging teachers who do NOT teach 9/11 to add this material to their classrooms. Attending teachers that hold PA teaching certifications were able to earn free Act 48 credits. Intermediate Unit 8 was kind enough to process the Act 48 paperwork for us at no charge when the Friends explained the program - another partnership built. The teachers from our panels are amazing people who have offered to work with the Friends in other alliances!

This summer, the Friends developed a comprehensive program for Scouts USA (formerly Boy Scouts of America) and for Cub Scouts - Scouts USA's youngest age group. Cub Scouts serve boys and girls in grades kindergarten thru 5th grade. Through cooperation with the Laurel Highlands Council, the program is being featured in the Council's October newsletter and distributed to EVERY CUB MASTER for EVERY CUB SCOUT PACK located in nine counties in PA, four counties in WV, and two counties in MD! Staff at the Council is also interested in working with us to create a "Scout Day" at Flight 93 National Memorial next spring.

Our educator database is growing! While the first emails went to just over 2,000 educators, those emails are now reaching almost 8,000. The Friends now have at least one contact in ALL 501 public school districts across PA and are starting to fill in entire counties. To date, 32 PA counties of school districts and educators are part of the database – so emails about 20th commemoration programming reached almost 12,000 educators across the state. The value of the database is visible in the new schools applying for field trips and requests for classroom speakers!

As our website education pages are revamped! Environmental education is separate from the September 11 focused Learn page. New scouting programs and a page for the Virtual Classroom Walk 93 that we piloted this past May can be found. The environmental education pages document flora and fauna found at Flight 93 National Memorial. The photographs are breathtaking, and the information is fascinating. While amateur photographers permitted us to utilize some pictures with permission, Cornell University donated the use of the photos found in the Native Birds section – another beneficial partnership. The Friends completed the curriculum and information in the Pollinators section about honeybees and other native bees in cooperation with Powdermill Nature Reserve. We are also working to add a resources page just for teachers to answer the constant question of, "Where do I find...?" The resources page is where you will find the link to everything the Friends thought would be helpful to teachers – from primary resources to where you can download a free copy of the 9/11 Commission Report and much more.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of the National Park Service, Flight 93 National Memorial, Brenda Torrey

Postal Cancellation



On September 11, 2021, you can get a copy of the Twentieth Observance postal cancellation from the Shanksville, PA post office.

The design was made by Matt LeBlanc, a member of the Friends of Flight 93 and volunteer Ambassador at the memorial.

The design highlights this historic 20-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. As a community service, the U.S. Postal Service offers pictorial cancellations to commemorate local events celebrated in communities throughout the nation.

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](https://www.facebook.com/Flight93Friends) and Twitter account [@friendsflight93](https://twitter.com/friendsflight93)!

DONATE NOW

Support the Friends of Flight 93 during this special 20th Commemoration year:
[911Flight93.org](https://www.911Flight93.org)

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BECOME A MEMBER TODAY



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