



## CONTACT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial Announces Two Upcoming Speaker Series Events for the 25-Year Observance of 9/11***

**Somerset County, PA** — Join the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial for two upcoming Speaker Series events:

- *Courage Under Crisis* will take place in the classroom at the Flight 93 National Memorial on Saturday, June 13 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., with a virtual option available.
- *Conversation with the Architect of the Flight 93 National Memorial* will be held virtually on June 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

***Courage Under Crisis:*** This program will offer a powerful and meaningful conversation on courage, leadership, and responsibility inspired by the events of September 11, 2001.

This 60-minute program includes 45 minutes of guided discussion followed by a 15-minute audience Q&A. Participants are invited to reflect on the legacy of Flight 93—a moment when ordinary citizens made extraordinary choices—and to explore how those lessons continue to shape the way we lead and act today.

The program will feature Friends Board Member Joseph Wassel, a Pentagon communications team member who served on September 11, 2001, and Ty Wooten, a first responder leader representing the Heartland of America. Together, they will engage in a moderated discussion examining decision-making under extreme pressure, demonstrating courage without formal authority or training, the human instinct to act for others, and the responsibility to remember and carry forward this legacy.

There is no cost to attend and the program is open to the public. Register to be a part of this meaningful discussion: <https://www.flight93friends.org/25-years/25year-observance-speaker-series-courage-under-crisis>

***Conversation with the Architect of the Flight 93 National Memorial:*** This program features acclaimed architect Paul Murdoch, whose design honors the passengers and crew of United Flight 93.

Attendees will hear firsthand about the inspiration, design process, and lasting significance of one of the nation's most powerful memorial landscapes. Murdoch, lead architect of the Flight 93 National

Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, will discuss how the memorial reflects the courage, sacrifice, and unity shown on September 11, 2001.

“This presentation will explore how architecture can serve as both a place of remembrance and a living tribute to the 40 heroes of Flight 93,” said Donna Gibson, Friends Executive Director. “It offers a meaningful opportunity for our community to connect with the story of Flight 93 through the perspective of the architect who helped bring the memorial to life.”

Since its dedication, the Flight 93 National Memorial has become a place of reflection for visitors from around the world. Murdoch’s design blends the natural landscape with symbolic features such as the Wall of Names and the memorial plaza, creating a setting that conveys both loss and resilience. The event will include a moderated discussion followed by a question-and-answer session. Register to join virtually: <https://www.flight93friends.org/25-years/25year-observance-friends-connections-a-conversation-with-architect-paul-murdoch>

These programs are proudly sponsored by the Somerset County Tourism Board and America250PA as part of an initiative to attract visitors to the region and encourage deeper engagement with Somerset County’s rich history. This event supports ongoing efforts to inspire learning and visitation connected to Flight 93 National Memorial and its national significance.

Community members, visitors, educators, and history enthusiasts are encouraged to attend and participate in these meaningful discussions.

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#### **ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL**

Established in 2009, the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is the official nonprofit partner of Flight 93 National Memorial. As Friends of Flight 93, we welcome worldwide all who would join us in honoring the sacrifice and courage of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 by supporting the mission of the Flight 93 National Memorial with volunteers, resources, and civic engagement, so as to inspire all who visit with the Flight 93 story. Visit [www.flight93friends.org](http://www.flight93friends.org) to learn more about Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial.